

Have Justice – Will Travel

Helping to End the Generational Cycle of Violence



NEWS

FALL 2006

Expansion to Northeast Kingdom

A Dream Come True



HJWT staff gather in the Brattleboro office.

L-R: Janet Babcock, Kate Kennedy, Robin Goodrum, Jessica McManus, Wynona Ward, Mary Claassen

A remarkable gift of real property has opened the way for Have Justice—Will Travel (HJWT) to bring much needed services to women and children in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) area of Vermont. For years, HJWT has received many calls from women in the NEK area, but has only been able to provide limited telephone advice or Wynona was required to travel long distances, providing limited

services to very few clients. It has been frustrating to not offer our full complement of services to women and children who live in the state's most rural and economically disadvantaged area.

Orleans and Essex Counties, two of the NEK counties HJWT will serve, make up 15% of Vermont's land, but have only 5% of the population. We also plan to serve the NEK's Caledonia and Lamoille counties.

Large lumber and forest companies own much of the NEK land. Many manufacturing jobs have been lost in the past decade, as companies like Ethan Allen have relocated out of the state where they can pay lower wages. The unemployment rate in the area is 4.3% and roughly 14% of the population lives below the federal poverty level. Isolated living conditions and severely restricted resources for victims of domestic

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From the Founder

It amazes me as I travel locally and around the country to speak about HJWT and family violence, how little people understand about what a battered woman faces when she first leaves an abusive relationship.

In the 1980s it became clear to psychiatrists that victims and survivors of domestic abuse suffered from the same post-traumatic stress symptoms as shell-shocked veterans of Vietnam and other wars. Today, survivors of chronic domestic abuse are compared to concentration camp survivors, political prisoners, or hostages. Symptoms include anxiety reactions, nightmares, denial, and dissociation.

It is accepted by many in the psychological field that the trauma a chronically abused woman endures can be far greater than that experienced when a woman suffers the death of her spouse. Yet, while we openly assist and support a woman when her husband dies, little help is offered when a husband beats his wife.

It is common in this country for family, friends, and neighbors to send sympathy cards, money, and flowers when a husband passes away. Help is offered with making funeral arrangements, caring for the children, preparing food, and the surviving spouse is seldom left alone until it is clear that she is capable of making reasonable decisions on her own.

When a woman is battered, however, many family members refuse to become involved, and friends do not want to 'take sides' because they are acquainted with both spouses. Little compassion is shown and the woman must seek help from strangers.

If she calls a battered women's advocacy group one of the things she will be offered is assistance with obtaining a relief from abuse order.

When a woman requests a relief from abuse order from the court she must complete a sworn statement, which

describes in detail the physical abuse that was recently inflicted upon her and it is helpful to include past abuse, which may demonstrate a pattern of violence.

She must swallow what little pride she has left, forget her shame, and admit she is helpless to stop the abuse. Her self-esteem plummets, since she was raised to believe, and as society tells her, as do movies, magazines, and TV that "any man who respects and loves his wife, would not do the things her husband has done to her."

The woman quickly learns that if the batterer is arrested and incarcerated, he will likely be released on bail within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the State expects her to decide where she and her children will live if the judge has not ordered him to leave the home. Does she have transportation? Did they leave home with only the clothes on their backs? What will they live on? How will she feed the children? Is it winter, if so, how will they stay warm? Do any of them need treatment for stitches, casts for broken bones, or ice packs for bruises? Will the children have to change schools?

She is terrified to realize that if she does not handle the situation as expected, there is always the chance that child protective services could step in and take her children.

The most dangerous time for the mother and her children is after they leave. The batterer feels he is losing control and becomes even more aggressive.

Approximately 50% of batterers abide by the court order; the others violate it, contact the woman, apologize, and pressure her to drop the order and return home.

The woman is simply trying to survive and keep her children from being abused.



*HJWT Executive Director and Founder
Wynona Ward in the NEK office*

Her worst fear is that the horror will recur.

Some women return to their abusers because they cannot afford the services of an attorney to keep or gain custody of their children. They have a difficult time battling their way through jurisdictional issues or through the child support system.

Each day HJWT works toward a future where the generational cycle of abuse is a thing of the past and where the services we provide today are no longer needed.

Until then we must stop expecting women to litigate for their safety and their children's safety against their batterers or their experienced attorneys in courtrooms—especially when the men who a few days before punched, kicked, strangled and/or threatened them with firearms are sitting less than three feet away.

