

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share with you a snapshot of some of the great things happening at WISE. It is impossible to communicate all the amazing things that our staff, board, and volunteers do on a daily basis and the impact that our generous supporters have on the organization.

Inside, we share the exciting news of our partnership with University of New Hampshire's Prevention Innovations Research Center (cola.unh.edu/prevention-innovations-research-center/about-us) to evaluate our prevention program. WISE has long believed that the expertise we gained through decades of supporting survivors of violence uniquely positions us as leaders in prevention education. Our understanding of the complex intersections between the impact of violence on an individual and the cultural context that contributes to this violence provides an essential foundation for effective educational programs. We are interested to see what the Prevention Innovations evaluation reveals about our curricula and the skills that youth gain through WISE programs.

We hope you will enjoy learning more and be inspired by one of the many opportunities to connect with WISE. Please join us!

Warmly,

Peggy



Save the dates

The Mask You Live In
November 17 at 6:30 pm

Court Observer Training
December 14 and April 24

International Women's Day Celebration
March 8

RVC Spinathon 2017
March 25

Foundations of Gender-Based Violence
Spring Training I starts March 1
Spring Training II starts June 17

Board Members

Jenny Williams, *President*
Sharin Luti, *Vice President*
Patricia Spellman, *Treasurer*
Emily Dentzer • Brian Edwards
Gail Gentes • Pat Glowa
Martha Goodrich • Kate Griffiths Harrison
Valerie Nevel • Carol Olwert
Gretchen Rittenhouse • Mike Shipulski
Peggy O'Neil, *Executive Director*
Emily Evans, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*
Neha Hassan, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*
Susan Dewees, *Board Emeritus*

Gail Gentes and Kate Griffiths Harrison joined the WISE Board of Directors in June 2016 for a three-year term. Gail is currently the Assistant Director of Dartmouth for Life, Alumni Relations, at Dartmouth College. Gail is also a WISE Crisis Line Volunteer and lives in Hanover, NH. Kate, an Upper Valley native and Dartmouth graduate, has been a WISE Crisis Line Volunteer since 2013 and has a background in elementary school education. Kate lives in Lyme, NH.



Lizzy: Program Associate

Warm welcome

Lizzy Donnelly, our new Program Associate, first joined us as a crisis line volunteer last December. Lizzy grew up in the Upper Valley and is a Hanover High alumna. Compassionate and friendly, Lizzy embodies how we want people to feel when they walk in our doors. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

“WISE opened my eyes to understanding more about this world and gave me tools to make a difference.” - Lizzy

With great appreciation

After five impactful years on our Board of Directors, Pat Palmiotto is stepping down due to her pending move to Maine.

Pat joined the Board in 2011, assumed the role of Vice-President in 2012, and then President of the Board for a two-year term in 2014. Pat has been a profoundly important leader during her tenure. She provided steady stewardship for our commitment to victim advocacy as well as for major new initiatives such as our Safe Home and the partnership with Dartmouth College.

We will miss Pat’s gracious personality, her clarity of purpose and passion for our work, but we are thrilled that she and her husband, Ron Hiser, will enjoy a closer proximity to their daughter and the beauty of Maine’s peaceful landscape.

“WISE is a safe place in a violent world, it’s a place where I can tell the truth and know I will be believed. It is a haven for me and many others. More and more, it is becoming community as I grow from victim to survivor. I feel so grateful to WISE.” - *Survivor*

Our new mission and the meaning of “gender-based violence”

Last spring we shared with you our updated mission statement. One of the big changes you may notice is that we use the term “gender-based violence” instead of “domestic and sexual violence and stalking.”

“Gender-based violence” acknowledges the ways that violence is used to maintain an imbalance of power based on traditional gender stereotypes. No matter who the perpetrators or victims are, this category of violence reflects a history of gender characteristics. Masculinity and femininity are constructed in opposition to each other. Culturally, we are trained to see masculinity as strength, power and dominance. Femininity is defined as nurturing, passive and submission.

This term is more inclusive of all the many ways that social institutions are designed based on assumptions of gender which have created inequalities in access, representation, and agency. Gender-based violence includes the violence that men and boys experience in attempts to make them “tough like a man,” violence experienced by people who identify outside of traditional male/female expectations, and violence overwhelmingly and disproportionately born by women and girls which prevents their full and equal participation in society. By encompassing all of this, we can lead the Upper Valley to truly change our communities to a place where all people can thrive.

Mission: WISE leads the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy, prevention, education, and mobilization for social change. **Vision:** A world of freedom, justice, equality, and dignity where all thrive.



