

STEPPING STONES

www.thesecondstep.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

October

DV Awareness Month

Show your care—shop with the retailers in our awareness campaign. See adjacent article ▶

November 3, 2007

Step Up to the Plate

Enjoy a dinner party in a lovely home with an local celebrity! To sponsor or purchase tickets, call 617.965.2026

May 8, 2008

Celebrating Success

Save the date and join us to honor the graduates of The Second Step!



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

STATISTICS SHOW A RISE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENCES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Domestic violence is a worldwide epidemic, and incidences of domestic violence (DV) are on the rise here in Massachusetts.

In the first half of 2007, 22 people were killed in domestic violence-related homicides in Massachusetts, leaving eight children parentless. In just six months, this is seven more homicides than in 2005 and on pace to surpass last year's total of 31, according to Jane Doe, Inc., a Boston based advocacy group for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

On average, 79 restraining orders a day are issued in Massachusetts, according to the Commissioner of Probation. In a given day, over 1,000 adults and children are served by local domestic violence programs according to the National Census of Domestic Violence Services Executive Summary for Massachusetts.

These numbers only hint at the untold story of domestic violence. The majority of survivors do not report abuse and do not seek services.

The Second Step (TSS) works continually to end DV as we serve some of Massachusetts' most vulnerable citizens – adult and child survivors. TSS addresses the intergenerational nature of violence in order to prevent families from repeating patterns.

TSS addresses the underlying economic issues of DV, helping survivors to achieve long-term self-sufficiency in order to never have to return to or rely upon an abusive partner. TSS also provides ongoing education, trauma sensitive support services, and access to our innovative mentoring program.

Get Involved in October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Thanks to the leadership of the National Coalitions Against Domestic Violence, the U.S. Congress has passed a law every year since 1989 designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This year, TSS is partnering with local retailers to build awareness of domestic violence in the community. Many assume that DV doesn't happen in the suburbs, but it does. Suburban victims often feel isolated and don't know where to turn for

DV AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Local Retailers Help TSS Raise Awareness

This year The Second Step is partnering with local retailers for a public awareness campaign.

Shops will display important information about domestic violence and the resources offered by The Second Step. Some will contribute a percentage of their sales for the month.

Please Show Your Care – Support these retailers:

- Best Cellars • Cabot's Ice Cream • Citibank • Crate & Barrel • Great Harvest Bread Co. • New England Soup Factory • The Sullivan Company • William Raveis Real Estate

List as of press time. For updates check www.thesecondstep.org

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Letter from the Executive Director

DEAR FRIENDS,

There are lots of changes here at The Second Step. Dedicated TSS supporter Clare Villari is now the President of our Board of Directors. Jacqueline Taylor Badeau, our Director of Residential Programs, has a brand new baby boy. Jennifer London, our Development Director, was married in May and is now Jennifer Feinstein. We are pleased to welcome Michelle Crawford and Julia Busbee as the new Case Managers. Our Community Program has grown with the additions of Mary Greenwald as Legal Advocate and Greta Kenney as Community Services Coordinator, and our Afterschool Program welcomes Steven Jenkins as Child Care Advocate.



It is hard for me to believe, but this is the last letter that I will be writing as Executive Director as I will be retiring in December. It has been a wonderful 15 years. I have met so many wonderful people and feel privileged to have worked with an outstanding staff and board. The support and encouragement from all of you in the community has really made a difference to me.

The agency has grown from when I was the first staff person hired. In 1992, there were two of us full time and three part-time with a budget of \$250,000. In 2007, there are 17 full-time staff and 8 part-time with a budget of \$1.8 million. The Second Step has expanded from one communal residence to two, and in addition has a Community Program that works with over 100 survivors a year from Greater Boston, MetroWest and beyond. I am excited about the Mentoring Program established by Community Program Director Carole Thompson. After a very successful launch, the program is now in its second year.

It made sense to me to retire when the agency was doing well with a very committed board and staff and a terrific group of community members who sustain the agency in so many wonderful ways. I have always worked, so I am looking forward to having some leisure time. I will be eager to have lunch partners, so I hope you will remain in touch.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Kirsch, LICSW, MMHS,
Executive Director



THE SECOND STEP

A way from violence to self-reliance

The Second Step breaks the cycle of domestic violence by providing survivors and children with transitional housing and supportive services that empower them to remain free from abusive relationships and lead productive lives.

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In-Kind Donations 617.965.3999
Volunteer Coordinator 617.965.3999
Newsletter Editor Jennifer Feinstein
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Spotlight on In-Kind Giving

The Second Step gratefully acknowledges **Etonic** for providing TSS moms and kids with new sneakers for their next steps. Thank you **Mattress Discounters** for providing our residences with discounted new mattresses. Thank you **Circle Furniture**, **Crate & Barrel**, **Designers Services, Inc.**, **Eddie Krovitz**, **Eddie Krovitz, Jr.**, and **Mark's Moving and Storage Company, Inc.** for helping TSS graduates as they leave the program and start homes of their own. Special thanks to **iCorps Technologies** for providing IT support.



