



THE  
CENTER  
FOR  
WOMEN  
AND  
FAMILIES

THE *strength* WITHIN  
FALL/WINTER 2006



**LAURA'S STORY**

AN IMMIGRANT'S JOURNEY

.....

**INTRODUCTION OF OUR  
NEW PRESIDENT/CEO**

DENISE VAZQUEZ TROUTMAN

.....

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

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(clockwise, from lower left) Ana Maria Keane, *Nonresidential Team Supervisor*; Karina Barillas, *Bilingual Family Advocate*; Rebecca Westphal, *Immigration Attorney*; and, Brandi Tinsley, *Immigrant Family Advocate*.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Two Immigrant Family Advocates and an Immigration Attorney are a part of The Center's staff. In addition to providing The Center's continuum of services, these staff oversee cultural competency training for all staff and volunteers at The Center. The program encourages an awareness of attitudes and celebrates working with diverse staff and helping a diverse client-base. This team also has been a leader of community-based cultural competency, including language accessibility and immigration protection trainings.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Letter FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

October 2, 2006 marked my 63rd working day as President/CEO of The Center for Women and Families. I have dedicated my first 100 days to learning as much as I can about The Center's staff, programs, partners and donors. With each day that passes, I am more certain my new beginning here at The Center is exactly where I am meant to be. For the first time in my life, my passion, skills and blessings intersect.

But new beginnings are not always so sweet for the women and children served by The Center for Women and Families. On my third day, I met a victim who couldn't shake my hand because hers had been broken so many times protecting her face from her batterer's blows. On my 20th day, I met a teenage boy who, after years of coming home and finding his mom with new bruises, quit school to protect her during the day. On my 27th day, I arrived to work at 6:30 AM to be sure more than 30 children living at The Center's downtown campus caught the bus for their first day of school. Here with us, these women and children are all survivors.

One in three women will be the victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. One in six will be the victim of sexual assault. Think of the women close to you—your mother, sister, daughter and neighbor. It could happen to them. Violence recognizes no socio-economic or racial boundaries. It is a thread that runs through all of our lives.

I still have a lot to learn and experience, but what I already know is The Center for Women and Families is so much more than a shelter. We are a life changing resource for this community.

Kentuckiana's demographics are changing, and this issue of our magazine focuses on the special challenges immigrant victims of domestic and sexual violence face. Our immigrant family services are particularly important to me because I was born in Belize and lived in Trinidad. My parents moved to Chevy Chase, Maryland to work for the World Bank in Washington, DC. Then, I began to travel with them living abroad in Kenya and India. These amazing international experiences made me who I am today, and helped me to understand the fear, anxiety and feelings of displacement living in a new country can bring. As the stories throughout this publication reveal, The Center is leading the way with innovative and comprehensive immigrant family services.

Innovative and comprehensive. These are two words I keep using to describe our services. We truly are so much more than a shelter.

Did you know The Center is not only the leading provider of domestic violence programming in Kentucky, but is also the leading provider of rape/sexual assault programming? I was shocked to learn our crisis and referral line receives more than 10,000 calls each year. Speaking of innovative, The Center was the first domestic violence shelter to open in Kentucky. We were also the first to offer economic success programs and matched saving projects to eliminate financial barriers to victims building violence-free lives.

I encourage you to join my circle of new beginnings by contributing generously to The Center's annual fund. On behalf of The Center's staff, residents and clients, thank you for your commitment to our organization.



Denise Vazquez Troutman  
President/CEO

## OUR MISSION

*The Center for Women and Families engages individuals and community in the elimination of domestic violence, sexual violence and economic hardship through service, education and advocacy.*



Mayor Jerry Abramson speaks in support of Denise Vazquez Troutman during the July press conference announcing her as the new President/CEO of The Center.

# Laura's STORY

***“Every time I talk about The Center, I get so joyful!”***

Originally from Mexico City, Mexico, Laura relocated with her husband to Louisville in the late 1990's. Laura's husband had battered and emotionally abused her for years, and the abuse only got worse the longer they lived in the United States, so far from Laura's family and friends.

One evening Laura was watching “Amigos in Louisville,” a local Spanish-speaking information show always willing to partner with The Center to provide free advertising opportunities. This evening during one of the commercial breaks, The Center's advertisement was broadcast. Laura picked up the phone and made the call to our 24-hour crisis line.

But she hung up as soon as someone answered.

Fearing for her life and her children's lives, Laura wrote down the crisis line number on a little piece of paper and kept it hidden behind the calendar in her wallet so her husband would not find it. Two months later, she found the strength to call the number again.

But like the last time, she hung up immediately. “I was just too afraid to say anything,” she explains.

When she placed a third call, this time to the national hotline, she finally found her words and asked for help. The national hotline transferred her to The Center for Women and Families' regional crisis line. With the help of one of The Center's bilingual advocates, Laura immediately began to develop a safety plan. “What I liked when I called was that nobody was blaming or judging me like when I told others about the situation.”

