

Have Justice—Will Travel

Ending the Generational Cycle of Violence



NEWS FALL 2009

Shifting Down to Climb the Next Mountain Continuing Our Work as We Strive to Reach the Top



Two Have Justice—Will Travel fans at the Worlds Fair in Tunbridge, Vermont on the Big Rig Truck Ride. Fall 2009

As a truck driver, when Wynona saw a steep mountain ahead, she shifted down in order to carry the heavy load over the top. The incline that Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc. (HJWT) faces now and in the near future is getting steeper and longer. HJWT must work even harder to reach the top. Every nonprofit in this country is struggling to survive and to serve those who so desperately need help with basic human needs. The economic meltdown has caused complete financial havoc across this country.

Most non-profits working in Vermont and across the US that help domestic and sexual violence victims do so by providing education about healthy relationships, safety through a shelter, and help with getting protective orders. This is extremely important work, but is just not enough. The cycle of abuse often continues because women do not have the resources they need to become

independent and self-reliant. They have no monetary resources of any kind to leave the abuser, they do not have enough education to get a good job and now there are not even low paying jobs. Good day care for their children is in short supply and is extremely expensive even if they could get a job. In rural Vermont there is no public transportation—you must have a reliable car to get to work.

Women who try to leave and turn to Family Court for protection for themselves and for their children find that there are no free attorneys. The batterer, however, who can pay an attorney, uses the legal system to continue the abuse by filing motion after motion, claiming the mother is unfit, and using male privilege to assert his right to take the children away from the mother.

continued on page 2...



Nancy G. Harter
Secretary, HJWT
Board of Directors

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (LAV) recognizes that more is needed to help women escape abuse permanently and build a life for themselves that is productive. This grant funds the type of holistic legal services that HJWT provides. Only \$37,000,000 was appropriated in 2009, for the entire country for this

program, when \$118,524,068 was requested.

In the past, HJWT services in Southern Vermont have been completely funded by the US Department of Justice Rural Domestic and Sexual Violence Grant Program (RURAL), however, since changes made in 2005, this program no longer funds legal representation for victims except for protective order hearings even though Vermont is a rural state. HJWT did not receive a LAV Grant in 2009; the competition for these grants is extremely high. Instead of receiving the \$500,000 every two years as we have since 2003, to operate two offices in Southern Vermont, HJWT received only a RURAL grant for \$110,000 for two years. We have had no choice but to close the Brattleboro office and are struggling to keep the Bennington office open. We are extremely fortunate that Attorney John Lamson has agreed to continue his work in Southern Vermont even though it means a cut in pay.

HJWT is innovative, unique and it works. Only 10% of our clients return to abusers or go on to other abusive relationships. This is unheard of anywhere else in the country. HJWT needs to be funded in Vermont and replicated all over the country. If the HJWT model could be used across the nation there would be less abuse, far more survivors who have strived to stop the abuse in their families and have become independent and able to provide for themselves.

There would be less carrying of the abuse into the next generation by children who have not only grown up witnessing abuse but who have also been abused.

Everyone at HJWT is working harder and harder to continue to do what he or she does superbly. Without additional monetary funding it is possible HJWT will eventually have to cut back on services and reduce the number of families we serve. Wynona states that, "As a survivor of family violence and with a mindset gained from struggling all my life with poverty, child abuse, and expecting my mother would be killed by my father, I realize the journey will not be easy. Even after my brother carried the abuse into the next generation by abusing a young child in my extended family (he went to jail and died there), and while I'm still paying for my law school education ten years after graduation, and with little funding to work with, I am still not ready to give up hope because I know the vision I have for HJWT is succeeding."

Wynona further states that, "I believe that when one door closes another opens. Quakers have a saying, 'the way will open.' I am working with the HJWT staff, Board, and those who give advice on how to go forth to continue to be innovative, to make changes in HJWT and to work to make changes in this state and country on how to bring needed services to abused women. I want to see these women become survivors with skills, education and jobs so they can contribute to society and then reach back to help others do the same."

Wynona and HJWT are ready to listen to any suggestions that are given to us and we will work with everyone who has something to offer whether it is a connection, a donation, names of others who might donate, and any ideas for growth and sustainability.

