

Have Justice—Will Travel

Ending the Generational Cycle of Violence



NEWS

FALL 2010

Making the Public Aware

Have Justice—Will Travel Spreads the Word in 2010

Part of the mission of HJWT is to make the public aware of domestic abuse and the devastation it causes to families and the individuals abused.



Wynona speaking to members of the Vermont Community Foundation.

The 2010-year started out with our founder and director, Wynona Ward, being chosen as the first CNN Hero of the Week on January 7, 2010. This human-interest story entitled, “From Sex Abuse Victim to Legal Advocate,” brought significant attention, not only in the United States, but also from around the world, to the issue of domestic and sexual violence. First shown on Larry King Live and then during several other CNN programs

during the week, this minute and a half video discussed Wynona’s life story plus the work of Have Justice—Will Travel (HJWT). On www.CNN.com viewers were able to see a longer video showing Wynona at work on the road with clients.

The CNN story emphasized again to everyone at HJWT how prevalent domestic violence and child sexual abuse are in this country. HJWT received over a hundred calls and almost five hundred e-mails from women all over the country asking for help. E-mails received from across the world included the countries of Africa, Chile, England, and Canada. We were extremely thankful to also receive many individual donations to help clients, totaling \$3,300. Later in the spring we also received two \$3,000 grants from family foundations after the CNN video

was seen once again.

Making the public aware of the issue of domestic and sexual violence is one of the primary goals of the work that HJWT does. Domestic violence is a serious social and health issue that affects millions, including family members, neighbors and colleagues. It has far-reaching effects, both at home and in the workplace. It is pervasive and does not discriminate, impacting individuals of all races, ethnicities and income levels. It is also a crime that often goes unreported.

One in four women has been assaulted or raped by a current or former partner according to the U.S. Department of Justice. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, husbands or boyfriends kill four in ten female homicide victims. Thirty percent of women who visit emergency rooms receive treatment for injuries sustained as a result of domestic abuse. Injuries inflicted on victims are often serious, if not fatal. In fact, battering by intimate partners is the leading cause of injury among women ages 15 to 44.

In Vermont, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission reported that in 2009 the age of victims in Vermont homicides due to domestic violence ranged from 5 weeks to 79 years of age. In 2008 of the 19 homicides in Vermont, 14 were domestic violence related.

Community outreach and education is a significant part of the HJWT public awareness campaign. As it has successfully done over the past twelve years, HJWT continues to use the local, national and international print, radio, and television media to get out the message that domestic violence is no longer an acceptable way of life and that the generational cycle of abuse must end.

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The Reason HJWT Does the Work It Does *by Nancy G. Harter, HJWT Board Secretary*

Recently Wynona emailed me, some others, and HJWT staff with “Wanted to share with all of you the reason why we do the work that we do. Below is a note received from a LEAP client in Orleans County today. Six little words say it all! Can’t help but say, it made me smile.”

**“Thank you for all of your help Wynona —
It feels great to be free!”**

LEAP Client

Read the statistics below and then think how many women and children there must be in the US who are not free, though we live in one, if not the most, free country in the world. Statistics below are from the National Organization of Women’s (NOW) website. When Wynona founded HJWT she made a pact with herself that she would do everything she could to stop the generational cycle of abuse for rural women and children.

Since she began to envision HJWT in 1996 and founded it 1998, Wynona has been on a quest to reach as many women and children who need help to “become free.” To date she and the staff at HJWT have touched the lives of over 10,000 women and children. Statistics show that all but about 10% who reach out for help from HJWT become free and independent, and escape their abuser, so they can build a life for themselves and their children away from fear and danger.

As each of you who are reading this newsletter know, this country, among many in the world, has been in a financial downfall. Everyone is suffering losses. Those at the lowest rung of society financially and educationally are possibly/probably suffering more. Without any resources, loss of jobs, immense anxiety, and if abuse was already within the family, it explodes into more physical and mental abuse in such times.

If you have the resources to give, would you please give a donation to HJWT, so that women and children can become free and begin to live productive lives, become productive members of society, and statistically help change the terrible numbers that we read below.