August 2016 Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Volunteer spotlight: Mollie Hoopes in her own words

"I am a junior at Bates College and for the past two summers I have been a WISE intern. I applied for the internship so that I could give back to the Upper Valley community where I grew up, while at the same time dive more deeply into the topic of sexual assault. Bates is a small school, but the reality is, just like any other college campus, we are not immune. I no longer wanted to be a bystander.

I have been inspired by the passion and commitment of every staff member and volunteer at WISE. I have seen first-hand how their tireless work through advocacy and education is helping to prevent (and hopefully end) gender-based violence. I have seen the positive impact one individual, like myself, can have on another person's life. By sharing the WISE message with my classmates, friends and family, I am making my community a safer place. I feel so lucky to be part of the WISE family."



WISE in the news

This year, it seems like we are everywhere in the news! WMUR's New Hampshire Chronicle produced a moving piece on Unedited Voices. Both the Valley News and Woodstock Magazine featured our WISE Words radio program. The Union Leader and WPTZ NewsChannel 5 contacted us for our expertise regarding breaking stories. And National Public Radio talked about our prevention work as kids went back to school.

We have appreciated the recognition and attention that our work consistently receives on local, regional, and national levels. To read the articles and see the videos, visit www.wiseuv.org/who-we-are.html#news.

Our doors are open

Come have breakfast with us and learn about the latest happenings at our Program Center! Several times a year, we invite community members to visit our warm and welcoming Program Center, conveniently located in downtown Lebanon.

Our Executive Director Peggy O'Neil, greets you, gives a brief presentation and answers questions about the many activities that WISE offers to support victims of gender-based violence and to promote safe and healthy communities.

Our next Program Center tour is on Wednesday morning, November 16 from 8:15 – 9:15 a.m. If you are interested, please RSVP to Edith Walsh at edith.walsh@wiseoftheuppervalley.org or call 603-448-5922 x118. Feel free to bring a friend. We hope to see you there.



Court Observers: silent witness, strong presence

"It has been a visceral experience for me. Sitting directly behind the victim sends a strong and clear message to her that I have her back. And to everyone else in the courtroom, I am a silent witness and support for her." – current Court Observer

Our newest volunteer program is up and running. We currently have 23 active Court Observers. They attend the Windsor County District Court and the NH Circuit Court for final protective order hearings. Our volunteers are present on the side of the victim for court processes that impact victims and survivors including criminal, divorce, and custody cases.

The initial idea came from one of the first WISE WAEV (We're Acting to End Violence) meetings back in the winter of 2013. We wanted to create opportunities for community members to get involved, and witness what really happens in our courtrooms. We wanted to support survivors and also collect data to better understand the subtle and not-so-subtle gender-bias that survivors face when they turn to our legal systems for justice.

Victims of gender-based violence interact with courts in numerous ways to address the violence that is perpetrated against them and their children. In the past four decades, survivors and their advocates have fought to make legal systems more responsive to these particular crimes. Despite this, court procedures can be inadequate, traumatizing, and not feel supportive to survivors.

Recently, a survivor had a court hearing and requested a Court Observer. During the proceedings, the judge asked to see both attorneys privately in chambers. The woman and the man who abused her were left in the court room. Her abuser had a number of family members present, and they were joking and laughing during the recess. The woman sat with the Court Observer so that she did not have to be alone. She had someone in the courtroom on her side, sitting in solidarity to let her know she is truly not alone. If you would like to become a Court Observer, contact the Program Center.

Planning for the future

Brian and Susan Edwards have demonstrated their support for our work in countless ways for more than a decade. As a member of the Board of Directors since 2007, Brian has served as both Vice-President and President. He led the renovations of our Program Center in 2011 and our Safe Home in 2014.

Most recently, Brian and Susan have shared their intentions to include WISE in their legacy planning as part of their long-term commitment to our work in the community.

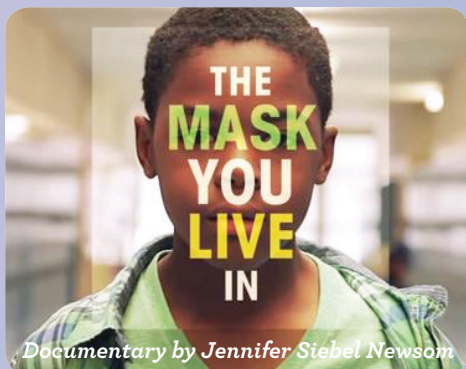
If you have included WISE as part of your legacy giving, we would love to know of your generosity. If you are interested in learning more about how you might initiate a planned gift to WISE, please contact Edith Walsh at edith.walsh@wiseoftheuppervalley.org or call 603-448-5922 x118.

