

Business as usual can lead to tragedy

by Marna Anderson

"Abusers are scared of the system until their first contact with it." This statement, made by an advocate who works with victims of domestic violence, has become a sort of refrain for WATCH as we monitor the justice system. All too frequently in a multitude of ways, we see offenders wriggle out of taking responsibility for their threats and assaults.

First of all, they can flee the scene with pretty good odds that they won't get caught by the police, so they won't be charged with a crime. (See *WATCH Post* article on "gone on arrivals" in Summer 2008 issue). If they are charged, they can often convince their victim—through persuasion, intimidation, or threats—to not cooperate with the prosecutor and get the charges dismissed. They can almost always plead guilty to a lesser charge to avoid jail time, and in many cases, any supervision. And those who actually are given supervised probation can typically violate the terms of their probation without consequence.

In short, disheartening as it is to admit after the many reforms in recent years, domestic abusers still take home the message that the crimes they commit are not that serious. And victims realize that the system is unlikely to protect them.

State of Minnesota vs. Morris Gaye Kayee

This, indeed, was the case for a Brooklyn Center woman, who is struggling for her life at North Memorial Hospital after being beaten and stabbed by her ex-boyfriend in the early morning hours of December 30, 2008. The man charged with the crime, Morris Gaye Kayee, called the police from the victim's apartment and said that he believed he had just killed his girlfriend.

Charges dismissed

Kayee had six domestic assault charges within 16 months against the same victim, three of which were dismissed (two in exchange for pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge in 2007). In one of the charges that stuck, a gross misdemeanor conviction for domestic assault in 2008, he was placed on supervised probation. He wasted little time in violating the terms of his probation, accruing terroristic threats against a child and child endangerment charges only four months later. He pled guilty in October to the terroristic threats charge (the child endangerment charge was dismissed) and was conditionally released until his December 10 sentencing date.

Violating conditional release

But Kayee got out of the sentencing.

He didn't cooperate with probation to complete the required pre-sentence investigation. Rather than take him into custody for violating the conditions of his release, he was rewarded with another six weeks of freedom, time that he used to terrorize his victim, now the mother of their one-month-old child.

Gone on arrival

Two days prior to the near-fatal stabbing, the Brooklyn Center police were called to the victim's apartment on a domestic assault. Kayee had fled the scene and was not apprehended. The Brooklyn Center police lost an opportunity for intervention when they did not notify Hennepin County probation, which could have issued a warrant for his arrest and potentially offered information regarding his whereabouts. One can't help but wonder whether this follow up could have resulted in an arrest and prevented the attempted murder two days later.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 2008 PROGRAM SUMMARY

4 CASE SUMMARIES

10 VOLUNTEER NOTES

Business as usual can lead to tragedy

Continued from page 1

Business as usual

Alarming, there was nothing unusual about anything that happened in this case. It is common for charges to be reduced, pled down, and dismissed. It is common for hearings to be continued for weeks at a time. It is common for defendants to escape apprehension when they flee the scene of a crime. That's the problem with this case. It is all too common.

At every level, justice system personnel were handling the case as they do every other one: by looking at it through their own lens, their own particular area of decision-making, their own jurisdiction. But maybe there is a way in which the system could work more inter-dependently. In order for the system to work well, each person who is involved in a case has to reflect on how his or her decisions will impact the next person who has a role in handling it. In the battered women's movement, this is typically referred to as a "coordinated community response." But a coordinated response will not increase victim safety unless it is *well-coordinated*.

As is typical of large bureaucracies, communications can break down and procedures can be ignored. It's not a big deal until it is a big deal. In this case, it is a big deal because a woman is on life support and an infant is left without parents.

It might not have been possible to change this tragic outcome, but it should be another wake up call to examine how all parts of the system work together, identify and strengthen the weak links, and put an end to business as usual.

Abusers are scared of the system until their first contact with it.