Entire article and resources on NOW (National Organization of Women) website: <http://www.now.org/issues/violence/stats.html>

MURDER — In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner—an average of 3 women every day. Of all women murdered in the U.S., about 1/3 were killed by an intimate partner.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — Women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes every year. Less than 20% of battered women sought medical treatment.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE — Including crimes that were *not* reported to the police, 232,960 women in the U.S. were raped or sexually assaulted in 2006—more than 600 women every day.

THE TARGETS -- Women ages 20-24 are at greatest risk of nonfatal domestic violence. The poorer the household, the higher the rate of domestic violence—with women in the lowest income category experiencing more than 6 times the rate of violence as compared to women in the highest income category.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN — According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, “growing up in a violent home may be a terrifying and traumatic experience that can affect every aspect of a child’s life, growth and development.

IMPACT ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES — The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the cost of domestic violence in 2003 was over \$8.3 billion.

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Johnnie Mae Doyle,
Administrative Manager,
assists Wynona as well as
taking care of bookkeeping
and financial reporting.

Following on the coattails of the CNN Hero story, Wynona was asked to be a keynote speaker at the “Proud to be a Woman Dinner,” which was part of the Dartmouth College V-Day 2010 Campaign. HJWT also attended the presentations of the Vagina Monologues.

On May 4, 2010, Wynona was honored in the Community Category at the “Breakfast of

Champions” sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains in Montpelier, Vermont. This inaugural event honored six women who exemplify the qualities the Girl Scouts seek to develop in their members. “They are role models whose professional accomplishments, leadership, and community contributions inspire girls to reach their greatest potential.” Wynona enjoyed the breakfast where young women were present to speak about their projects in the communities where they live.

On May 15, 2010, LUNAFEST, a film festival by, for and about women, featured ten short films to celebrate the talents

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Mediation and Forensic Evaluations *by Kathryn A. C. Kennedy, Esq.*



Kathryn A. C. Kennedy, HJWT Staff Attorney, Central Vermont

Over the last year I have depended on two different legal methods in resolving complex, high-conflict divorce issues while holding a Judge trial and litigation as the last resort. The interesting part of these two methods is that they are at polar ends of the adversarial system: mediation and forensic evaluations.

The purpose of mediation is for the parties themselves to develop the solutions. The value to mediation is the empowerment and enlightenment of the parties themselves who are forced to prioritize their needs from their wants. They must articulate the purpose behind these needs and these wants. They also must educate themselves about their situation.

The ever-looming question in divorces with minor children is the fine line between what is in the child's best interest versus the best interest of the litigating parent. These interests can be separated and evaluated in mediation. Mediation can occur with parties in separate rooms with a mediator assisting litigants and their attorneys by remaining neutral and keeping everyone on task.

Several goals can be met: the financial resources can be maximized for two household(s) versus obliterated by continued conflict; and the children's needs remain central to the conversation. In the courtroom the focus is on the evidence and the attorney's responsibility is to prove the client's experience and make it real to the court. Not all families and their conflicts are suitable for mediation, and only in the cases that are suitable will there be long-term success.

The forensic evaluation uses the expert opinion of a mental health professional or other behavior scientist who intensely examines all of the physical evidence, speaks to the different sources, interviews the parties and conducts mental health testing, as well as observes the parties with their children, and any other form of analysis they see fit to develop a recommendation about the legal issues presented.

Forensics are best suited when the Court requires more information than the parties and their supportive witnesses can provide, i.e. when there is a particular mental health question at issue; uses and abuses of power and control; or physical, mental or sexual abuse allegations or confirmations. The benefits of the forensic evaluation are a culmination of the information with an opinion based on qualified expertise.

These evaluations, which are not immune from error, are admissible in Court with the testimony of the expert. The expert identifies the problems, some more obvious than others, and then presents solutions to the problems. Outcomes are then based on expert opinion versus on what lawyers have zealously advocated for their clients. The Judge then creates a solution based on what they find to be fact and how that fact applies to the law.