Good-bye, Liz, and Thank You!

The Board of Directors of TSS recently accepted from Liz Kirsch her notification of retirement at year end 2007. Since TSS opened its doors in 1992, Liz has been its driving force, welcoming clients and paving their paths to safety and self-reliance with innovative programs.

time and 8 part-time professionals. During Liz's 15-year tenure she led the purchase and renovation of a beautiful second residence that allowed TSS to double its capacity. Through Liz's efforts, the organization has served over 500 women and children in its Residential

domestic violence has earned her a well-deserved reputation as an unflinching champion for a woman's right to live free of fear and violence.

The Board, staff, volunteers and clients of TSS will miss the wisdom and compassion Liz brought to every task she undertook. We wish her happiness and fulfillment in the years to come.

To ensure a smooth transition, TSS has engaged Egmont Associates to conduct a search for a new Executive Director of The Second Step. If you or someone you know is interested in a wonderful opportunity to lead this well-respected and growing organization into the next chapter of its success, please contact Susan Egmont at segmont@egmontassociates.com.

Liz's deep commitment to survivors of domestic violence has earned her a well-deserved reputation as an unflinching champion for a woman's right to live free of fear and violence.

Under Liz's leadership, the organization has grown to an annual budget of \$1.8 million with a talented staff of 17 full-

Program and over 1,350 additional survivors in its Community Program.

Liz's deep commitment to survivors of

Liz Kirsch Opportunities Fund

CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID TO SURVIVORS

In honor of its longtime Executive Director, The Second Step has established The Liz Kirsch Opportunities Fund. This important fund addresses the emergency needs of domestic violence survivors as they flee abuse and make the brave move to safety.

To be disbursed as one time grants of limited financial aid, the fund empowers survivors to flee from violence, stave off homelessness, care for their children, further their education and find initial economic stability. Each survivor is interviewed personally and receives safety planning, advocacy and follow-up.

For many years, the Department of Social Services (DSS) awarded a grant that enabled TSS to offer survivors this vital economic aid. Liz Kirsch called it "our Santa Claus grant" because the money was given away as small gifts that made a huge impact.

This year, DSS did not renew this grant, and therefore TSS has launched a campaign to raise the funds privately. The goal is to raise \$35,000 annually to support this fund.



Liz Kirsch received an "Unsung Hero" award from Newton Mayor David Cohen for her outstanding service to the community.

All gifts of financial support to the Liz Kirsch Opportunities Fund directly benefit domestic violence survivors and their children. There are no administrative costs—100% of every gift will go to domestic violence survivors in need.

Please consider honoring Liz Kirsch by sending your gift in the enclosed envelope. To learn more, contact the development office at 617.965.4173.

DV AWARENESS MONTH

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help. Providing information where people shop is a way to reach them.

TSS is part of the Relationship Violence Action Committee (RVAC), a local group that works to bring awareness of DV and Sexual Assault to the community all year long. In October, T-shirts commemorating experiences of local survivors are displayed on clotheslines in public spaces to remind passers-by that DV can happen to anyone: your sister, your daughter, your mother, your co-worker or your friend.

To be aware of domestic violence means observing the media with a keen eye. When stories are reported, is there sensitivity to the victim? Or is the violence sensationalized? TSS urges you to write letters to the editor or call the ombudsman if you are dismayed by the coverage you read or hear.

Please think about doing one or two things during October to show that you care—speak to a friend, make a donation, wear a ribbon, give your business to a retailer who cares, learn more about the realities of DV and share what you know with others. Taken together, all of these random acts will help break the silence and make a difference.

PROFILES

GET TO KNOW THE SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE SECOND STEP EXTRAORDINARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ilene Seidman is a Clinical Professor of Law at Suffolk University Law School,



and the director of Suffolk's Family Advocacy Clinic. She is an advisor to the Victim Rights Law Center, an organization that provides representation to victims of sexual assault in civil, criminal and university disciplinary proceedings, and is a consultant to the legal project of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. She has represented indigent clients for over thirty years, specializing in family law cases on behalf of victims of domestic violence. "One of the greatest harms of DV is the batterer's attempt to rob the victim of her sense of self, of any realistic idea of who she is and what she is capable of. TSS focuses on the rebuilding of that sense of self through its emphasis on parenting, education, the development of life skills, its therapeutic Afterschool program for children, and the Mentoring Program."