BECOME A WATCH VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in finding out more about what happens to cases of violence against women and children in Hennepin County, join WATCH's volunteer program as a court monitor. We are looking for dedicated individuals to take note of how hearings are handled as well as their outcomes. We use this information to recommend improvements to the justice system and to promote greater safety for victims of violence. The next training is in June. Contact Anna at 612-341-2747 x 7, alight@watchmn.org, or visit www.watchmn.org to download a volunteer application.

2008 Program summary and accomplishments

Marking 15 years

Last year marked the 15th anniversary of WATCH volunteers entering Hennepin County courtrooms. We noted this achievement by sponsoring the first National Walk-in for Justice and by celebrating WATCH founder Susan Lenfestey.

The National Walk-in was held October 2 in Minneapolis and five other cities, and three additional sites held events later that month. October is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness month, and WATCH executive director Marna Anderson kicked off the program for the Minneapolis Walk-in by highlighting concerns surrounding local budget cuts and reduced services, particularly to women seeking protective orders. Congressman Keith Ellison followed with remarks emphasizing the need to uphold the dual values of justice for victims and due process for defendants, and former City Council member and community leader Don Samuels concluded the program by speaking of the critical need to bring violence against women "from the invisible to the intolerable." The event was covered by the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, Minnesota Public Radio, and WCCO-TV.

Our fall fundraising gala paid tribute to Susan Lenfestey, who founded WATCH in 1992 and has been a dedicated volunteer, board member, and fundraiser ever since. More than 250 people attended the evening, which included a short video highlighting WATCH's mission and Susan's contributions and some lighthearted anecdotes about Susan and WATCH's early years.

Mission and core programs

WATCH's mission to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence, particularly against women and children, and to create a more informed and involved public shapes our work every day. The core of our work is daily monitoring of court hearings, and last year we trained 44 new volunteers and interns to be court monitors. Volunteers donated 2,352 hours, and along with WATCH staff, monitored 4,381 hearings in criminal, family, and juvenile court.

Special projects

WATCH published an article in our January 2008 newsletter describing improved communication by judges with people waiting for court appearances. The article followed the publication of reports from two short-term studies we conducted on how judges handle court delays and demonstrated that, when we make our findings public, many judges take our recommendations to heart.

In August 2008, WATCH launched the CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection or Services) project to monitor CHIPS proceedings in a number of key areas and make recommendations for improving child protection's and the court's response. The overarching goals are to create greater safety and better outcomes for children. CHIPS cases have only been open to the public in Hennepin County since 1998, and we are observing the workings of the court and intend to bring any concerns that arise to the attention of those in a position to make change. The CHIPS project consists of the following elements:

- Regular monitoring of CHIPS cases
- Interviews with practitioners involved with CHIPS cases
- Research comparing Hennepin County court procedures in 1999-2000 and in 2008-2009
- Research comparing Hennepin County court procedures with best practices in the field
- Recommendations for improving the court's handling of child abuse cases
- Sharing methodology and findings with other court monitoring groups via training and technical assistance.

Spreading the word

The July 2008 issue of the *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* includes an article by University of Minnesota researchers Mary Lay Schuster and Amy Proben, based on the collaboration between them and WATCH that studied the effects of victim impact statements on judicial sentencing decisions.

The September 2008 edition of *Bench and Bar* includes an article on Minnesota's felony strangulation law that cites extensively from WATCH's 2007 report evaluating the law's impact.

WATCH staff presented on court monitoring at the Sexual Violence Justice Institute's national conference for multi-disciplinary teams working to improve their jurisdiction's response to sexual assaults; at a conference of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault; at the annual conference of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women; and at the annual conference of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. We also conducted a joint national teleconference with the Battered Women's Justice Project on monitoring order for protection hearings.

Preparing physicians to respond to child abuse

WATCH has a collaborative relationship with the University of Minnesota Pediatrics Department to provide training to medical students during their pediatric residency. Last year, we hosted five groups of four to six interns, who accompanied WATCH staff to observe child protection hearings and met to discuss the role of physicians in identifying and documenting child abuse.

