ReachOut is going green! Help SPAN save money and tress and sigh up today to receive ReachOut via email. Send an email to info@safehousealliance.org and subscribe today!

SPAN 2012 Program Highlights * continued from previous page

SPAN’s Legal Advocacy Program participated in the multidisciplinary Domestic Violence and Domestic Relations Task Force launched in 2012 by the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV). In order to identify ways Colorado’s courts and domestic violence organizations could better serve families affected by domestic violence who are accessing domestic relations courts and to strengthen relationships and building collaborations between professional communities. In 2012 the Task Force discussed the current response to domestic relations cases in which domestic violence has been identified or alleged with the goal of identifying legislative, policy, training, and best practice recommendations. The resulting final recommendations were submitted in December and are being advocated at the Colorado State House by the CCADV’s Legislative Committee.

In 2012 SPAN’s Community Education Program held monthly Social Justice & Inclusivity Workshops designed to raise awareness in the community about domestic violence in a social justice framework, and to provide opportunities for discussions that challenge the beliefs and practices that allow violence to occur. The workshops were held over the lunch hour and were well attended by service providers and advocates from other agencies, students and interns, as well as SPAN staff and volunteers. Topics covered included: White Privilege 101, Teen Dating Violence & LGBTQ Youth, Abuse in Later Life, and Anti-Heterosexism 101. Visit SPAN’s website at www.safehousealliance.org for information on the 2013 Social Justice Workshop schedule.

Are you in an abusive relationship? Are you worried about someone you know?
Call SPAN’s 24-Hour Crisis Hotline at 303-444-2424 or go online at www.safehousealliance.org for more information.

Our Board of Directors
Judy Knopp, Chair
Tiffani Burke, Vice Chair
Colleen Oslund, Treasurer
Kinsey Hassetth, Secretary
Lisa Darby
Andrea Halbig
Anne Tapp, Executive Director
Sara Horn
Milena Houswe
Shyamlee Pringle
Joan Riggins
Alex Viggio
Willa Williford
Charlotte Grojean
Lydia Tate

SPAN’S 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Where we are going is partly defined by where we have been, and SPAN, like many non-profits in the last few years, has been going through challenging economic times. Through this long, lingering recession, SPAN has grown stronger and more determined than ever to address the logistical, systemic barriers that domestic violence survivors face as they work to build lives that are safe, stable and self sufficient.

The fastest growing segment of the homeless population in the Denver Metro area, and in the US, is women and children, and domestic violence is the number one cause for their homelessness. SPAN’s Emergency Shelter Program plays a vital role in preventing homelessness among women and children in Boulder County who might otherwise have to choose between staying with their abuser or sleeping on the streets. In 2012 SPAN provided emergency shelter to 30% more children and teens with their non-abusing parent than the previous year. SPAN also sheltered a greater number of larger families, with a total 12 families staying at SPAN Shelter in 2012 who had at least three children, and 2 who had six children. These larger families presented special challenges and at times mitigated SPAN’s ability to offer shelter to adult survivors. In 2012 SPAN was compelled to turn away 698 adults and children due to a lack of space, though in each case these survivors were referred to other domestic violence shelters in the Boulder or Denver metro area. SPAN also works with local churches, hotels, and other emergency shelter facilities to arrange temporary shelter until space is available at our shelter or another domestic violence shelter. In addition, SPAN’s crisis intervention, advocacy, and outreach services are available when the shelter is full, ensuring that survivors always have access to counseling, advocacy, and support.

A distinct trend that was reflected in all of SPAN’s programs last year is an increased demand for services for children and teens. The number of children, youth and their non-abusing parent seeking assistance from SPAN also continues to increase dramatically, with 452 children served in 2012. Children who experience violence at home are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems, including depression and anxiety, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in inappropriate sexual behaviors and commit crimes.

To respond to this need, SPAN has deployed a number of creative programs designed to provide children with age-appropriate opportunities for healing. One example of this was the 2012 Kid’s Camp organized by the Outreach Counseling Program. The Children’s Counseling staff organized separate week-long day camp sessions for children entering grades K through 3, and grades 4 through

continued on page 3
Year In Review - 2012: The People SPAN Supports

Service Snapshot: Older Adults
SPAN continues to see a steady increase in the number of domestic violence survivors age 50 or older who are seeking services. Since 2007, SPAN has experienced a 320% increase in survivors age 50 and older, with 277 older adults receiving shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and transitional services in 2012.

Not surprising, since Boulder County’s senior population is aging faster than Colorado as a whole, increasing by 70% between 2000 and 2012! Recognizing that as Boulder County’s population ages and these numbers will only continue to increase, SPAN has worked diligently to access every available resource for these clients. In 2012 SPAN collaborated with Safe Shelter of St. Vrain, the domestic violence program serving Longmont, to access “special needs funds” through the Boulder County Elder Justice Partnership grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). SPAN and Safe Shelter were able to provide abuse victims age 50 and older with enhanced advocacy services and designated funds to meet special needs related to medical care, transportation and housing.

Year In Review - 2012: The People Who Support SPAN

In 2012, 514 volunteers donated 32,365 hours to SPAN!

SPAN’s Services Are Changing Lives!
SPAN’s shelter keeps people safe and stops the cycle of violence. In 2012:
- 97% of the adults and children leaving shelter developed a personal safety plan.
- 89% of adult Shelter residents reported increased understanding of community resources and 73% reported feeling more hopeful about their future as a result of their time at SPAN’s Emergency Shelter.
- 73% of child/youth Shelter residents demonstrated decreased trauma symptoms during their time at Shelter.

But Shelter alone is not the answer! Domestic violence survivors in SPAN’s Transitional Services Program access up to two years of case management, counseling, support and training and this long term support can make all the difference. For instance, in 2012 SPAN’s Transitional Services Program provided affordable transitional housing to 77 women and children. 17 of the adults found jobs and another 7 went back to school. In all, 78% of Transitional Services clients showed an increase in self-sufficiency and stability factors based on evaluations done as they entered SPAN services and again as they exited.

2012 QUICK FACTS:
- 95% of SPAN clients have incomes that are 30% of the Boulder County Annual Median Income or less.
- 92% of Shelter residents report incomes of less than $10,000 per year.
- 85% of SPAN clients are residents of Boulder County. 8% reside in Broomfield County. 12% come from other parts of Colorado or from out of state.

Service Snapshot: Client Demographics
- 47% of people receiving SPAN’s services in 2012 identified as white. 40% of clients identified as Latina/o.
- 40% of SPAN’s clients were between the ages of 30 and 49; 22% were under the age of 18.
- Women made up 97% of SPAN’s adult client population in 2012.
- Among children and youth receiving services from SPAN in 2012, 44% were girls and 56% were boys.
- 22% of SPAN’s adult shelter residents had a physical, mental or developmental disability, often as a result of the abuse they have experienced.

SPAN’s programs help thousands of people in need every year. On average, one new domestic violence case is filed each day. That's why SPAN’s programs are so crucial.

In 2012 SPAN received 683 donations from individuals and families, ranging in amounts from $2 to $20,000. We are so grateful to our community of donors and thank all of you!