We need to convince our legislators that attorneys must be appointed to represent these victims for protective order hearings and for family law cases.

The HJWT model works, from the time of the initial relief from abuse order through to self-sufficiency and independence. It is helping these women stop the generational cycle of abuse in their families. And stopping the generational cycle of abuse is what HJWT is all about. I truly believe that we will not stop street violence, we will not stop school violence, until we stop violence in the home, and to stop violence in the home, we must stop the generational cycle of abuse. I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your generous support as we strive each day to bring an end to family violence.

Have Justice–Will Travel, Inc.

is a nonprofit organization that operates exclusively on grants, fellowships, and private contributions. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, you can use your credit card on our Web site, www.havejusticewilltravel.org, or please make your check payable to:

Have Justice-Will Travel, Inc.

9580 VT Route 113, Chelsea, VT 05038

Giving Hope to Abused Women and Children

Have Justice – Will Travel, Inc.

Legal Services

Representation in court for:
Relief from Abuse hearings
Child support needs
Divorce and Parentage issues
Custody and Visitation hearings

Social Services

Safety planning/Shelter referrals
Financial advice/Creditor Plans
Assess financial needs of family
Referral for continued education
Referral for driver's license
Agency referrals/Support services
Assist/Obtain subsidized housing

In-home consultations

Transportation to:

Court hearings
Social Service appointments
Supervised visits
Doctor's appointments
Women's group

National toll free phone line

Women in Transition

Women's Mentoring Group
Life skills mentoring
Job and Parenting skills
Child Care Ideas/Assistance
Psychological support
Education about Violence

Supervised Visitation

Referrals for Supervised Visits
Exchanges
Parenting classes
Counseling Arrangements

This year, as in the four years before, HJWT has been honored to receive a generous donation from the Ann L. Bronfman Foundation. Ann, who has been a friend of Kate Kennedy's family for many years, has faithfully supported HJWT for five years by fully funding Kate's work. In addition Ann has contributed to Wynona's work and this year to the work of Janet Babcock. Janet focuses on helping children who are victims of family violence including those who have been sexually abused. Realizing that children's ability to learn is greatly diminished when they are victims of family violence, Janet works to assure that these children receive appropriate educational services.

Ann Bronfman was featured in the summer 2006 issue of *JCA Today*, a publication of the Jewish Council for the Aging. The article describes Ann's giving as a way of life: "Ann Loeb Bronfman is living proof that greatness is not inherited; it is achieved. By refusing to rest on others' laurels, Ann has literally changed the world, adding compassion to an otherwise uncaring place. Her singleness of purposes and generosity of spirit teach us all that we, too, possess the power to change the world if we, like Ann, but listen to our hearts."

Kate's grandmother, Jane Hart, and Ann have been friends for years and have enjoyed many sailing adventures together.

Kate grew up in a family where for generations public service was an expected part of life. Like her grandfather, Philip A. Hart, who was known as "the conscience of the Senate" when he represented Michigan for 18 years, Kate has dedicated her life to helping those less fortunate. Kate gained an appreciation for hard work and



Ann Bronfman, Twinkles, and Kate Kennedy at age two.

the value of inspiring others to undertake positive action, which was instilled in her by parents, grandparents, and a high school community that stressed the need to perform community service.

Kate worked in shelters while in high school and college, and in a Department of Justice domestic violence position between college and attending Vermont Law School. While at VLS, she devoted her internship and summers to helping domestic abuse victims. Kate joined HJWT in 2001 and is the longest serving attorney on our staff. This year, because of her wonderful ability to work with staff, clients, and funders, Kate was promoted to the position of associate director of HJWT in addition to serving clients in Washington and Orange counties.

Board of Directors

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The mission of *Have Justice-Will Travel, Inc. (HJWT)* is to end the generational cycle of abuse in rural families by bridging the legal, cultural, geographical, psychological, and economic gaps that exist for victims of domestic abuse. *HJWT* provides legal and supportive services for battered, low-income women and their children. Wynona I. Ward, Esq., the founder and director of *HJWT*, created an innovative, mobile, multi-service program that **assists victims of domestic abuse through the legal process, from the initial interview and relief from abuse order through self-sufficiency and independence.** This holistic multi-service approach to assisting rural victims often is the key to women first escaping the abuse and then moving forward to improving the quality of their lives and their children's lives. Since 1998, *HJWT* has been serving women in the State of Vermont and is expanding to assist women who live in rural areas throughout the United States.

