



## HELP & HOPE A Quarterly Newsletter from the Resource Center of Somerset

Special Starry Night in London Edition Fall, 2011

### The Resource Center of Somerset Presents Annual Awards to Community Supporters at A Starry Night in London Gala

Every year, the Resource Center of Somerset recognizes members of the community for their leadership, dedication and contribution to helping victims of domestic abuse in Somerset County. The people who mean so much to us come from many walks of life; volunteers, the business community, public life, indeed, our friends and supporters are everywhere we go.

#### **The Friends of the Shelter**

##### **Humanitarian Award**

**Presented to: The Past Presidents of the Friends of Shelter – 1987 to 2011**

This year, the Resource Center of Somerset presented the award to the Past Presidents of the Friends of the Shelter in celebration of 25 years of dedicated service, leadership and achievement helping people affected by domestic abuse in Somerset County and support for Victoria House, the safe house and emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse in need of safety.

While the primary purpose was to help the clients, they also wanted to bring this vital cause to the attention of their neighbors in the Somerset Hills. Over the years, the Friends have continued to volunteer in many ways at the Shelter and at the Resource Center of Somerset. Their major impact has been in providing funds for the Shelter's operation and in later years for the counseling and other services needed for people affected by domestic abuse.

In 1987, a group of friends gathered together to explore the idea of raising funds to help with the upkeep and improvement of the Shelter facility that provided a haven for victims of domestic violence in Somerset County. This dedicated group of volunteers worked at

the safe house both for its physical improvement and the well being of its residents.

From a small group of over a dozen, they have grown to more than 50 committed women. The earliest gift was \$1,500 as a result of a benefit concert. The Friends now donate over \$100,000 each year from the annual Derby Day party and other fund raising events.

##### **The Peter J. Biondi**

##### **Public Service Award**

**Presented to: The Hillsborough Township Mayor and Committee**

In this day and age we are constantly reminded of our responsibilities toward other people in need. It seems at every turn there is a person or group of people faced with amazing obstacles—some of which we might have experienced ourselves and others that we couldn't begin to imagine. Fortunately, there are many people making great strides in helping to make life better and in turn making our communities an even greater place to live. One such group is the Hillsborough Township Mayor and Committee.

Over the years, Hillsborough Township has been one of our biggest supporters. Our Outreach and Administrative offices have been located in Hillsborough since 1996 and we have enjoyed the reassurance and commitment of safety and support from the Mayor, Township Committee and Police Department to allow us to provide quality services to people affected by domestic abuse.

##### **The Jackie Wiegand**

##### **Founder Award**

**Presented to: The Allstate Foundation**

Allstate's business is protecting people and preparing them for the future. Their commitment to community involvement is a natural extension for them, making our towns and cities stronger. In 2005, The Allstate Foundation joined with National Network to End Domestic Violence, Inc. to bring financial education, matching savings programs, job readiness and job training, and micro-enterprise opportunities to survivors.

The Resource Center values their work with community partners across the country to make long term security a reality. Locally, besides their support of state and county domestic violence programs, The Allstate Foundation is currently funding research at Rutgers, School of Social Work to support the foundation's belief that finances are the strongest predictor of whether a survivor will stay, leave or return to an abusive relationship. The Allstate Foundation has helped create resources and trained staff at 900 programs across the country in which more than 30,000 survivors have received economic empowerment services to help them and their children live violence-free lives.

"We thank The Allstate Foundation for their continued support of our mission to end domestic abuse and empower victims by providing protection, education, and resources," said Paloma Amar Coleman, executive director, Resource Center of Somerset.

*For more on A Starry Night in London and a listing of our award recipients along with photos,*



## A Message from the Executive Director Paloma Amar Coleman, MFT, LPC

A Starry Night in London was a wonderful success yet at the same time another "bittersweet" celebration. Though we come together to support the Resource Center and the lives of those who have survived domestic abuse, we also come together under the "somber umbrella" of a severe life-altering problem that will simply not go away – domestic violence and abuse.

It is no secret that with the current economic climate, funding for non-profit organizations has been significantly restricted. This reality applies to the Resource Center as well. At a time when demand for services increases and the stress of a poor economy places victims and children at risk of escalating abuse, we find ourselves operating with reduced funding from both governmental and private sources. Though we carefully steward every dollar that we receive to maximize its impact on our services, we continue to operate at a budgetary deficit.