Like 85% of all victims leaving their abusers, Laura returned to her husband several times before finally breaking free. “I was living in a new city and I didn't know anyone. I was without a driver's license and, at that time, there was not news or information available in Spanish,” she explains. In addition to these barriers, Laura's husband had told her she would be deported and never see her children again if she called the police or tried to leave him.

“I would see the other women and think, ‘I want to know all of them’. Since they were able to overcome the abuse, I knew that I would also be able to do the same with my five children. It was really important for me to see so many women like me finding the strength to survive.”

The Center's immigration attorney helped Laura obtain a U visa. The U visa is designed for noncitizen crime victims who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse from criminal activity, and who agree to cooperate with government officials investigating or prosecuting this criminal activity. After three years, U visa holders may apply for lawful permanent residence.

In 2003, with her immigration status in place, Laura joined The Center's Economic Success Program's Individual Development Account (IDA) project, a matched savings program with home purchase, college graduation or business start-up requirements.

Laura's family is doing all three! Laura began her own cleaning business in 2003 and, with the success of this company, was soon on her way to homeownership. She recently spoke with her mortgage broker and plans to purchase her first home in the coming months. Laura's oldest son is also learning financial literacy. He is a participant in The Center's teen IDA project, and his savings will be used to go to college.

“It's an achievement I never thought I would reach. For years I was told I was ugly, fat, old and couldn't do anything, but yes I can!” In addition to sharing her story with the public, Laura is sharing her message of hope with other Latina survivors of domestic and sexual violence as an adviser in Las Promotoras, a community-wide Latina women's mentoring program.

“If you are being abused, you are not alone. With the help of The Center, anyone can be free from violence. I was born for a second time at The Center!”



Members of the Unidas Latinas support group are dedicated to gaining skills and knowledge on their journey to self-sufficiency. These skills typically are related to emotional and financial wellness, but this close-knit group is open to new experiences. They even recently participated in a series of basic automobile repair courses. Pictured here, the women take a few minutes to review the process of checking the oil in a car.

## AT A GLANCE

- 1999** The Center launched a pilot program, with support from the United States Department of Justice, to provide direct services to battered immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence.
- 2000** The Center sponsored a two-year National Association of Public Interest Law fellow. This fellow provided direct legal representation to battered immigrant and refugee families ensuring access to the provisions outlined under the Violence Against Women Act.
- 2001** The Center's innovative community-based programming was at the forefront of a collaborative model to help women suffering from domestic violence in Constanta, Romania.
- 2002** The Center secured continuation funding from the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the U.S. Department of Justice for its Immigrant Attorney.
- 2003** The Center was recognized by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association as a best practice model for its service delivery to diverse clientele.
- 2004** Karina Barillas, Bilingual Family Advocate at The Center, was recognized by the National Council of Community and Justice.
- 2005** The Center provided more than 30 professional training sessions about immigrant/refugee victim response to police, attorneys, prosecutors and service providers.

### HOW DID THE CENTER HELP LAURA?

- Latina Support Groups
- Children's Support Groups
- Individual Casework
- Individual Therapy
- Family Advocacy
- Children's Advocacy
- Referrals
- Legal Advocacy
- Immigration Attorney
- Interpreters
- English Tutoring
- Savings Programs
- Homeownership Workshops
- Mentoring Opportunities

# To Honor & REMEMBER

## IN HONOR OF

**Mrs. Diana Dean**

*Ms. Dale Ann Clark*

**Rus E. Funk**

*Jane Doe, Inc.  
New Directions-East Liberty Street  
The Wyoming Coalition Against DV & SA*

**Ms. Emma Hamilton**

*Mr. Timmy C. Lentz Sr.*

**Ms. Wendy Helterbran**

*Dr. Linda K. Bledsoe*

**Rebecca Jetton**

*Mr. Sherman L. Jetton, Jr.*

**Mr. Earl Lamar**

*Mr. Paul Croteau*

**Ms. Annette Manias**

*Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Roberson*

**Dr. and Mrs. Adewale  
Troutman**

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Tway, III  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Phoebe Wood*

## IN MEMORY OF

**Minx M. Auerbach**

*Ronald M. Karzen*

**Rosa Bradner**

*Joel Bradner  
Kenneth Hoffman*

**Lila Beth Cahill**

*Sara Anderson*

**Veronica Daugherty**

*James L. Daugherty*

**Pam Q. Fortney**

*Anonymous*

**Jim Humphreys**

*Michael J. Klein*

**Barbara L. Marshall**

*Thomas A. Marshall*

**Paucho Morgan**

*Bettye J. Morgan*

**Henry Munchhoff**

*Elizabeth Munchhoff*

**Johneva and Rozell**

**Poignard**

*JoAnn P. Stikes*

**Lynn B. Reed**

*Benson King  
Foster Linn*

**Bonnie Richterkessing**

*Kenneth L. Akins*

**Mamie Thornton**

*Cheryl L. Ballew*

## AN INFLUENTIAL LATINA

*Karina Barillas (left), Bilingual Family Advocate with The Center, was recently honored alongside our community's most influential Latinos. She is pictured here with Giconda Guerra. Leadership Louisville organized and hosted the event.*

