



DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Our Lady of Good Counsel Society

<http://www.domesticabuseservices.ca>

Summer 2008

Prayer of Faith to Help End Domestic Violence

We gather in sorrow as we recall so many women among us who have suffered domestic violence of all types - physical, psychological, spiritual or financial.

We gather in righteous anger that these things continue with seemingly no end in sight. We gather in hope that our commitment and our actions will matter and bring about change. We come acknowledging that we have not always heard, nor have we always acted. Sometimes we have turned away rather than stand beside a woman who has been victimized. Hear the cries of those who have been harmed, O God. Strengthen us to call to account those who have caused harm. Rebuke their careless and exploitative acts. Help us to teach them a better way, the way of godly love.

Enlighten those in our communities who are also called upon to help - judges, police officers, doctors, clergy, legislators, therapists, and others - so that their decisions and actions will bring forth justice and healing.

Send forth this Body as witnesses, renewed in our commitment to stand in solidarity with every woman who has been harmed by abuse and violence. Encourage us in our efforts to comfort the afflicted, confront the assailants, and to be a prophetic voice in our own communities so that silence may no more mask the injustice of violence against women.

We pray for God's love and justice to heal our hurt and to bring us to that day when women no longer live with the fear of abuse in their homes, their workplaces, their religious assemblies, or their communities.

Amen

(Revised from the Interfaith Prayer used at the first Interfaith Breakfast: A Call to End Violence Against Women)

12th Annual General Meeting Held January 24th, 2008

At the AGM, the society elected a new Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 years. In this issue the board members present their personal goals and plans for their upcoming term.

Our very inspiring guest speaker for the evening was Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB. Archbishop Miller's message to us was

- ❖ *DAS is raising the profile of this issue in society and taking the lead in bringing this very important issue to the forefront.*
- ❖ *We have used the formula "see, judge and act" and have formed this society.*
- ❖ *We need to teach our seminarians about abuse as well as young men and young boys so that domestic abuse will be eliminated.*
- ❖ *Girls need to know that they should never accept being mistreated by men.*
- ❖ *Recognized the efforts of DAS and mentioned how fitting it is being that it is the 20th anniversary of the Dignity and Vocation of Women.*
- ❖ *Wished us well in finding a house, and to continue our educational efforts.*

Mission Statement

Domestic Abuse Services – OLGCS provides a helpline, one to one personal support, and information on legal, financial psychological and spiritual resources available for victims of domestic abuse. Assistance in finding permanent housing is provided as necessary.

Domestic Abuse Services – OLGCS provides awareness about domestic abuse to its members, schools, parishes and the community at large.

Plans and Goals for 2008-2009

PRESIDENT: MICHELE SMILLIE

My plan and goal for this presidency is two-fold. My first goal is to find and purchase a second stage house. My dream house would be large enough for a family, close to schools and transit, and have a suite that could be rented out to help pay for the running of this house. My plan for this goal is to put together a business plan based on our financial commitment at present, our incoming donations and present funds.

My second goal is to help and support our volunteers. We train a number of volunteers each year and I would like them to know how important the work that they do is to the society. I would like to offer them upgrades in training and education on the situations in our society. I would like to have other volunteers (other than the phone line) to help with some of the administrative duties of the society.

I hope for the support and encouragement of this board of directors. I would like to have the other board positions filled with the right people. I would like all of us to work well together, to be an inspiration for each other and to do what we can to end the violence against women so prevalent in our society.

The Board of DAS announces that a house has been purchased for use as a second stage house. It will likely be ready for occupancy at the beginning of 2009. More details will come in the next newsletter. I thank every member of the Society for your support in realizing this dream.

PAST PRESIDENT

I will continue the wonderful work Marianna Caldwell did on the Policy and Procedure Manual.

I intend to frame pictures of all Past Presidents to be hung in our office.

To do whatever is asked of me in the coming years.

COMMUNICATIONS

My goal is to promote DAS - Our Lady of Good Counsel within the Catholic community and the larger community as appropriate. As our business plan evolves I want to lead our board to where we need to be for our success in achieving all of our goals.