The Resource Center of Somerset needs your support – now more than ever – to ensure that we can continue providing the same life saving quality services we have over the past 32 years. Victims of domestic abuse and their children can simply not afford to lose the specialized support and guidance offered by the highly qualified trained staff of the Resource Center.

Domestic violence remains a compelling crisis throughout Somerset County and the State of New Jersey. The statistics published in 2010 by the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Report tell the real story. New Jersey experienced

a 4% increase in incidents for a total of 73,709 reports in 2009. This means that there were 202 reported incidents a day.

Somerset County, for the second time in five years, reported double the increase experienced by the State. We had an 8% increase in incidents for a total of 2,327 reports. This means that in Somerset County there were 6.37 incidents of domestic abuse each day or approximately one every four hours!

The Resource Center of Somerset provided 7,987 hours of in-person counseling, case management, legal advocacy and support to victims of abuse and their families. We answered 3,673 calls on our 24 hour hotline and offered 3,044 nights of safety to victims and their children escaping an abusive environment. As always, these services are offered free of charge in an effort to minimize barriers to seeking help and support. In order to continue doing this we need your support as donors and volunteers.

So, although the evening was intended for fun and celebration, I hope everyone remembers why we were there. After all, there is a victim of abuse right in your own back yard that needs your help. When you have the opportunity, please talk to your friends and family about the importance of supporting domestic violence awareness efforts and help us give a voice back to victims of domestic abuse. Now is your chance to



make a significant contribution that will have a positive impact on many lives for years to come.

Volunteer, make a donation, speak out or simply call us. The prevention of domestic abuse, the empowerment of survivors and a better, safer community begins with each and every one of us.



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UNITED WAY

MEMBER AGENCY



Visit our website

[www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org](http://www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org)

Find information on domestic abuse and how you can help,

Volunteer opportunities

and more.

**You can now make an on-line donation to help support our programs and services**

Paloma Amar Coleman, MFT, LPC  
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## 2011 Annual Community Awards

The Resource Center of Somerset Community Service Awards were established in 2010 to recognize the accomplishments in domestic violence prevention and services to victims and survivors in our community and to honor our supporters, past, present and future.

**The Friends of the Shelter Humanitarian Award** is presented to a volunteer or member of the community for outstanding support and contribution to the services of the Resource Center of Somerset and improving the lives of people affected by domestic abuse. The award is named in honor of the support group Friends of the Shelter which has provided service and support to the Resource Center for nearly 25 years.

**The Peter J. Biondi Community Service Award** is presented to an individual or group for outstanding support and contribution through public service. The award honors the work of public officials in state, county or local government, law enforcement, social services or community activities. Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi has been one of the leading advocates for the Resource Center of Somerset since its inception over 30 years ago. He is a founding member of our Advisory Board and has worked with us to implement countless numbers of domestic violence laws here in New Jersey that have greatly impacted our clients and their families.

**The Jackie Wiegand Founder Award** is presented to a corporation or one of its members for outstanding support and contribution to the Resource Center of Somerset. Jackie Wiegand founded the Resource Center for Women and Their Families in 1978 as an outreach project of the Somerset County Community Mental Health Center in response to the problem of domestic violence. Jackie is a true visionary for providing services to the community and helping to make lives safer and richer.



**The Help and Hope Society** was initiated in July, 2011 to provide additional support for the programs and services of the Resource Center of Somerset to insure our programs remain free of charge and available to everyone affected by domestic abuse. We wish to acknowledge and thank those supporters who have generously participated in this program.

**Honorary Champion  
\$5,000 or more**

Catholic Community of St. Mathias

**Partner  
\$500 or more**

Susan M. Bethke

The Congregational Church of  
Bound Brook

Henry Ramallo

Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Somerset Hills

Christine M. Zuback

**Supporter  
\$250 or more**

Cerminara Architect

Jean W. Frydman

Jane Smith

**Associate  
\$100 or more**

Mary Jo & Mark Altom

Amy Barraco

Bridgewater Transport, Inc.