Both methods, although different in many ways, hope to attain an end result that families can execute and fall back on when conflict or life changes arise long term. They can even work in tandem leaving litigation as an ultimate last resort. A forensic can cost a minimum of \$5000.00, not including testimony at trial. In one of my cases I was pleasantly surprised when the Court not only ordered a forensic but also found the money to pay for the forensic. In another case the extended family assisted the parties in making the payment. For most families however, the forensic does not come to fruition because money is the last and most difficult hurdle.

This year I felt the most successful cases, and by successful I mean stopping the generational cycle, maximizing the wealth for the entire family, as well as keeping the children safe, happened through the use of mediation and forensic evaluations. I have used mediation and I have used forensic evaluations at trial and have found success in each venue. I can only hope that the short term successes reached this year will be long lasting for the families involved.

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.

LEAP Turns 5 Years Old by E. Robin Goodrum, Legal Intern and Coordinator of LEAP



The HJWT staff, all who provide LEAP services: John Lamson, Sue Stone, Kate Kennedy, Robin Goodrum, and Wynona Ward. (Johnnie Mae Doyle took the photo.)

Have Justice--Will Travel's (HJWT) brainchild, the Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP) turned five this year. LEAP was and remains the organization's response to the great frustration it experienced because it was unable to fully represent the large number of Vermonters that call in desperate need of legal assistance. HJWT received 1,029 calls in 2009 and has already received 659 calls during the first six months of 2010 requesting legal representation.

Watching LEAP grow-up has been much like observing an infant discover its abilities, try, fail and try again to develop its personality and eventually broaden its horizons and become an independent individual. LEAP has moved through its infancy and toddler stages to become a youth worthy of facing more sophisticated challenges and assignments.

LEAP was born in the summer of 2005 with funding from the Vermont Bar Foundation (VBF). It evolved out of the HJWT "call-in consulting" program; a program that had already expanded on the response of "a quick answer to a specific question" or "referral to another agency." HJWT wanted to serve all Vermonters who called looking for legal assistance, but who they were unable to fully represent because of a lack of funds.

Over time HJWT realized that many of the Vermonters calling were repeat "call-in clients" requesting answers to continually new questions that developed as their case moved through the family court system. After assessing the situation, HJWT decided to try a proactive approach to the pattern it was witnessing and began offering these individuals the services that appeared to benefit *pro se* clients; the opportunity to work with HJWT over the phone on a consulting basis throughout the development of their case. (The word *pro se* is the legal term for a person who does not have an attorney and is representing herself or himself in court.)

Over the next year, day-by-day, LEAP learned to sit up, walk and make better use of its skills. Like most growing infants LEAP exercised its vocal cords and looked for ways to stretch its boundaries; it began to interact with other agencies and attempted to reach more Vermonters.

Throughout 2006, 2007 and 2008, due to HJWT's consistent assessment and evaluation of LEAP and recognition of areas for further growth, HJWT successfully nurtured the program through remarkable growth in Vermont. In 2006, LEAP with continued funding from the VBF, really got its feet under itself and developed its core being. It recognized its resources and how its staff members and their skills could be further developed to deliver more and better services.

Even with LEAP services, in 2007 HJWT noticed that there could still be an uneven playing field in the courtroom and, therefore, it was sometimes useful to have one of the HJWT attorneys step in at the end of a case. By that time the LEAP client and the HJWT paralegal had spent many hours fully preparing the case for trial. Since the HJWT attorneys had consistently been involved and offered guidance throughout the LEAP process, they were familiar with the case, comfortable with the readiness of the case, and confident about standing in at the hearing with the LEAP client.

2008 brought HJWT's continual assessment of the kinds of legal issues our "call-in" clients were presented with and an evaluation of whether or not HJWT could effectively lessen the problem. The results of that exercise brought about the development of a training program aimed at educating those professionals (i.e. counselors, therapists, doctors) that typically have an earlier interaction with individuals experiencing issues that lead to the targeted legal problems they later bring to HJWT.

Fortified with the ability to move about efficiently, communicate effectively, and interact with other organizations cooperatively, LEAP focused on honing its skill at delivering services. However, the focus often became that of adjusting to changes in office location and the number of staff available to deliver LEAP services, due to the lack of both government and foundation funds available to HJWT, which was happening with many non profits given the economy.