Nancy G. Harter, Secretary of the Board

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, Vershire, VT 05079

Board of Directors

Wynona I. Ward, Esq., *President*. 9580 Vermont Route 113, Vershire, VT 05079, (802) 685-7809

Nancy G. Harter, *Secretary*. Development Consultant, 201 South Glenwood Avenue, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 442-4635 and/or 3107 Gee Hill Road, South Royalton, VT 05068

Harold E. Ward, *Treasurer*. 9580 Vermont Route 113, Vershire, VT 05079, (802) 685-7809

Harriett B. Field. Co-Director, NH-VT Schweitzer Fellowship Program, P. O. Box 188, Barnard, VT 05031, (802) 234-9890

Amy Phillippo, Esq., VLS '98, 8 Beech Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452, (802) 872-9885

DC Metro, Lilacs, Hart Senate Building and a seat at an International Domestic Violence Conference

To all of those avid readers of the HJWT newsletters, you have learned through the years that I have two small children ages 5 and 3 (with winter birthdays) and a family history rooted in American politics. In April 2009 I was able to travel to Washington DC and spend three days at the Fourth International Conference on Domestic Abuse, without the kids. Like icing on the cake I could visit my grandmothers and spend my final morning in DC with Senator Patrick J. Leahy's (D-Vt.) staff in the Hart Senate Building, which happens to be named after my grandfather Senator Philip A. Hart (D-Mi.).

I applied for the scholarship from Jewish Women's International on a whim with a dream of traveling to Washington DC in spring when the Apple Blossoms and Lilacs are in full bloom, there is warm spring air, and I could be an active part of the hustle and bustle of trains without a stroller. Then I received the scholarship and the reality of leaving my two small children behind during the work/school week started as concern and went directly to doubt and panic. But, with the support of my husband and my colleagues at Have Justice—Will Travel I booked a flight on Air Tran, called my aunt and uncle who live in Northern Virginia and I got on a early morning flight on April 26th and it was great.

When I arrived I was surprised to learn that there were other attorneys at the conference and they even practiced family law. The next big surprise was the outpouring of attorneys, advocates, and other attendees who recognized HJWT and would repeatedly tell me...“Oh, I know of you guys in your trucks,” and “Oh yeah, that Have Justice—travel group.” These professionals were from around the United States and they had either heard Wynona speak, attended a conference with us, had seen a program on TV old fashioned word of mouth. The newsletters and brochures flew off the table and everyone was intrigued with how and what we do everyday up here in the mountains of Vermont and how they want a Have Justice—Will Travel too.

The workshops were informative and inspiring. Some titles of conference workshops I attended include:

- Child Abuse & Exposure to Family Violence – Research, Implications & Strategies, Patricia Stern & Sally MacNichol, PhD
- The Impact of Media & Culture on Teens, Jackson Katz, EdM & Rosalind Wiseman
- Children & Domestic Violence: Assessment & Impact, David Pelcovitz, PhD
- Adolescent Witnesses to Domestic Violence: Intervention Strategies, David Pelcovitz, PhD.



Kate at the JWI's Fourth International Conference on Domestic Abuse. From left to right Deena Silver, Member of Board of Trustees, Jewish Women's International; Attorney Kathryn A. C. Kennedy, Esq., Joyce Rappeport, Board Chair of Board of Trustees; and Millie Sernovitz, Member of Board of Trustees.

- Teen Dating Violence: When Truth & Law Collide, Wendy Murphy, JD, Director of Sexual Violence Legal News and Judicial Language Projects, New England School of Law
- Danger Assessment: Identifying Risk of Homicide & Near Homicide, Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN.
- Measurable Outcomes: Evaluating Domestic Violence Programs, Jeff Edleso, PhD.

Since the conference I have referred to my notes, handouts, and even made personal contacts with other attendees and presenters that have resulted in positive experiences for clients at HJWT. I want to send a sincere thank you to Jewish Women's International who put on the conference and gave me a scholarship to attend their Fourth International Conference on Domestic Abuse held on April 26-29, 2009 in Washington D.C.