Bridgewater Women's Club

Jayne M. Geiger

Veronica Guarraia

Jack L. Home

William J. Kosakowski

Moms Club of Hillsborough

Richard Rosenel Buying Service, Inc.

Joanne Spohler

Watchung Lions Club

James Ventantonio



## FRIENDS OF THE SHELTER—HUMANITARIAN AWARD

### Honoring the Past, Brightening the Present, Promising the Future!

The Past Presidents of the Friends of the Shelter were honored by the Resource Center this year at Starry Night with the Humanitarian Award named in honor of their organization which has supported Victoria House for nearly 25 years.

Joanne Kavanaugh, current President of the Friends, presented the award to the Past Presidents;

Adi Conover – 1987-1993

Joan Baer – 1993-1996

Gloria Woodbury – 1996-1999

Sally Frazer – 1999-2001

Nancy Williams – 2001-2003

Leslie Brown-Witt – 2003-2005

Doreen Herlihy – 2005-2007

Jane Sell – 2007-2009

Linda Ferretti – 2009-2011



The Friends of the Shelter Past Presidents are honored for their dedication and service to helping people affected by domestic abuse in Somerset County. Pictured (L to R): Resource Center President of the Board of Trustees Peter J. Jegou, Leslie Graham-Witt, Executive Director Paloma Amar Coleman (seated), Adi Conover, Joan Baer, Sally Frazer, Joanne Kavanaugh (seated), Linda Ferretti and Jane Sell.

In the true spirit of their dedication to helping victims and survivors of domestic abuse, the Friends took advantage of the moment to make their own presentation to Resource Center Executive Director Paloma Amar Coleman. This year's fund raising efforts by the Friends from Derby Day, the Fall Luncheon and other fund raising efforts amounted to \$90,000.



Each recipient was presented with an exclusive, handcrafted bracelet from Susan Kalison Karp, designer, artist and owner of SKK designs, LTD. Susan is the current First Vice President of the Resource Center's Board of Trustees and President-elect for the next two-year term.



The Past Presidents of the Friends presented Resource Center Executive Director Paloma Amar Coleman with a check for Ninety Thousand dollars, representing this year's fund raising contribution from this very special group of ladies in the community.

**Friends of the Shelter  
Founded 1987  
Incorporated 1995**



### Mission Statement

Friends of the Shelter is an all-volunteer organization of women who share a commitment to assist women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Our service and fundraising efforts benefit the Resource Center of Somerset.

## Peter J. Biondi Community Service Award



### The Hillsborough Township Committee—Leading the Way to Safer Communities

Throughout the year, we have highlighted Community Initiatives and how ordinary, everyday citizens in our communities recognize a problem or need and react in a way that genuinely makes a difference in the lives of people around them. Support for such initiatives comes from community leadership, and the Hillsborough Township Committee has been a leader in showing strength in their commitment to preventing domestic violence.

Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi has been one of the leading advocates for the Resource Center of Somerset since its inception over 30 years ago. He is truly a visionary seeing how safe, healthy family relationships are an important aspect of the quality of life in our communities. The Resource Center of Somerset is proud to name our Community Service Award in Assemblyman Biondi's honor and even prouder to have him present the award to our distinguished recipients.

#### The Hillsborough Township Committee



Mayor Gloria McCauley

Deputy Mayor Carl Suraci

Committeeman Frank DelCore

Committeeman Bob Wagner

Committeeman Anthony Ferrera  
(unable to be present for the ceremony.)



The Hillsborough Township Mayor and Committee are this year's recipients of the Community Service Award. Left to Right: Resource Center Executive Director Paloma Amar Coleman, Board President Peter J. Jegou, Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi, Mayor Gloria McCauley (seated) Frank DelCore, Bob Wagner and Carl Suraci.

### Community Initiatives

The Resource Center of Somerset has made 2011 the year of Community Initiatives. We have encouraged local groups, organizations and individuals to take advantage of opportunities to develop innovative and comprehensive solutions to solve the puzzle of domestic violence in Somerset County.

The response was uplifting and reassuring, especially from teens and young adults. Domestic abuse is a critical concern and awareness and prevention have a high priority in their lives.

We salute their efforts and continue to encourage everyone to take a stand against domestic abuse. We all know a victim of domestic abuse... a neighbor, a friend, a family member... maybe even ourselves. The abuse will stop when we stop tolerating it.