**Mary Young**

*April Brooks  
Shane K. Williams  
Georgia Young*

**Mia Zapata**

*Michael G. Peskura*

## NATIONAL LEADER VISITS THE CENTER

*During a recent trip to Louisville, Rita Smith, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), toured The Center's Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus. From right: Smith; Jennifer Hancock, The Center's COO; Jeni Gamble, Appriss; Wendy Helterbran, The Center's Vice President of Development and Communication; Tamara Reif, The Center's Director of Metro Residential Services; and, Jennifer Recktenwald, Appriss.*



## MAILING MAYHEM

*A volunteer group from UPS takes a quick break from helping The Center process a fundraising mailing to new donors. The group stuffed, labeled and stamped almost 5,000 envelopes in one day.*

# Helping HANDS



## Yes, we CAN!

*For the second year in a row, the Shelbyville Masonic Lodge has collected aluminum cans during their annual Spaghetti Dinner. Steve Moffett, the coordinator of the project, then sells the cans for cash and donates the proceeds to The Center's Shelbyville Office. Pictured here are (left) Dawnyel Getman, The Center's Supervisor of Kentucky and Indiana Outreach and Steve Moffett (second from right) with members of the Shelbyville Masonic Lodge.*



*Honorariums and Memorial Gifts received  
4-1-05 to 6-30-06*

# News AND HAPPENINGS

AT THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

## SAVE THE DATE! 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

February 28, 2007

5:00 p.m. Reception & Silent Auction

6:30 p.m. Dinner & Awards

Galt House East • Grand Ballroom

## WINDY CITY PIZZERIA FUNDRAISER FOR THE CENTER

October 19th

2622 S. 4th Street, Louisville

A portion of all sales on this day will benefit The Center. Call 636-3708 for more information.

## OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Look to The Center's website for a complete listing of events throughout our 14-county service area: [www.thecenteronline.org/calendar.php](http://www.thecenteronline.org/calendar.php)

### Featured Event:

#### "IN LOVE WITH TYRONE"

An original play about domestic violence written by Ericka Roberts.

October 7th • 7:30 p.m.

October 8th • 5:00 p.m.

Memorial Auditorium

970 S. 4th Street, Louisville

A portion of the proceeds to benefit The Center. Tickets are \$26.50 in advance, \$29.50 at the door. Sponsors include UNI Entertainment, Lowes, Z-Salon and Spa and TARC. For more information, contact Ericka Roberts at 235-0659.

## HOLIDAY GIVING

### Moms & Kids Shops

In early December, The Center will open a Moms Shop and a Kids Shop so families surviving domestic and sexual violence can do their holiday shopping in safety and comfort. Your donation of new nonviolent items to our Moms & Kids Shops will make a difference. Donations can be delivered unwrapped to any of The Center's regional locations by December 8. Visit [www.thecenteronline.org/holidays.php](http://www.thecenteronline.org/holidays.php) for more information.

"I support

THE CENTER."

Judge Jerry Bowles  
Louisville



## SEE THE LIGHT

### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Identify your home as one committed to seeing a day when domestic violence does not exist in our Kentuckiana community.

- During the month of October, just replace your clear front porch light with a special bulb that shines purple, the color of domestic violence awareness and prevention. Available FREE of charge while supplies last at these locations:
- Any of The Center for Women and Families' locations
  - Louisville Metro Police Department Substations
    - UofL PEACC Program office
    - New Albany Police Station
  - New Albany Housing Authority

Get your neighbors involved, too. Imagine how powerful it could be to have an entire street shining the light of hope for victims of domestic violence.

For more information:  
**581-7200 or 944-6743**  
[www.thecenteronline.org/light.php](http://www.thecenteronline.org/light.php)

### YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CENTER MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

*A remittance envelope is enclosed in this magazine for your convenience.*

**To VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER,** call Janet at 581-7268.

VISIT US ONLINE AT: [www.thecenteronline.org](http://www.thecenteronline.org)



THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

P.O. Box 2048  
Louisville, KY 40201-2048



A United Way Partner Agency  
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**Metro United Way**  
United Way of Scott Co., Inc.

#### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Questions or comments about the newsletter can be directed to:  
[corissa.phillips@cwfempower.org](mailto:corissa.phillips@cwfempower.org)

## 24 HOUR HOTLINES

VICTIMS MAY CALL COLLECT OR TOLL FREE, 24 HOURS  
**877.803.7577**

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS

502.581.7222 or 812.944.6743  
502.581.7242 TDD

#### ECONOMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

502.581.7200

#### KENTUCKY OFFICES:

##### LOUISVILLE-KENTUCKY CAMPUS

502.581.7200

##### SHELBYVILLE OFFICE

502.633.7800

##### MT. WASHINGTON OFFICE

502.538.0212

##### WEST LOUISVILLE CAMPUS

502.775.6408

#### INDIANA OFFICES:

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