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and sexual violence, combined with accepted gender roles, poverty, unemployment, and limited literacy, create a daunting set of obstacles for women trying to leave abusive relationships.

In the past when Wynona traveled over a hundred miles one way to meet with a client in a small town at Vermont's northern border, she quickly realized how alone and desolate these victims are. She dreamed of how much an NEK office could accomplish.

The new property, consisting of four parcels totaling just over 75 acres, is located in Brownington in Orleans County. After accepting the donation of real property, which includes a house and a garage, the HJWT Board of Directors voted to establish an NEK office by using the apartment over the garage for office space. With ample room, long-range plans include having two attorneys and two paralegals work from this location. It was also decided that in the next year the board, staff, and volunteers will formulate a plan for the total Brownington property that will take into



The Northeast Kingdom is the most rural region in Vermont, and there is great need for HJWT's services. The new property's garage (above) and home have already hosted staff, board, and community meetings, and have served as a safehouse for clients and as a visitation location for mothers and their children.

consideration HJWT's long range plans and mission.

Research has begun on how best to use the property's log home. With four bedrooms, three and a half baths, well-designed kitchen, and ample room for a large conference table, the house has already been used for staff, board, and community

meetings, a safe house for clients, and as a visitation location for mothers and children.

Everyone at HJWT is extremely grateful to the anonymous donor for this extraordinary gift. It can be noted that this donation is wholly compatible with the donor's long history of supporting charitable organizations that offer assistance to women and children. In honor of the man, now deceased, who owned and designed both buildings and the layout of the NEK property, HJWT has named the property "Chris' Place."

A generous grant from Marilyn Blackwell of the Schultz Blackwell Trust has allowed Wynona to begin serving clients part-time from the NEK office. Additional funding sources are being sought to support a full-time attorney, to serve many more regional clients in desperate need.

Whenever Wynona looks down across the hayfield or into the woods on the new HJWT property, she envisions children running, playing, and having a carefree time. She sees the property being used to improve peoples' lives and as a place of hope and healing for women and children.

Brattleboro Office News

The Brattleboro branch of HJWT started 2006 with a move to a new and much larger office space. For all the staff and volunteers involved it was a move to be remembered. We loaded trucks and carted boxes, books, and office furniture in the middle of a raging snowstorm. Exhausting as that was, it was well worth the effort.

We have nearly three times the space we had before, as well as a small kitchenette and our own bathroom.

With the additional space and facilities we can now host HJWT staff meetings as well as Women in Transition sessions right in our own 'suite.' We are still in the center of Brattleboro's commercial downtown district, but we've traded the backs of old brick buildings for a view of the wide Connecticut River. Hopefully, this will be HJWT's base in southeastern Vermont for years to come.

The second major change in our office occurred in August. Our paralegal of two years, Diana Lischer-Goodband, accepted an offer to be the development director for

a local private school. We were sorry to lose her and wish her well. Fortunately we were able to quickly find an excellent replacement. Shirley Cutler began working with us August 1 and has very quickly become one of the family.

Shirley comes with extensive experience in the paralegal field, having worked for a variety of Windham County attorneys. Her knowledge of the law, court procedure, and the local players is constantly impressing us and turning out to be an invaluable asset to not only the Brattleboro office, but for HJWT in general.

In addition to her legal expertise, Shirley worked for a number of years as the domestic violence victim advocate for the Windham County State's Attorney's Office. She knows our clients and the personal, financial, and emotional issues they have to contend with, and her calm and steady voice sets the right tone for our clients. Shirley is also extremely neat and organized, which has helped streamline office procedures. These qualities are especially advantageous

in working with the emotional trauma that domestic violence advocacy work exposes us to daily.

Our referrals over the past year have continued to come from an ever increasing circle of sources. The family court and state's attorney's office send a steady stream of clients our way, but word of mouth has expanded awareness of our services to many other professionals in our county. We are getting referrals from a variety of social service organizations, therapists, childcare agencies, as well as former clients.

A brief synopsis of some of our past year's clients gives a sense of the range of our clientele. Although Brattleboro is an urban center, we are surrounded with rural areas as remote as those of the Northeast Kingdom. Our clients are a mix of downtowners as well as women living in the backwoods, without telephones or access to vehicles.