Visit our website to learn about the community groups and individuals who are making a difference through Community Initiatives. [www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org](http://www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org)

## THE JACKIE WIEGAND FOUNDER AWARD Presented to THE ALLSTATE FOUNDATION



The Allstate Foundation has been a quiet leader in the fight against domestic abuse since partnering with the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Inc. They have been able to bring financial education, matching savings programs, job readiness and job training as well as micro-enterprise opportunities to survivors.

The work they do is vital to the empowerment of our clients and survivors, and the Resource Center is proud to have Allstate as a collaborator and supporter.

The Founder Award was presented by Dr. Kathleen J. Pottick, Acting Dean and Professor, Rutgers, School of Social Work. Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company CEO and President William P. Ballinger accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation. His remarks resonated loud and clear to those in attendance. Here is an excerpt from his acceptance.



Paloma Amar Coleman and Peter J. Jegou present the Jackie Wiegand Founder Award to William P. Ballinger and Sheila M. Breeding of Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company.

I have the privilege this evening of representing 70,000 Allstate employees, Exclusive Financial Specialists, agents and their staff that make up the Allstate Insurance Company – a company that believes in giving back to the communities where we live and work.

As I left the house this evening, my 16 year old son asked, “Where are you going?”—not an uncommon question for him. I told him that I had the opportunity to spend the evening with hundreds of professionals and volunteers who have dedicated countless hours working in domestic violence crisis intervention. Then he asked the question that many others have asked, “How did you get involved with domestic violence?” After all, we are the company that led the way on seatbelts, airbags, child safety seats and now, the distracted driving “X THE TXT” campaign and drive to improve federal graduated drivers license laws to stop the 4,000 teen driver deaths happening every year.

So, how did The Allstate Foundation come to join the incredible list of companies that have earned the honor of receiving The Jackie Weegand Founder Award?

In the last 40 years, the domestic violence movement has focused on crisis intervention as a means of achieving safety for survivors. We sought accountability for batterers through legislative, policy and program reform initiatives.

Crisis intervention has been absolutely critical in the lives of survivors – but it

does not solve the problem.

In the search to solve the problem, we found an issue that was of exceptionally strong mutual importance to society, the community and Allstate.

You know the statistics: Domestic violence affects 1 in 4 women. Six out of ten Allstate employees are women. Six out of ten. We sell insurance to female consumers who make nearly 85% of the purchasing decisions and drive an estimated 60% of the investment decisions in US households.

We knew we had to do something.

We learned that research shows economic dependency is the strongest predictor of a survivor's decision to remain, leave or return to an abusive relationship—even stronger than safety issues.

The opposite of economic dependency is economic empowerment. As the corporate foundation of a financial services company, The Allstate Foundation has unique expertise and resources to provide financial empowerment options to survivors of domestic violence.

We've called upon great partners to help us develop our programs. This evening, besides Dr. Pottick, we are honored to have Dr. Judy Postmus with us. She is an Associate professor at Rutgers, School of Social Work and Director of the Center on Violence Against Women and Children. The Allstate Foundation is funding her current research examining

how economic empowerment curriculum improves fiscal and mental health functioning of battered women. She conducted a national evaluation surveying survivors that use the Allstate Foundation's *Moving Ahead through Financial Management* curriculum. The results are compelling.

Survivors reported a significant increase in economic self sufficiency and significant reductions in: Levels of economic abuse, including economic control and exploitation, Reductions in levels of physical and psychological abuse, Levels of post traumatic stress, and Levels of depression

Bottomline: 94% of participants were no longer living with their abusive partner and 89% were still using the *Moving Ahead* financial curriculum after 6 months.

Thank you Judy for your continued research and partnership.

Over the past seven years, The Allstate Foundation has proudly invested more than 20 million dollars to financially empower survivors and help them live free - and stay free - from abuse.

This award is important to us. We hear the message loud and clear: our mission matters. Thank you all for helping to keep us motivated and grounded in our goal to end domestic violence through economic empowerment.