Year 2009 and 2010, have been devoted to maintaining the level and radius of LEAP services. To date, despite much change in the HJWT staff and due to immediately addressing the voids the changes inevitably created, HJWT is proud to report that LEAP is still assisting a consistently growing number of *pro se* litigants while continuing to look for new ways to improve the client's LEAP experience.

An example is the recent success LEAP had in finding a *pro bono* attorney, other than a HJWT attorney, to represent the case for one of our LEAP clients. (The word *pro bono* means providing legal services free of charge.) The LEAP client had

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prepared her case with the assistance of LEAP services provided by Robin Goodrum, but as the hearing date approached it became apparent that the client would be re-traumatized if she tried to represent herself in the courtroom.

This woman desperately needed legal representation in the courtroom, but all HJWT attorneys had scheduling conflicts, so Robin decided to try a new tactic. She was able to work with a Vermont *pro bono* attorney who entered a limited appearance to represent the woman for the parental rights and responsibilities issues because the case preparation was completed and ready to present in court.

Robin then met with the attorney to review the case file

as well as offered the attorney LEAP services. Robin prepared a limited notice of appearance, a certificate of service, a new motion the attorney requested, and the letter to the court. That case was the first time HJWT sought an attorney outside of HJWT to step in at a hearing. Robin has now used this method for several other clients.

We thank the Vermont Bar Foundation for their continued funding of LEAP and for their understanding of the need for LEAP services in Vermont over the past five years. In addition to the VBF, LEAP is also funded by the Mill Foundation and the Lintilhac Foundation, and in the past by the Vermont Women's Fund.

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and stories of women. This event was sponsored by Global Grassroots, a non-profit organization based in Hanover, NH that supports conscious social change, driven by and for vulnerable women at the grassroots level. Wynona and the HJWT staff were honored as the first recipients of the annual Upper Valley Change Agent Award.

John B. Lamson, Esq., the HJWT southern Vermont attorney appeared on "Talking Law" on WBTV, Bennington's local radio station recently. The show is a half hour long and focuses on legal subjects. John discussed legal services provided by HJWT and talked about the Integrated Domestic Violence Docket in Bennington County and HJWT's role in that pilot Court project. (See page 6)

Kathryn A.C. Kennedy, Esq., the HJWT central Vermont attorney had the opportunity to speak at St. John's Episcopal Church in Randolph about HJWT and the work we do in that community. She shared a story about one client who was deep in litigation in Vermont, while living out of state. Several parishioners donated personally to assist with the client's transportation costs so she was able to visit with her children during the litigation. It was very important for this mother to maintain her relationship with her children, despite not having them in her custody, and living out of state.

The Gifford Medical Center Auxiliary invited Kate to speak at their luncheon in Randolph where she shared other "stories" from her clients' experiences. Her audience was a room full of teachers, nurses, and social workers, many who were retired--mostly all mothers and grandmothers, and one grandfather. Kate noted how important it is for individual community members to be aware of the dynamics of abuse and to understand how children are adversely affected by their parents' separation and post-separation legal problems.

Kate was keenly aware that this audience might be interested in serving as Guardian Ad Litem, where people from the community can volunteer to work with the family court and in this capacity are assigned to interview the children, parents,

caretakers, teachers, and any professionals involved with the family and then make recommendations to the Court.

Kate shared the importance of the child's voice and how difficult it is to have that voice be heard in a courtroom given the fact that the children are minors and much of what they say to their parents or others is inadmissible based on the rules of evidence. Court orders are being made every day that directly influence and affect many children.

Wynona continues her inspirational speaking engagements in various forums including law schools, colleges, high schools, women's groups, hospitals, rotary clubs, and community organizations. For both the spring and fall semesters at the General Practice Program at Vermont Law School (VLS) and the Gender Issues Class at St. Michael's College, Wynona spoke about her life story, domestic and sexual violence, and about HJWT.