Many opportunities to raise our profile have already been established

- ❖ advertising in all lower mainland yellow pages
- ❖ advertising material sent to all parishes in the diocese
- ❖ Speakers Bureau members have spoken to many parishes and CWL councils
- ❖ the CWL liaison board member is present at the CWL diocesan meetings, and presents pertinent information
- ❖ Christmas and Easter ads in BC Catholic
- ❖ semi-annual newsletter

My goal this year is to raise our profile even more which will result in more assistance being provided to those in need, i.e. increase in people making the first call for help to our helpline.

This call will plant the seed that help is there for victims of abuse.

To achieve this goal, my plans are:

- ❖ to have domestic abuse addressed through each parish priest
- ❖ to speak to each committee chair to address their plans and goals and assist where needed
- ❖ speak to BC Catholic to increase coverage
- ❖ contact Wings in Edmonton Alberta to discuss how they became well known in their area
- ❖ pursue becoming more visible on the internet
- ❖ Speakers Bureau presentations
- ❖ liaise with Education Chair



EDUCATION

As Chair of the Education Committee, my objectives are to extend our educational workshops/talks to the male members of our society so that they will become more aware of their roles in developing respectful relationships by:

- ❖ complying with the Coadjutor Archbishop's suggestion that we educate the seminarians
- ❖ bringing our presentations to Knights of Columbus Council meetings

Our committee is open to suggestions as to the best ways to do this.

FUNDRAISING

The 2009 weekly and monthly pocket calendars are now available for your purchase in the Society office. They make great hostess gifts and why not shop early for stocking stuffers. Treat yourself to one for your purse. Pens will also be available for your purchase.

We are continuously looking for some volunteers to help us with some fundraising activities. We especially need someone who would enjoy computer work. This could be done at your leisure in your own home. We would also like to plan some other fundraising activities and would like to hear from some of you who are interested. If you would like to help, please e-mail me at pwbatts@telus.net.

Please remember our Pathway To Hope project and consider buying a brick. We are well on our way on the pathway around the back of our "House" and would love to include your name. I wish you sunny happy summer days.

Tips to help an abused person

DO:

- † Listen and believe
- † Affirm and encourage
- † Validate the story
- † Be empathetic
- † Empower decision-making
- † Respect privacy and confidentiality
- † Help with safety plan
- † Give Domestic Abuse Services' phone number **604-640-7549 or 1-888-833-7733**

DON'T:

- † Give advice
- † Judge
- † Ask why
- † Minimize
- † Blame
- † Increase fear

!!!THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all who share their time, talent, and treasures to help the marginalized whether through volunteering on the board, on the phones, in the office, through prayer, or monetarily. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will be rewarded. God calls us all to help our neighbours, and you have answered!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Domestic Abuse Services-OLGCS is looking for several enthusiastic and committed volunteers to take positions on our Board. If you are interested in helping victims of domestic abuse, please contact Michele at 604-443-3256.



MEMBERSHIP

Are your Membership Fees up to date???

We currently have 400 paid members at DAS Society with over 4,000 CWL members in the Province of B.C. Thank you to all who have continued with your membership in this very worthwhile organization. These 400 members raised \$4,000 for the society's operations over the past year. In 2007, 40 CWL parish councils donated \$21,040. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR FOCUS AND GIFTS** for those who need our help.

In this issue we include a membership form for your use. What a wonderful gift to give someone who has everything!

Please share our newsletter with others so they may learn about us, and what they can do to help...



DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES
2881 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 3G1

2008 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE:	\$10.00
TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO THE SOCIETY	\$
TOTAL	\$

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ e-mail: _____

I would like to become a volunteer

Charity Registration no. 889025193 RR0001
Tax receipts will be issued for donations only, not memberships
Please make cheques payable to: **Domestic Abuse Services - OLGCS**

Our Values: Providing Compassion, Safety, Understanding, Confidentiality, Hope in a Christian Environment