**William P. Ballinger**—CEO & President  
Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company

### Somerset Valley Players

Adding Flair and Originality to an Exciting Evening



Bringing London "Character" to Natirar—(L to R): Emily Windus (Eliza Doolittle), Anita Kline (Queen Elizabeth), Arnie Chinich (Sherlock Holmes), Kerry-Ann McKenna (Princess Katherine, Duchess of Windsor), PJ Campacci (Beefeater) and Teresa Von den Steinen (Mary Poppins).



Queen Elizabeth look-a-like Anita Kline brought a sense of "Royal Elegance" to Starry Night."



Resource Center Executive Director Paloma Amar Coleman is escorted to the stage to begin the evening's program and presentation.



"Sherlock Holmes" welcomes guests Annelies and Alfred Walton to A Starry Night in Light.



The cast got everyone up and dancing with a lively Conga line led by "Mary Poppins."



Hillsborough Mayor Gloria McCauley poses with the Beefeater. A "spot of tea" for the Queen and the crime fighter. RCS Board member Gordie Jamieson was in the spirit by wearing a "fascinator" in her hair.

**The Somerset Valley Players**, a local theatre troupe from Hillsborough, volunteered their time and talent to bring the atmosphere of London to "A Starry Night." Inspired by classic English literary characters and the recent Royal wedding of Prince William and Princess Katherine, the cast was able to bring atmosphere and conversation to the gala.

The Resource Center and the Somerset Valley Players have collaborated on previous projects including the RVCC presentation of "The Vagina Monologues" at the playhouse on Amwell Road in 2009. The two non-profit organizations enjoy working together to create innovative ways to promote domestic abuse prevention.

### A Starry Night in London A Festive Night of Fund Raising to Help Survivors of Domestic Abuse



Dr. Judy Postmus, Director of the Center on Violence Against Women joined Bill Ballinger along with Dr. Kathleen J. Pottick, Acting Dean and Professor, Rutgers, School of Social Work to celebrate the Jackie Wiegand Founder Award presented to the Allstate Foundation.



Lonnie and Ida Jones chat with James and Sheila Breeding at Starry Night. Sheila is the newest member of the Resource Center of Somerset Board of Trustees.



PVH staff members have been among our most loyal supporters and hardest working volunteers.



Members of the Hillsborough Township Committee are congratulated by NJ State Senator "Kip" Bateman (center) and Governor Donald DeFrancesco.



Former President of the Friends and guest auctioneer Sally Frazer helped raise over \$20,000 at the live auction. The proceeds collected during the gala go directly to programs and services to help victims and survivors affected by domestic abuse in Somerset County.



### A Starry Night in London



Starry Night committee members Leslie Brown-Witt, Terry Thompson and Mary Jo Altom toast a wonderful evening so important to the Resource Center.



RCS Board members Jane Sherry and Susan Kalison Karp. Susan is the incoming Board President for 2011-2013.



Somerset County Business Partnership President and CEO Michael Kerwin and his wife Patsy.



Doriann and Frank Sanchez. Through his community initiative and Somerset Hills Towing, Frank established an emergency car service program for our clients.



Carol Kalina-Jegou shares a moment with her husband, Board President Peter J. Jegou. Peter will be turning over the gavel after two years of helping RCS through a period of growth and reorganization.



Linda Giordano, President of the Somerset Valley Players chats with Marie Hughes, Executive Director of the PeopleCare Center in Bridgewater.



Chauncey Phillips and Kim Vernon, long time supporters of RCS have attended every Starry Night gala. Kim is a former Board member and remains an active volunteer.



The beautiful centerpieces on the dining tables were generously donated by area florists. Guests were asked to make a donation to the Resource Center if they wished to take the beautiful floral arrangements home at the end of the evening.