In a larger forum in Baltimore, Maryland, Wynona was the keynote speaker for the 4th Annual Albert Schweitzer Fellows for Life Conference on October 16, 2010. Wynona told the conference attendees; "I became a Fellow during the first year the NH-VT Schweitzer Fellowship program was formed. As a first year student at VLS, I was thrilled to become a Fellow because it allowed me to begin working with women and children who were victims of domestic violence.

Although I did not realize it at the time, my Schweitzer Fellowship was the key to a turning point in my career. It was the first step I took on the way to founding HJWT, which has now served over 10,000 people in Vermont." In an hour-long presentation, Wynona discussed the importance of stopping the generational cycle of abuse. "I don't know if we will see the end of domestic violence in my lifetime, but we will see it in yours," said Ward to thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

Wynona and the HJWT staff do outreach and participate wherever possible in public awareness campaigns. If any of our readers know where HJWT can spread the word or speak about HJWT please email hjw@together.net or call 877-496-8100.



John B. Lamson, Esq., HJWT
Staff Attorney for Southern
Vermont.

John Lamson has returned from private practice to once again be Have Justice Will Travel's staff attorney for southern Vermont. Working out of HJWT's Bennington office, John receives and/or supervises cases from Rutland, Windham and Bennington Counties for the Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP) as well as providing full representation to victims seeking abuse prevention orders.

John will be in court every Thursday representing victims in abuse prevention order hearings as part of the Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (IDVD) in

Bennington. IDVD is a pilot project that addresses domestic violence by allowing one Judge to hear abuse prevention order cases as well as criminal cases that may have resulted from the same set of circumstances.

The program seeks to show that if all of the parties and agencies can work together from the outset that a more closely tailored and comprehensive resolution can be reached. For example, if the victim wants to offer that the offender have supervised visitation with the children, the prosecutor's office is present and can tailor the offender's conditions of release to include the contact without the necessity of filing a motion to modify or scheduling an additional hearing. This promotes a resolution that is more likely to work because it meets the needs of the litigants and it also conserves judicial resources.

Under HJWT's rural grant funding from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, which partially funds the Bennington office, John can provide full-representation to clients in need of abuse prevention orders. John can act as the client's attorney in a fully contested hearing or he can negotiate for an agreement to avoid a hearing. Either way, the processes can be intense and lengthy; but the result is comprehensive orders that address more of the client's needs so they do not need to come back to court.

Bennington's IDVD court saw an increase in the amount of cases filed throughout the summer and in the month of September. HJWT has also seen an increase in the number of call-ins it has received in southern Vermont. With courts in Vermont struggling to provide services due to budgetary shortfalls, this increase in need would surely have a detrimental effect on victims of domestic violence if it weren't for HJWT and its community partners like the Bennington County State's Attorney's Office and the local domestic violence advocacy agency, Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE). Through the cooperation of these agencies, victims are receiving the services they need in spite of an increase in numbers.

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:

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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

HJWT Board Changes

The photo at the right was taken at the 4th Annual Schweitzer Fellows for Life Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on October 16, 2010, depicts the longest serving Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc. (HJWT) Board member, Nancy G. Harter, and the newest Board member Rebecca B. Torrey, who joined the Board in September 2010. Wynona gave the keynote address at the Conference. (See page 1)

Working with Wynona when Wynona found HJWT, Nancy has served as Secretary of the Board since HJWT's inception. She is a national nonprofit development consultant, sits on several nonprofit boards across the country, and with a woman who was a former Missouri state legislator, founded Progressive Women of Mid Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. For many years she and her husband lived in Washington DC, Columbia, Missouri, and a farm in South Royalton, Vermont. They now reside in Columbia and in South Royalton, where her husband teaches summers and falls at Vermont Law School. Their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren reside in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rebecca (Becky) who has two children away at college and one at home in middle school, was a primary school teacher for six years at Thetford Elementary School in Thetford, VT. She has been the Program Director for the NH-VT Schweitzer Fellowship Program since 2000. She came to know Wynona through her work with Harriet (Holly) B. Field at the Schweitzer Fellowship. As the NH-VT Schweitzer Program Director, Becky oversees the recruitment, selection, and orientation of the approximately 25 NH-VT Fellows each year. In addition, she is a liaison with the five graduate schools that support the program, completes research and funding requests, and communicates with individual donors.