Promoting transparent courts

WATCH hosted human rights attorneys and judges from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, South America, Africa, and Asia, who were on a 26-day tour of the United States through the International Visitor Leadership Program. The visitors (except for the judges) work for legal aid and human rights groups and other organizations dedicated to ending international human trafficking for sexual exploitation. We discussed the applicability of court monitoring to state and federal courts, ways to overcome the many challenges to gaining access to the courts, and strategies for organizing and funding court monitoring programs in their respective countries.

We also conducted trainings for two groups of Hennepin County judges during their orientation to the bench.

Providing leadership

WATCH convened a group of service providers to meet with court leadership to discuss the cuts to the Domestic Abuse Service Center that left many women seeking assistance with filing an order for protection waiting for hours, or even days, for help.

Educating current and future leaders

WATCH staff gave presentations to college students in social work and women's studies classes and hosted a booth at the Advocates for Human Rights International Women's Day event on the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus. We also spoke to the Girls International Forum and presented information on court monitoring to the Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association.

Informing the public

WATCH contributed information to an article in *MinnPost* on budget cuts affecting the Domestic Abuse Service Center and one in the *City Pages* on cuts to the Minneapolis Police Department's sex crimes unit. On a different note, Marna was interviewed by a reporter from the *Dallas Morning News* regarding cameras in the courtroom and also appeared on Hennepin County's *Meet Your Court* on the same topic.

WATCH co-sponsored two events with the Hennepin County Bar Association and the Minneapolis League of Women Voters in September to inform the public of current issues facing the courts. The first, a forum on how judges are elected, was held on September 17. It featured members of the Citizen's Commission for the Preservation of an Impartial Judiciary, including its chair, former governor Al Quie. The group was founded in 1996 to review and make recommendations concerning the method for selecting Minnesota's state court judges. Next was the

Continued on page 4

judicial candidates’ forum, where candidates for open or contested seats on the Fourth Judicial District bench responded to questions about their qualifications and the role of judges.

Recognizing excellence

In May, WATCH honored Suzanne Koepplinger, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC), with the 13th annual Gold WATCH Award. Suzanne was chosen for her leadership in raising awareness of the high rate of sexual assault and trafficking of American Indian women and girls and providing them with culturally sensitive services, as well as for seeking funds to document the dimensions of the problem through a statewide research project.

National accomplishments

- Last year, we more than doubled readership of our bi-monthly e-newsletter *Court Monitoring Connection* from 300 to 640 subscribers.
- We held 18 web-based seminars attended by 233 people from 30 states. A list of future topics can be found on the training page of our website, www.watchmn.org.
- Membership in the *National Association of Court Monitoring Programs* grew to 23.
- In addition to providing phone and e-mail technical assistance to 24 programs and individuals, WATCH staff traveled to the Virgin Islands for two days to train staff and board members of the Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council court monitoring program.

WATCH added a part-time national outreach assistant position this year, bringing the number of staff to seven (six FTE). A list of board and staff members can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Revenue

Foundation grants	62%
Individual gifts	33%
Earned income	5%

Expenses

Program	84%
Management/General	12%
Fundraising	4%

In conjunction with the local company Smart Women© WATCH promoted its Walk-in with products carrying the slogan Smart Women WATCH Listen and Take Note.

Case summaries

ANDREW LEE BARNES

In September 2008, Andrew Lee Barnes approached a former girlfriend in front of her home. He began arguing with her, followed her into her house, and threw a large knife at her as she tried to run away from him. The victim’s brother saw the knife strike and injure his sister’s heel. Barnes fled the scene, but was subsequently arrested and charged with second degree assault.

Two days later, the victim awoke to find Barnes pulling her out of bed by the ankles. She tried to hang onto a piece of furniture, but he pulled her legs so hard she was forced to let go. The victim screamed for help, and her brother and one of her children observed Barnes dragging her from her room. When the victim’s brother appeared, Barnes fled. The police were called, and the victim was taken to the hospital, where she was treated for a fractured tailbone and underwent surgery on her dislocated right shoulder. Barnes was arrested and charged with first degree burglary, stalking, and third degree assault.