One more thing, the lilacs smelled great and visiting my grandmothers and the Hart Building was as rejuvenating as it always is, but the 90+ degrees and the crowded and unfriendly commute on the metro is no match to the commute I make every morning! I'll stay here in Vermont, drive my kids to school and give the one handed wave over my steering wheel as cars, trucks, buses or even tractors roll by!

Kathryn A.C. Kennedy, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney

Recognizing and Thanking our Supporters

Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc. celebrates 12 years of service in 2010. It is with deep gratitude that all of us at HJWT, and those we serve, thank each of you who have supported us with donations over the years and would like to publicly recognize your thoughtfulness, loyalty, and generosity. Please notify us by checking the appropriate box on the enclosed card if you want us to list your name in one of the following categories:

Long-Haul Truckers – Donors who have given for 8 years or more.

Cross-Country Truckers – Donors who have given for 5 to 8 years.

East Coast, Mid-West, or West Coast Truckers – Donors who have given for 3-5 years.

Short Haul Truckers – Donors who have given for 1-3 years.

Rookie Truckers – Donors who gave for the first time in 2009.

Same-Route Truckers – Donors who give every month.

Concrete Truckers – Foundations who have given.

We look forward to celebrating our years of service together with all the wonderful donors HJWT has had over the years. It is only with your permission that we will put your name in print. We would appreciate hearing from you by March 2010 so that your name can appear in our Spring 2010 mailing and update.

Wynona I. Ward, Esq., Founder and Director



At age 25, Ward tried college but soon ran out of money, so she and her husband, Harold, started a long-haul trucking business. Above, Wynona and Harold with one of their Diamond Reos.

HJWT Receives Award from the American Bar Association

In February 2009, Wynona traveled to Boston, MA to attend the ABA Midyear Meeting where HJWT was presented with a 2009 Louis M. Brown Meritorious Recognition Award for Legal Access. HJWT received this award for its “Outstanding Dedication to the Advancement of Innovations in the Delivery of Legal Services.” Given by the ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services each year, the Brown Award celebrates the career and achievements of Louis M. Brown, a practitioner and professor of law who spent 63 years advancing innovative ideas that would make legal services available to those of modest means.

The Committee wrote that, “This years recipients of the Brown award included four distinctly different programs with the common denominator of increasing access to justice in innovative ways. We encourage others to embrace, adopt, adapt and advance these and similar models as we collectively pursue our common goal of creating access to justice for all.”

HJWT must continue to be an innovator to survive, and to

continue to bring justice and legal services to abused women and children so they can lead productive, healthy lives. It is now time to take the HJWT model national and to the “legal” world of lawyers, law firms, law schools and the ABA. When something innovative works, it is not always easy to replicate because it is different, unknown, and takes more work than what has been done in the past. Wynona has some ideas on how to move forward on replicating the HJWT model. If anyone reading this article has suggestions or would like to help, please contact Wynona. She is ready to work with you.

Gay and Dick Harter, in-laws of Nancy Harter, a Board member and contributor of many “services” to HJWT, hosted Wynona in Boston for this memorable event. There is little in HJWT’s budget for lodging when Wynona travels, but through the help of many, Wynona has not paid lodging for such trips. She is very grateful for all those who have given so much to HJWT so that many could escape the desperate life they have endured.

Helping a Young Mother in Bennington County



Nicole Briggs, Esq. Staff Attorney, Windham County
and John Lamson, Esq. Staff Attorney, Bennington County.

Without HJWT one 23 year-old mother would have likely been pressured into a visitation schedule by the abuser’s attorney that she did not think was safe; or worse joint-custody. As the Bennington County attorney, I spent many hours developing my client’s testimony and getting hard facts that could be presented to the court. Clients often do not realize what is “hard” evidence and what is merely speculation or hearsay. With the evidence obtained, I was able to negotiate from a strong position to get the graduated visitation schedule this mother was comfortable with including supervised visits to start, and also caveats that if the father were to re-offend or violate his probation with drinking or drugs the visitation would cease. It was our belief that the father would not be able to live up to the type of visitation he claimed he was capable of doing.