“WISE is a well-run organization that is doing incredibly important work and we wish to contribute to its mission far into the future” – Brian Edwards

The Mask You Live In

On November 17, we will screen the latest film from The Representation Project. The film follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity.

Pressured by the media, their peer group, and even the adults in their lives, the protagonists confront messages



The latest news on Dartmouth Campus

wise
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Dartmouth

The new school year has started and the Class of 2020 is officially a part of our community. We participated in Undergraduate Advisor (UGA) training, as well as a number of orientation activities geared towards incoming first year students and their parents. Our WISE@D members hand delivered official WISE welcome letters and stickers to each new student letting them know that we are the advocacy resource for survivors at Dartmouth College.

Since adding the campus advocate presence on campus, we have experienced an increase in the number of students using WISE advocacy. We changed our hours on campus to be more reflective of students' needs. We continue to build meaningful relationships with our campus partners.



encouraging them to disconnect from their emotions, devalue authentic friendships, objectify and degrade women, and resolve conflicts through violence. Experts in neuroscience, psychology, sociology, sports, education, and media weigh in, offering empirical evidence of the “boy crisis” and tactics to combat it.

It ultimately illustrates how we, as a society, can raise a healthier generation of boys and young men.

The doors of the newly and beautifully renovated Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich will open at 6:30 pm for a reception including wine and cheese. The film will start at 7:00 pm and last for 90 minutes. Join us for what will likely lead to some very lively discussions. Please call the Program Center for reservations. Tickets to the event are free.

Make your
own cards



Holiday cards and WISE

We are thrilled to announce our new partnership with Picaboo, a web-based custom photo printing and publishing company. Headquartered in Hanover, NH, Picaboo now offers a fun and creative way to support WISE.

Create your 2016 holiday cards with Picaboo using your own customized photos on the front with a shout out to WISE on the back. We receive half of the proceeds of all holiday cards purchased this holiday season while raising awareness to end gender-based violence.

Visit www.picaboo.com/non-profit-holiday-cards/WISE/ and start designing your holiday cards today!

YVPP: making our communities safer

One of our main priorities over the past 20 years has been our Youth Violence Prevention Program, connecting with students and schools to stop violence before it starts. The programs have evolved over time as we have incorporated research and national practices, educational theory and relevance with youth. Our content is a reflection of what we learn from survivors every day about how to make our communities safer.

The past five years have shown particular growth in our work with young people. We focus on understanding the root causes of inequality, building strategies to care for one another, and developing personal and collective strength to promote change.

Since 2011, WISE youth programs have increased by 60% and we continue to expand our presence.

We have consistent programming in nine school districts across the Upper Valley, and work with students from kindergarten through high school. As students mature, they build upon their competency from years past, and foster an ongoing relationship with educators from WISE so they know they are never alone.

Imagine how differently your high school experience would have been if consent had been a given practice since kindergarten. Imagine bathroom stalls and bus seats without slurs or harassment. Imagine a generation of young people free from trauma and able to embody their full, creative and brilliant selves.



Annie Kuster at WISE

We were honored to host U.S. Representative Annie Kuster's roundtable discussion at our Program Center in late June. Inspired by the heart-wrenching letter written by the victim of Brock Turner in California, Representative Kuster shared her personal stories of sexual violence and brought together a panel of experts including WISE staff Peggy O'Neil, Delaney Anderson, and Kate Rohdenburg.

Nearly a dozen experts and advocates participated in the discussion about sexual assault, sexual violence awareness and some of the important things we are doing to end violence. It was a powerful opportunity to share with our national representatives the unique collaboration that we have with Dartmouth College.

"I'm not telling these stories because they're remarkable or unique. I'm telling them because they are all too common." - U.S. Representative Annie Kuster

WISE as a national model

WISE is identified as being unique in the way that our survivor-centered advocacy influences our youth violence prevention education curriculum. In an exciting new opportunity for us, the Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC) at the University of New Hampshire will conduct a multi-year evaluation of our school-based prevention curricula and will also identify how our organization impacts the design and implementation of our prevention program.

A group of students in selected school districts will be followed for six years to measure the impact of our curricula on skills and behaviors in their relationships. Additionally, PIRC will seek to identify, define, and understand the operational qualities of WISE that are conducive to a comprehensive and robust youth prevention program.

By articulating how our organizational culture and structure influences our prevention work, this project has the potential to create a national model for prevention education by survivor-centered advocacy organizations in other communities. We will continue to share information with you as the study progresses.