Nancy Harter, Wynona Ward, and Becky Torrey at the Schweitzer's Fellows for Life Conference in October 2010

In December 2009, HJWT received word that Holly, who had battled cancer for many years, died. Holly had been a member of the HJWT Board since its inception. Holly was always enthusiastic and provided the utmost support for other Board members, the staff, and for the clients of HJWT. We all miss her greatly. (See page 8)

Amy Phillippo, who joined the HJWT Board of Directors in 2008, has changed the direction of her career after practicing as a lawyer representing domestic violence victims first at Rhode Island Legal Aid and then for HJWT from 2001 to 2003. After receiving her Vermont teacher certification she is now teaching social studies in a local high school. She is truly enjoying her new job and looks forward to work each day as well as being with her sons during school breaks. Amy and her family live in Essex Junction, Vermont.

Northeast Kingdom Office

Wynona continues to serve as the attorney for the Northeast Kingdom area and has also volunteered a few times to teach the *pro se* education class in Orleans Family Court. (The word *pro se* is the legal term for a person who does not have an attorney and is representing herself or himself in court.) In the first six months of 2010, HJWT received 90 calls from the Northeast Kingdom area, most from women seeking legal representation in relief from abuse or divorce matters. The services provided from this office are partially funded by the Schultz-Blackwell Trust.

In addition to the carriage house office constantly in use, the log home on the Brownington property was fully booked to family vacationers for the months of June, July, and August. Wynona's husband, Harold, served as the innkeeper and maintained the 68 acres of land as people came and went. He was able to cut brush and trees, move rocks, and mow grass to make several nature walks on the property where renters can enjoy hearing birds and spotting various wildlife including deer, moose, bear, fox, coyote, rabbits, skunks, and woodchucks. It



The HJWT NEK Log Home in Brownington, VT

was amazing to learn this summer that a pair of bald eagles hunt over the property.

HJWT has also welcomed several non-profit organizations that have used the log home for trainings and retreats. The income from these rentals is helping to pay the property taxes and upkeep of the property. If you or anyone you know would be interested in renting the large four-bedroom log cabin please check our rental listing at: <http://www.vermontproperty.com/detail/Vermont/northeast-kingdom-rentals/1381/>



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HJWT received 1,029 calls in 2009 from Vermonters asking for legal representation. 659 calls were received in the first six months of 2010.

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In Memory of Harriet B. Field (Holly) *by Wynona I. Ward*



Holly and Wynona at a gathering to celebrate NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows in 2005.

Harriet B. Field (Holly) worked with me from the time I gave birth to Have Justice Will Travel (HJWT) until her death in December 2009 after her long fought battle with cancer. The HJWT Staff, Board and the many who knew Holly in her work with HJWT were deeply saddened to hear of the loss of a woman who gave so much to so many.

I first came to know Holly in 1996 when I was a fellow at Vermont Law School during the first year the NH-VT Schweitzer Fellowship program was formed. Holly soon became an important mentor for me, as she was for many other Fellows. She remained both a personal mentor and a passionate advocate for HJWT until the time of her death. It was Holly who was there each time I needed her. It was Holly who was there each time I became discouraged or didn't know which way to turn. It was Holly who was there each time to cheer me on and congratulate me when I was successful.

Holly embodied and projected the beliefs and thoughts of Albert Schweitzer. When describing Reverence for Life, Dr. Schweitzer wrote that when a person plays an active role in the world, he enters into a spiritual relationship where "he is united with the lives that surround him; he experiences the destinies of others as his own. He helps as much as he can and realizes that there is no greater happiness than to participate in the development and protections of life."

Holly was the happiest when she was helping others. Whenever you saw Holly there was a smile on her face and a big hug for everyone she met. That is the thing Holly did best—living—Holly lived life to the fullest.

Holly served as a Board member for HJWT from the time the Board was first formed. She was instrumental in writing Board policies, the HJWT Strategic Plan, and assisting with development projects. Holly was always enthusiastic and provided the utmost support for me, other Board members, the staff, and for the clients of HJWT. We all miss her greatly and are extremely thankful for all she gave to HJWT.