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'Emily' (not her real name) attended two of our Women in Transition Groups before asking for our legal representation. Her alcoholic, bipolar husband of decades had kept her isolated, emotionally abused, and at times fearful for her life, even though they lived in the heart of a downtown Brattleboro neighborhood. Finally his threats and drinking binges scared her so much that Emily filed for Relief from Abuse. Although he had never actually physically harmed her, her husband had threatened to kill her in a variety of ways, time and time again.

After her testimony, the court was convinced that she was in fear of imminent serious physical harm and granted her the requested Final Order. It was only a few weeks later that her husband killed himself, ending his long history of mental illness and substance abuse. She and everyone else who knew their story were thankful that he had not been able to take her with him, as he surely would have, had they not been separated.

'Sally,' a young mother, asked for our legal representation to protect her four year old from sexual abuse by her former boyfriend, the father. The only person the child had disclosed to was our client. We



Mary Claassen (L) and Shirley Cutler

had to engage this client with social services for herself and her son, so that there would be third party professionals who could advocate for the protection of the child. At the first hearing to Modify Parental Rights and Responsibilities, the court found that the mother's testimony was credible, but insufficient. The father's unsupervised contact with his son was continued.

Thankfully, a few weeks after that hearing the child disclosed again, this time to his therapist. When the mother filed a second time to modify contact, the court appointed a forensic investigator, an

attorney for the child, and two guardians ad litem. The report from the psychiatrist was unequivocal, supporting the child and mother's allegations. The father agreed to a stipulated parent child contact order of supervised visitation, and all the parties were spared the trauma of a hearing on the issue. During the process it was disclosed that the father had himself been sexually abused by his father. The court's order of supervised visitation will end that family's cycle of abuse.

Client after client, I am so amazed and honored to be able to work with these women. Sometimes during the heat of the issues, when all seems to be going downhill I wonder why I ever thought I wanted to do this work. But always in the end, when I sit back and review the transformation of each and every client: from frightened and cowed, to free and assertive and finally triumphant, I know why I'm here. These women are the role models for their children and their relatives, their neighbors – all of us – and one by one they are changing our culture. We are all better because of them.

~ Mary B. Claassen

Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP)

HJWT constantly works to establish creative ways and adapt already present programs to best serve the greatest number of disadvantaged Vermonters, including but not limited to, victims of domestic violence throughout Vermont. LEAP is an example of HJWT's progressive thinking. LEAP is an adapted response to the ever-growing call-in client base, which has allowed HJWT to expand the number of Vermonters receiving legal assistance and education about the Vermont family court process.

The need for legal education and support for low-income Vermonters, as indicated by the number of calls HJWT receives, is overwhelming. HJWT receives hundreds of telephone calls each year from those seeking legal assistance with family court matters, which we cannot fully represent as a result of our already heavy caseload. For example, from March to September 2006, we received on average one new call per day, including weekend days, in the central Vermont office alone.

Call-ins included requests for legal advice about divorce, relief from abuse, parent child contact modifications, parental rights and responsibilities modifications, parentage, parent alienation, bankruptcy, eviction, children being removed from the home by the Department of Children and Families, enforcement of orders, property, child support, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, stalking, rape, and grandparent rights. These referrals are made by other attorneys, family court, victim advocacy groups, guardians ad litem, law enforcement, mental health workers, social workers, educators, doctors, nurses, and previous clients.

To assist these families, HJWT has provided specific legal information and education about Vermont Family Court procedures through telephone calls, in person consultations, fax and e-mail correspondence of motions and filings, as well as accompaniment for filing with the court.



LEAP Coordinator Robin Goodrum and her dog, Skye

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Robin Goodrum, the central Vermont legal intern, coordinates the LEAP program. Robin graduated from Champlain College in 2003 with an associate's degree in paralegal studies and a bachelor's degree in arts and sciences, and is presently reading for the law in Vermont.

Robin has been instrumental in developing and implementing the LEAP services to date. She successfully identifies and evaluates the client's multiple needs, and she seeks out the appropriate advice, information, and resources to empower these women to make difficult decisions and radical changes toward a future life free of abuse and/or violence.

The Vermont Bar Foundation (VBF) has supported Robin's position since 2002.

In addition to the VBF, the Lintilhac Foundation and the Ann L. Bronfman Foundation also support Robin's position.