STAFF

Tanya McLean has been the Afterschool Director at The Second



Step for the past five years. She is a graduate of Hamilton College, holds a Masters in Social Work from Boston University,

and is mom to two-year-old Sadie. "I have the privilege of working with an amazing group of children and their families. In working with the kids here, I am constantly reminded of the strength and resilience all of our families possess. Afterschool is a place where kids, some for the first time, get to learn what they like in this world. Watching a girl who had never seen snow discover that she loves cross country skiing; watching kids conquer their fear and feel the thrill of soaring three stories high on a trapeze; these are just some of the moments that make my work here at The Second Step so rewarding."

VOLUNTEER

Cheryl Muise applied to be a mentor to a domestic violence survivor with some trepidation. "I had little



knowledge in this area; however, I had experienced being bullied at work and remembered the dread and anger I felt. I needed support to regain my sense of wellbeing." Cheryl hoped that she could offer encouragement to someone determined to make her way forward after abuse. "The mentor training developed my skills and confidence. I learned to be a better listener, and that the goal is not to offer advice, but to enable my mentee to find her own voice. My

mentee and I met each week for an hour. She told me about her goals and dreams. We discussed the challenges she faced and many important decisions in her life. When all the mentors, mentees and their children met for a celebratory dinner, it was clear that close friendships had been formed. This program and these friendships have enhanced each of our lives."

DONOR

The Sullivan Company, Inc. is a remodeling and custom building company based in Newton, Massachusetts and Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Paul Sullivan and his wife Xiaobei are dedicated to improving their community in more ways than just improving its homes. "Values are important to us," said Sullivan. "When I learned about The Second Step, I could tell this was something very special, and I wanted to help. We are proud to create and maintain beautiful homes for our clients. But it makes us even

more proud to know we may be helping a family, wherever they live, to have peace in their home." In addition to its regular support, The Sullivan Company makes a contribution to TSS every time a client refers them to a new client who hires them. "Our clients learn about TSS, and we are glad to know we could help."



BOSTON MARATHON TEAM RAISES \$28,000

The Second Step's 2007 Boston Marathon team pulled together to raise an amazing \$28,000 to benefit survivors of domestic violence.

On Monday, April 16, Claudia Moeller, Cindy Mars, Rocky Prozeller and David Savage all completed the elite road race. Deborah DeFrancesco and Jarred Courtney (who was unfortunately sidelined with an injury) cheered the team on.

"My marathon experience was terrific all around," said Claudia Moeller. "It was a tremendous physical challenge, and while it may be the only marathon I run, it is an accomplishment I will always remember. The experience was that much more memorable for me because I was running for an organization I believe in, and it gave me an opportunity to tell people about the great work

that The Second Step does for survivors of domestic abuse. The outpouring of support from family and friends was overwhelming, and that support kept me going through those long, cold months of training."

The Second Step is tremendously grateful to the entire team for their awesome effort.



The Second Step is a powerful program that heals and empowers. To open the door to a future of happiness is a life-changing gift. I'm so honored to add my voice to the Step Up event and my support to this remarkable effort.

—Hank Phillippi Ryan

DINNER PARTY SELECTIONS

Who Was That Masked Diner?

DAVE ANDELMAN Founder and CEO of The Phantom Gourmet

Meet the Jetsons

COLIN ANGLE AND HELEN GREINER Co-Founders of i-Robot, makers of robots that clean house and disarm explosives

Look Who's Talking

TOM ASHBROOK Host of *On Point* on WBUR

So What's News?

JIM BRAUDE AND CHET CURTIS Hosts of NECN's *NewsNight With Jim Braude and The Chet Curtis Report*

Lights, Camera, Action!

TY BURR Film critic at the *Boston Globe*

Behind the News Desk

JOHN DAVIDOW News Director and Managing Editor, WBUR

Hey Good Lookin' Whatcha Got Cookin'?

GORDON HAMERSLEY Chef and Co-Owner, Hamersley's Bistro, in the South End

Compelling Commentator

EILEEN MCNAMARA Pulitzer Prize winner and Professor of Journalism, Brandeis University

Dollars and Sense

JONATHAN POND "America's Financial Planner", Author and Public Television Host

In the Middle in the Middle East

CHARLES A. RADIN Former Jerusalem bureau chief, the *Boston Globe*, and Director of Global Communications, Brandeis University

Artistic Expression

JONATHAN RIBNER Associate Professor, Art History, Boston University

Saluta!

JEANNIE ROGERS Co-Owner and Sommelier of Il Cappriccio, Waltham

Not Just a Teddy Bear

TWEED ROOSEVELT great-grandson of Teddy Roosevelt, lecturer and Boston businessman

Excellent Investigator

HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN Emmy-winning investigative reporter and mystery author

In Pursuit of Freedom

JESSE SAGE Editor, *Enslaved: True Stories of Modern Day Slavery* and Director, American Anti-Slavery Group

Sofa, So Good!