*In Her Own Words—A Survivor's Story*  
**These are excerpts from the speech that “Betty”,  
 our client speaker, gave at Starry Night.**



*The room was silent as Betty told the story of years of emotional, economic, and physical abuse by her husband “Bill”. Based upon a strong friendship, the couple began dating and moved in together, but the insidious pattern of abuse started almost immediately. Bill needed to control everything, and first began to isolate and keep tabs on Betty (by telling her that her car was unsafe and driving her everywhere; and by having fights in front of other people). He then began the pattern of financial abuse (throwing renters and their income out of the home; quitting his job and not contributing to the family income; taking over the bills when re-employed and failing to pay them; hiding bills and shut-off and eviction notices from Betty so she was unaware of non-payment; and always having explanations for the problems). Betty said, “There was so much loving and caring behavior mixed in among the craziness, that it was easy for me to push the red flag signals to the back of my mind”. Gasps were audible when Betty said “On my wedding night, he raped me and then counted the money we received as gifts”. At this time, Betty knew she had to get out, but had no place to go.*

I managed to get the car one day and went to the Resource Center. There I discussed my options with a counselor. She helped me set up a safety plan. I started saving any little bit of money I could and kept it in a locked drawer at work. I opened a PO Box. Once my mail was forwarded to the box, I realized the extent of what my husband was hiding from me.

The weeks dragged on, and my husband became more abusive. He would wake me repeatedly at night to argue. He would call me constantly at work. He would drive erratically and yell at me on the way home, accusing me of not going to work and of being unfaithful.

As we arrived home one day, Bill started yelling at me, come on! Get in the house! I got out of the car, shaking and stunned. My mind was racing. I slowly walked toward the porch and then turned around, got in the car and locked the doors. Bill was at the

door of the car, trying to get it open. I found the key, started the car and pulled out of the driveway with him running after me yelling at me to come back. As I drove off, he was still running after me. As he got smaller and smaller in the rear view mirror, I didn't know where I was going, but I was sure it wasn't going to be home. I called the Resource Center's 24 hour hotline.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 - It was almost 9pm, the sun had set. It was still in the 90s and very humid but I was shaking when I rang the shelter's doorbell. If someone had told me at 9am that morning that I wouldn't ever have to go home again, I wouldn't have believed it. But there I was with nothing except my car, my purse and the clothes on my back. My first night in the shelter was the first quiet night of sleep I had in months.

The next morning, I filed a temporary restraining order against my husband. I made too much money for legal aid, but not enough to pay for my own lawyer. But with all the information and prepping I got from the Legal Advocate, I managed to win the Final Restraining Order. I can't tell you how good that felt to be able to stand up for myself against an attorney.

After a few weeks in Shelter, I was invited to apply for transitional housing. What a relief to be accepted into that program. If I had not had that opportunity, I don't know where I would have ended up. My friends and family couldn't help me, I had no savings, and I couldn't afford a place to live on my income.

Living in the transitional home was a great experience. In my weekly counseling sessions, I was taught about domestic abuse, and I learned a lot about myself. It helped me to understand the cycle of abuse and how to break the cycle. It made me very strong- strong enough to see through all the control my husband had over me.

It was very quiet there. The peace and tranquility allowed for a lot of introspection. I read many books about domestic violence and abusers.

My case manager helped me set goals and devise a workable budget. I managed to save money and also pay my bills. I saved enough to retain an attorney to file bankruptcy, get divorced and take two classes. While I was living in transitional housing I also paid for and passed the certification exam for my CPP – Certified Payroll Professional.

When I was in transitional housing for a year and was approved to stay an additional 6 months, I was approved for a low income apartment, in a nice neighborhood. So even though it would have been nice to take advantage of the safety and support of living in transitional housing another 6 months, I decided it was time to leave the nest and make it on my own.

I'm really grateful for all the help and support I received from The Resource Center.

We need to understand and remember that one of the reasons it's so hard to break out of the abuse cycle is that you have to have a safe place to stay and you have to have education. If a victim has one without the other, she is almost set up to fail. By being in the program, I had both needs met. And more:

I had intensive therapy

I had a case worker that helped me identify and achieve goals

I had access to a Legal Advocate

I had a confidential, safe, quiet place to live.

Now I have the confidence to trust my gut instincts. I surround myself with people that respect me. I have broken the cycle.

I used to spend a lot of time worrying about my future. Thanks to all the help and support of the Resource Center I now look forward to it.



## "Pathways to Empowerment"

### Expressions of a Difficult Journey

"Pathways to Empowerment" is a collection of self-expressive illustrations of experiences and thoughts on domestic abuse. Each brick in the pathway is created by someone who has experienced this journey to empowerment; as a supporter, a volunteer, a staff member or a survivor. The project began in July, 2011 and will continue for on year, until June, 2012.