Robin is currently working on a training program that she will implement for two full time paralegals, one in the HJWT Bennington office and one in the Brattleboro office, so they can begin to administer LEAP in their counties. Robin will also train a recently hired part time paralegal who works in the Chelsea office to help administer LEAP for "call-ins" in Orange, Windsor, and Washington counties. Due to Robin's work, we can now provide LEAP services to victims who we could, at best, only provide referral services to in the past.

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Tools include sessions on building and solidifying one's financial well being with life skills knowledge such as balancing a checkbook, preparing a résumé, furthering education, obtaining study skills, gaining further parenting skills, learning to network, and finding out how to access services. There are sessions on healthy relationships, self-esteem, and Bowen's Family Systems Theory, which sees the family as an emotional unit but stresses self-differentiation for individuals.

Many women do not have access to transportation or childcare, so both are offered free as part of the program. Healthy food is prepared and all participants gather for meals.

In the past, HJWT has offered its WIT program for clients through its central and two southern Vermont offices. This fall,

Johnnie Mae: An Inspiration For Us All

Johnnie Mae Doyle, who began as a receptionist for HJWT five years ago and has worked her way up to become the office manager for the central Vermont office, served as an inspiration for Wynona when

and personal items that were crammed into six green garbage bags, represented her worth after twenty-five years of hard work and putting up with never-ending abuse. That night she began a journey with difficult crooks and hairpin turns, but the road eventually led to independence and a life where violence was no longer accepted.

Today, at HJWT, whenever Johnnie talks with a call-in or a client she immediately knows what they are experiencing and what they need to get through the day because she has experienced it herself. She is always empathetic with callers. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty several times to help clients by providing transportation for mothers and children, by buying them clothing and food when needed, and by offering her home as an overnight safe home for one client and her three sons. Johnnie is the glue that holds the HJWT central VT office together. She is a loyal and dedicated employee.

Johnnie Mae lives in a large home near the central office with her two Scottie dogs, Scotter and Katie. There is no question that the one thing everyone loves about Johnnie is her homemade cooking and baking. Someday she would like to open her own country diner. We would all surely miss her, but she could be assured that everyone here would be at her eatery every day.



Central VT Office Manager Johnnie Mae Doyle holding Maeve Kennedy

she wrote the original grant that funded HJWT. At that time Wynona wrote:

She drove in my yard in a rusty old car the evening of the second day I entered law school. She had walked out on him after raising two sons who now had their own families. What she brought with her, clothes



Central VT Paralegal/Client Services Coordinator Brandy Todd

again with a grant from the Vermont Women's Fund, Brandy Todd, the central Vermont paralegal and client services coordinator, is facilitating a WIT group in Washington County. Brandy, herself a victim of domestic violence and a past participant in the WIT program, has overcome many of the same obstacles in her life that the members of the group are facing. Brandy will emphasize how to become financially independent and how self-esteem and finances are intertwined, and will target women who need assistance with monthly budgeting and managing food expenses.

The WIT program clearly depicts how HJWT is the story of one woman who helps another, who helps another. That is how we can stop the generational cycle of abuse.

Bennington Office News

HJWT's Bennington office is back in full swing with attorney Jessica McManus' return in February 2006 after a three month maternity leave. In addition, Kathy Carrier was hired as Bennington's paralegal/ client services coordinator.

Kathy came to HJWT in February 2006 from the Bennington County State's Attorney's Office. Kathy worked for the state's attorney for five years as an administrative clerk. At the State's Attorney's Office she was responsible for effectuating service of the Temporary and Final Relief from Abuse Orders issued by the Family Court. In addition, Kathy received cases being charged by law enforcement agencies, among which were domestic violence cases. Because of Kathy's work at the State's Attorney's Office, she saw firsthand how domestic violence affected women and children in our county.

Prior to joining the State's Attorney's Office, Kathy worked for the Bennington Housing Authority. In that capacity she managed the Public Housing and Section 8 wait lists, and performed home visits for tenant selection. This experience is an asset to HJWT clients who are trying to fill out applications for housing, or trying to obtain public benefits. Kathy's extensive



Jessica McManus (L) and Kathy Carrier

knowledge of services available in Bennington County is an invaluable resource to our clients and her extensive experience in the legal field is an asset to HJWT when writing motions and preparing trial/evidence notebooks for court.

Kathy is also an EMT with the Bennington Rescue Squad and in September 2005 responded to Texas for three weeks to aid in the Hurricane Rita relief effort. Welcome Kathy!