ELIOT & BARRY TATELMAN President/CEO and former Co-President, respectively, Jordan's Furniture

Don't Shvitz—Be Happy!

RABBI MOSHE WALDOKS Spiritual Leader, Temple Beth Zion and Co-editor, *Big Book of Jewish Humor*



Hank Phillippi Ryan



Gordon Hamersley



Tom Ashbrook

For event information contact Tanya Crowley at 617.965.2026. or tcrowley@thesecondstep.org

Holiday Gift Drive CAN YOU HELP A NEEDY FAMILY?

The Second Step is gearing up for its annual Holiday Gift Drive, and we need your help.

TSS families have been displaced due to domestic violence or are struggling to establish new homes for themselves and their chil-

dren. There are real financial constraints that impede our clients' ability to provide warm clothing and essentials for their children, let alone gifts and toys that other children enjoy.

With your support, we can help survivors provide a memorable holiday for their families. We need:

• **The North Pole** We seek 3000-6000 square feet of secure space for temporary storage and workspace for 2 weeks in December. Commercial Space or an empty residence are appropriate.

• **Angels** Individuals, families, companies, schools, clubs, community groups and faith-based groups who are willing to offer time, financial assistance and/or gifts to our families. You can adopt one family or ten, or purchase gifts for an individual mother or child.

• **Elves and Reindeer** "Elves" to help organize, sort and wrap gifts and "Reindeer" with vehicles to deliver the gifts

HELP US MAKE HOLIDAY WISHES COME TRUE. CONTACT GRETA KENNEY, COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR, 617.818.8685 OR GKENNEY@THESECONDSTEP.ORG.



The Second Step Raises \$320,000 at 15th Anniversary Gala

KEYNOTE SPEAKER DIANE PATRICK SHARES HER
PERSONAL STORY

FUNDS BENEFIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS AND CHILDREN

On Thursday, May 3, 2007, over 600 enthusiastic guests gathered to support and honor the graduates of The Second Step. The event raised over \$315,000, making it the most financially successful event to date for The Second Step.

The Second Step was honored to have Massachusetts First Lady Diane Patrick as the keynote speaker. Event emcee Loretta LaRoche added her signature brand of humor to the evening. "Start having fun right now," she quipped, "because you just never know."

Sixteen women graduated from The Second Step. They came to the stage to receive a personalized clock and a handshake or hug from the First Lady. What does it mean to graduate? "The Second Step is not a school," said Liz Kirsch, Executive Director, "but the term 'graduate' makes the most sense to us. These survivors are moving from one stage of life to another. They have worked so hard and accomplished so much. They have begun new lives. It truly is a commencement."

"Abuse knows no boundaries. It doesn't matter if you are not economically disadvantaged, it doesn't matter if you are a smart, capable person. It doesn't protect you from abuse. Having supportive friends and a very strong family you can count on when you need them doesn't mean that you're not going to meet an abusive



Diane Patrick

partner. Abuse doesn't discriminate on the basis of race or gender or sexual orientation or age. It can really happen to any of us and we should remember that."

*—Diane Patrick,
First Lady of the Commonwealth*



Diane Patrick, Clare Villari, Loretta LaRoche



Co-Chairs Roberta Carson and Joanne Andrews



Murray Sackman



Liz Kirsch and Olga Robinson of Citibank



Newton Mayor David Cohen and Gladys Fonfield-Ayinla



Sheryl Schlackman



Cathy Fulton and Lisa Stone



Graduate speaker Bonis with Nicole and Anthony



Anne Esbenshade



Jay Saret and Patricia Hinchey



Planning Committee: I-r Donna Golden, Patricia Hinchey, Joni Lohr, Marianne Karmel, Joanne Andrews, Roberta Carson, Linda Isenberg, Lisa Stone, Jan Silverman, Cathy Fulton, Liz True and Laurel Salend



Susan Benjamin and Linda Weisberg



Lee and Tabetha McCartney

THANK YOU

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Save the date!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007 - 7PM

Step Up to the Plate is a unique benefit event comprised of 18 dinner parties in gracious private homes. Each dinner features a Special Guest who is a leader in his or her field. Tom Ashbrook, Gordon Hamersley and Hank Phillippi Ryan are just a few ... **full list see page 7.**

For event information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Tanya Crowley at 617.965.2026 or tcrowley@thesecondstep.org



**Domestic Violence
Emergency Numbers**

Statewide: **877.785.2020** | Newton, Waltham and western suburbs: **800.899.4000**
Information and non-emergency referrals, call The Second Step **617.965.2538**



A way from violence to self-reliance

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