The "Pathway to Empowerment" for a victim of domestic abuse can be as varied and diverse as the population of our fine and distinguished community in Somerset County. Incentives are different for each person; safety, financial security, emotional well-being, a stable life for their children. The pathway is well traveled, while well known and distinctly visible, it is still filled with obstacles and



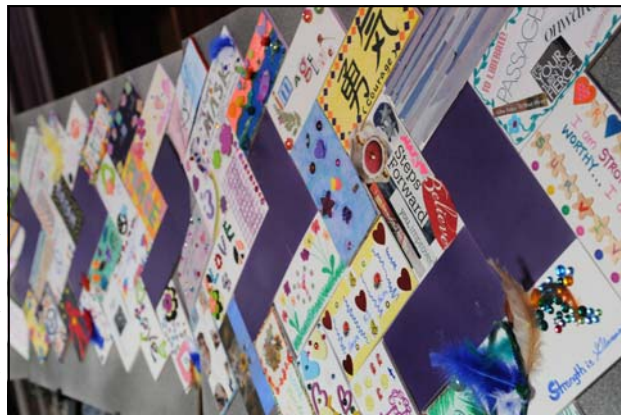
RCS staff members work on preparing the first panels of "Pathways to Empowerment" for its Starry Night debut. The project has generated an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and excitement since it truly puts a personal mark on efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic abuse.

setbacks that each person who travels along its way must overcome.

In the thirty three years the Resource Center of Somerset has been helping victims of abuse, we estimate over 28,000 people; men, women and children, have received our assistance through counseling, hotline and safe house services. Some have returned to the relationship they sought to leave, others have found a way to start their lives over. Some didn't make it at all. Others have been an important part of our support system. Our volunteers, donors, law enforcement officers, community leaders and activists, people who know the value of our work and how important it is to the safety and well-being of the community. Their spirit and positive energy drives our success.

Each person who comes in contact with the Resource Center influences our mission; *to end domestic abuse and empower victims by providing protection, education and resources.* Theirs is a collection of stories, ideas, and actions that help change society and make it a better place for everyone.

"Pathways to Empowerment" is a collection of experiences and ideas from everyone who is part of the Resource Center.



The first public display of "Pathways to Empowerment" was at A Starry Night in London. Guests were also given the opportunity to create a brick to add to the path. The project will continue through June, 2012.

Whether a client, a staff member, a volunteer, a donor, a service provider, police officer, community leader, each is given an opportunity to express his or her connection and commitment by helping us pave the pathway with "bricks of life." Each is a contributor to our success in his or her own way.

Each brick is an expression of the creator, a drawing/illustration, writings, personal messages, even something as simple as a signature. These bricks are laid side by side and make up the pathway to empowerment. When complete, the pathway will be made of many different messages about how the Resource Center helps victims of domestic abuse as well as how people help other people through the Resource Center.

Pathways to Empowerment expresses the diversity of support in harmony with those who use our services. All of the bricks mounted side-by-side will tell a story of hard work and support from the many different angles we experience.



# Resource Center of Somerset

## SPECIAL STARRY NIGHT IN LONDON EDITION

**Resource Center of Somerset**  
427 Homestead Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

**Hotline: 866-685-1122**  
Phone: 908-359-0003  
Fax: 908-359-8881



**Visit Us on the Web**

[www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org](http://www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org)

### Upcoming Events

#### Give Your Support to Survivors of Domestic Abuse During the Holidays

There are a number of ways you can opt to help bring the joy of the holidays to our client families

*Holiday Gift Collection*  
*Adopt-A-Family*  
Our collection drive begins

**November, 2011**

Visit our website  
[www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org](http://www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org)

For more information

or call Sue at 908-309-2066  
Email: [sue@resourcecenterofsomerset.org](mailto:sue@resourcecenterofsomerset.org)



*Our mission is to end domestic abuse and empower victims by providing protection, education and resources.*

*Services include::*

- Emergency Shelter
- 24-Hour Hotline
- Transitional Housing
- Legal Advocacy
- Domestic Violence Response Teams
- Outreach Counseling
- Community Education
- Services for Adults & Children

427 Homestead Road • Hillsborough, NJ 08844-1400 • 908-359-0003

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