Our office is currently collaborating with other community agencies in Bennington County to create a new

approach to dealing with domestic violence cases in our courts. The Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee approved funding of \$50,000 to help Bennington family and district courts handle cases involving domestic violence, including the Relief From Abuse cases and criminal cases involving domestic assault and violations of abuse prevention orders. The court plans to hire a part-time project coordinator to begin in January 2007 to implement and coordinate the court schedules, in addition to providing education and resources.

HJWT is committed to this important coordinated community response to domestic violence in Bennington County. Below, we share a story submitted by one of our clients. Her story inspires us and is a testament to the struggles our clients face each day.

In the United States today:

As many as 25 million children may witness domestic violence each year.

Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in households where adult domestic violence is also occurring.

A Client's Story

When I was growing up I dreamed of being married, having children and leading a happy life. I started out young but always thought we would grow together with our children and be happy. I was terribly wrong. I married a man who was a drinker with a quick temper, as time went on he became worse and worse, drunk every night and verbally abusive. The mornings after were for the most part, worse than the night before.

I remember always thinking if only I could help him stop drinking, he wouldn't be angry all the time. His behavior turned to our oldest daughter, he treated her with the same abusive behavior and the most horrible insults you can imagine, and our son was beginning to use these same behaviors. The life I dreamed of was a horrible nightmare...nothing I wanted for my children or myself. I didn't feel safe and secure, my self esteem was dreadfully low, I felt as if I was always on eggshells,

always waiting for an outburst. I was always in fear and thinking I could never get out of this, I could never make it on my own. He would never leave and put our children first and move on with his life. I was right about that.

I can not imagine what I would have done without the support of Jessica, Wynona, and Kathy from HJWT. I would never have been able to financially support myself and my children and afforded the staggering legal costs. I too would be one of the many women going through this that would also be part of the welfare system. I was whipped into a frenzy of court appearance after court appearance as my ex-husband began to manipulate and control me through the legal system, my children were used as weapons against me, the police were used to terrorize and control me, the restraining order I had in place was broken many times, my home invaded, my personal papers stolen.

Through all this Jessica, Wynona, and Kathy were there for me whenever I needed them. Through endless phone calls, meetings, and court hearings, they were always there to explain, empathize, and work on my case for hours. They stuck with me when I was scared, nasty, or confident, calming me down when I thought my only hope was to run. I cannot put in to words the caliber of these women, this program, without them I know I would not have gotten out of the horrible situation I was in.

I am one of many women who needed their help. I wish more knew about Have Justice—Will Travel, maybe if HJWT had existed many years ago, I would have been able to get out of this situation long ago and spared my children and myself the years of fear and heartache we are learning to cope with. Thank you again for everything.



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Women in Transition Life Skills and Mentoring Program

The Women in Transition (WIT) Life Skills and Mentoring Group began soon after HJWT was founded. It sprang from the realization that HJWT clients in the process of leaving or just having left an abusive relationship need effective tools and a strong support system for their transition to independence.

In 1999, Wynona and Nancy Harter, the secretary of the HJWT Board of Directors, realized the need for women to overcome fear, guilt, isolation, acceptance of their intolerable situation, and dependence on their abuser through a group atmosphere. When women leave an abusive relationship, they feel isolated and alone, and also have

difficulty supporting themselves and their children.

What is important about HJWT's model, which includes the WIT component, is that women are learning new skills, integrating them, and changing their lives.

HJWT is working to bring a new way of combining legal aid and social services with hands-on experiential learning for

women, so that in their transitioning from abuse, women help themselves and others who have had similar experiences.

The WIT mentoring has two components. The first educates, models, and mentors women on how to turn the coping skills they used to survive abuse into strengths to move forward. There is also the mentoring that women receive by joining a

support group where they can connect with other survivors of domestic violence. Learning that one is not alone, learning to hear from others what they survived, learning about other's coping skills, and learning to listen to others is extremely important in the process of transitioning out of an abusive relationship and into becoming self-reliant and independent.

Save The Date

Sunday, December 10th, 3-5 pm

HJWT will host a ONE PEARL fundraising event.

THREE BEAN CAFE, 24 PLEASANT STREET, RANDOLPH, VT

Coffee/tea and pastries will be available;

contact HJWT for more information and to learn how you can help.

- One Pearl's mission is to provide resources for organizations that promote health and education.
- A percentage of pre-tax dollars at the event will go directly to HJWT; all remaining profits go directly to other nonprofit organizations selected by One Pearl.
- For more information visit www.onepearl.net

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