Sadly, the father did not follow through and the visitation dwindled. Now, there is a clear record of what was ordered and what happened, so that it will be much harder for the father to

come back to the court and try to get unsupervised visits. He has also continued to get in legal trouble and has served some time in jail. As for mom she is finishing a nursing degree that she started when the child was born. She was able to maximize her benefits from the state and HJWT to get an education and put herself in a position to be able to be independent and provide for herself and her child. We received the following letter from her a short while ago:

“Without the services of Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc., I would have been unable to be represented by an attorney. Being that this was a free service, I did not expect the effort and courtesy that was put into my case. I feel as though John Lamson went above and beyond his duties while representing me. Many meetings were scheduled after normal business hours to accommodate my schedule. Not only were the meetings after hours, they were also in-depth and the length of time needed never felt like an issue.

Kathy Carrier was always a pleasure to talk to when calling the office. She was always sure to deliver my messages to John in a timely manner. If John was not available, she was always more than willing to help answer my questions to the best of her ability. This service was a very big help and I would recommend it to anyone in need of an attorney.

I was very pleased with the outcome of my case and cannot imagine going through it without the help of HJWT. If I were to need an attorney in the future, I would hope this service would be available to me again.”

John B. Lamson, Esq. Staff Attorney, Bennington County

Alcoholism and Domestic Violence

As the Windham County Staff Attorney, I represented one 51 year-old woman who had come to the United States from a European country looking for a better life. Before moving to Vermont from New York City to operate a small motel business, she and her husband had three children ages 15, 13, and 8.

At the divorce trial we addressed the fact that the husband had been charged with aggravated domestic assault against the parents’ 15 year-old child, the husband’s abusive behavior to the mother in front of the children over many years, and the husband’s history of alcoholism. During one alcoholic episode, the husband drove his automobile into the marital home and family business, destroying building walls and causing substantial damage to the car. Although they were not harmed, the two children who were in the car were extremely frightened when this took place.

Alcoholism and/or substance abuse plays a role in approximately 70% of the cases at HJWT (This includes statistics for both the victim and the abuser). The relationship

between alcohol, substance abuse and domestic violence is complicated. It is a myth that alcohol and drugs are the major causes of domestic abuse. In reality, some abusers rely on substance use (and abuse) as an excuse for becoming violent. Alcohol allows the abuser to justify his abusive behavior as a result of the alcohol. While an abuser’s use of alcohol may have an effect on the severity of the abuse or the ease with which the abuser can justify his actions, an abuser does not become violent “because” drinking causes him to lose control of his temper.

Our client was enormously relieved when after an all day hearing, the Court granted the mother full custody of the children and ordered that the father could not have visitation with the children if he had been consuming alcohol. This mother expressed how much happier the children are now that there is no drinking or violence in their home.

Nicole Briggs, Esq. Windham County Staff Attorney

Isolation and Domestic Violence

In addition to being the Administration and Development Director, I serve as the half-time attorney for the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) area for HJWT. The Brownington office received a call recently from a mother with two children who had been beaten and locked out of the house.

She lived on a dead end back road without a telephone and did not have a driver's license or a car.

One way abusers gain control over their victims is by isolating them. It can be one of the earliest signs of a domestic violence relationship and is seen far too often in the NEK area of Vermont where there are few state highways and many dirt back roads. An abuser may try to disconnect the victim from her family. Other isolation tactics include moving frequently (often away from family and social contacts); restricting access to money or reliable transportation; or not allowing her to get a driver's license.

Isolation is an effective method for gaining power and control. Without social contact the victim is more easily manipulated, and as contact with other people diminishes, the victim becomes more dependent on the abuser. She may come to see the abuser as her sole source of emotional nurture and practical help.

In this case, the mother wanted to learn to drive, but when she tried to do so with her husband as the instructor, he would often slap her on the side of her head if she didn't do something exactly the way he thought she should. HJWT was able to house this mother and children at the log home located on the NEK property it was given in 2006 for a few nights. We provided her with transportation and were able to finalize the relief from abuse order and gain permanent custody of the children for her.

Once she was no longer being abused, this mother began making a difference in her own life and in her children's lives. She moved into subsidized housing where she could walk to work and to nearby stores and in just a short time got her driver's license.

Wynona I. Ward, Esq., Founder and Director.



The Central Vermont Staff from Left to Right: Brandy Todd, JohnnieMae Doyle, E. Robin Goodrum, Wynona I. Ward

Wynona often tells Vermont women, "I have been where you are, I got out, come walk with me, not only will I help you legally to get out, but I will help you become a strong and independent woman for yourself, for your children, and eventually for your children's 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

Letter from a Grateful Father



On left, Secretary Sue Stone, On right, Attorney Kate Kennedy, of the HJWT Randolph office.

There are a number of cases where the opposing party is a person who cannot afford an attorney. In those cases, therefore, it is necessary for the HJWT attorney to have direct contact with that litigant especially where children are involved. The HJWT staff all work hard to treat the person on the “other” side with respect and dignity, while at the same time protecting our client. Following is a letter we received from a pro se (one who represents himself) Dad who appreciated our efforts:

“I have been dealing with Have Justice Will Travel for over five years now. I have dealt directly with Kate Kennedy and I must be honest; at first there was a lot of animosity and anger on my part, but it wasn’t because of anything Kate had done, it was

because I felt entitled. Once I had made progress in my recovery from alcoholism and I was thinking with a clearer head, I realized that Kate was doing what was best for our three children. I find that very commendable.

Once I no longer thought of Kate as an enemy but as a party only interested in what was best for all of us, our relationship had a complete turn around and we built a good relationship. Kate was always polite to me and listened to my concerns. As time went on, I also noticed that she genuinely cared and it was not just a paycheck for her. She also helped me over the years to understand my children’s and ex-wife’s fears, and has given great advice on how to move forward.

She has never been judgmental about my past, despite how bad it was. If every Have Justice Will Travel employee were as understanding, polite, and caring as Kate has been, then they all deserve an award for loving and caring about people and their jobs. Although Kate is my ex-wife’s lawyer, I cannot speak highly enough about how much Kate has helped and given me insight. If parents like me could get over their anger and animosity, they would realize that Have Justice Will Travel is simply doing a job that needs to be done and that they are looking out for the best interest of their clients and children.

Kate has numerous times gone above and beyond what her job entails. She was strong when she needed to be and gentle when she could be. Through her doing the right things, I have now been able to talk to and see my children under supervision. I owe a lot to Kate. She has been a Godsend.”

Best Wishes, from a Grateful Father.

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.

The State of Vermont 2009 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission Report states: In 2008 in Vermont, there were 15 homicides of adults, 11 of which were domestic violence related. 7 of these homicides occurred in residences, 2 occurred in public areas adjacent to residences, and 2 in public places.

The Vermont Department of Public Safety 2007 Vermont Crime Report states: 93% of all violent crime cases involved intimate partners, family members, or acquaintances. 65% of violent crime in Vermont occurs in residences, which makes the home the most frequent location for violent crime.

The national Violence Policy Center annual study entitled, “When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2006 Homicide Data,” reported that Vermont ranked, per capita, sixth in the nation for homicides committed by men against women with single victims in single incidents.



Have Justice—Will Travel

9580 Vermont Route 113
Vershire, VT 05079

(802) 685-7809 or Toll Free (877) 496-8100

www.havejusticewilltravel.org

E-mail: hjw@together.net

DIRECTV Hometown HEROES Supports Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc.



In Spring 2009, and throughout the year, Wynona and co-workers Johnnie Doyle, Brandy Todd, and former client Robin LaFrances are being featured in a Direct TV Hometown Heroes show about Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc. Hosted by Joan London on Channel 101, the program describes how HJWT brings free legal services, in-home consultations, and transportation to victims of domestic and sexual violence in rural Vermont.



Now you have a chance to win your own DIRECTV Satellite System and Programming!

This prize package donated to HJWT for fundraising purposes, has more than 265 channels for a new DIRECTV customer and includes a standard DIRECTV System with satellite dish, up to three standard receivers (or up to two standard receivers and one DIRECTV Digital Recorder), standard professional installation for a residential setting, and one year of CHOICE XTRA programming. Total value of up to \$912.00.

**BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKET BY CONTACTING ANY HJWT OFFICE.
1 FOR \$5.00 OR 6 FOR \$25.00 •DRAWING TO BE HELD IN MARCH 2010**