Barnes pleaded guilty to the first degree burglary charge, and the other three charges were dismissed. In November 2008, Judge Daniel Mabley sentenced Barnes to 33 months in prison, stayed, and placed him on supervised probation for three years under the following conditions: serve 270 days in the workhouse with credit for 55 days. His extensive probation conditions include: have no contact with the victim or witnesses, attend anger management classes, participate in domestic abuse counseling/treatment, submit to random urinalysis, and supply a DNA sample. Amy Sweasy was the prosecutor, and Richard Trachy the defense attorney.

EARL NMN HOLMES, II

In July 2008, Minneapolis police responded to a domestic abuse

911 call where the perpetrator, Earl NMN Holmes, II, was attempting to strangle his wife. Upon arrival, officers noted that she was visibly shaking, had trouble communicating, and had red marks that appeared to be bruising on the right side of her neck. According to the victim, Holmes had demanded that she give him her prescription pain medications from a recent surgery. When she refused, he became angry and followed her into their bedroom, where he grabbed her throat with his hands and applied pressure to the point where she was unable to breathe. He then pushed her to the floor and yelled, "I could kill you right now b****." The criminal complaint noted Holmes's four prior assault convictions: a misdemeanor fifth degree assault in Ramsey County, a domestic assault against his wife from 2007, and convictions from 1999 and 1995 for fifth and second degree assaults, respectively, against two other victims.

Holmes was charged with domestic assault by strangulation and terroristic threats. In November 2008, he pleaded guilty to an amended charge of attempted terroristic threats, and Judge Philip Bush sentenced him to one year and one day in prison with credit for 123 days served. He was also ordered to pay a \$50 fine and supply a DNA sample. Beverly Benson was the prosecutor, and Shuly Yang Her the defense attorney.

CHRISTOPHER EDWARD KARLS

In May 2008, Minneapolis police responded to a report of a sexual assault. The victim told police that she had heard footsteps outside of her bedroom, and when she opened the door, she saw a stranger, (later identified as Karls), outside her door holding a knife. He told her he was desperate and asked for money, and she offered him her camera and computer. Karls instead put the knife to her throat, told her to take off her clothes, and repeatedly sexually assaulted her.

When he told her to take a shower after the assaults, she dragged her comforter (where she had concealed her cell phone) into the bathroom and attempted to call 911. Karls heard her and disabled the phone, but when he left the bathroom, she jumped from her second floor window onto the deck, breaking her ankle in the process, and fled next door, where a neighbor called police. Three blood samples, taken from the storm window and surrounding area, matched Karls's profile, and he was subsequently arrested.

Karls's criminal history includes breaking into an Uptown apartment in October 2007, for which a burglary charge was pending at the time of the May sexual assault. The woman in Uptown was able to flee after finding Karls hiding in her closet.

Karls was charged with seven felonies stemming from the May crimes: three counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct, three counts of first degree burglary, and one count of kidnapping. He pleaded guilty to all charges in exchange for the state dismissing the 2007 burglary charge.

At Karls's sentencing in November, the victim of the May assault and one of her roommates gave victim impact statements. In addition, an advocate for the 2007 victim gave a statement on her behalf. All three women spoke about their loss of privacy and sense of safety. The most recent victim spoke about fearing for her life during the assaults and how horrified her family and friends would have been to find her degraded and dead if she had been killed.

Judge Mary Steenson DuFresne sentenced Karls to 294 months in prison with credit for 187 days served—an upward departure of 60 months from the sentencing guidelines due to the severity of the assaults. The following conditions were attached to the sentence: pay restitution, not ship/

transport/ possess or receive firearms or ammunition, register as a predatory offender, and supply a DNA sample. Judith Hawley was the prosecutor, and Michael Colich the defense attorney.

PAUL PETER WEDEL

In August 2007, an eleven-year-old girl went to the police to report that her two younger sisters, ages six and eight, had been sexually assaulted the previous week by a neighbor known to them as Paul. The victims had gone to Wedel's house with their older brother, who was doing some work for him.

The two girls were interviewed at CornerHouse Child Evaluation Center and disclosed being sexually abused by Wedel after their brother left the house. They also reported that Wedel had shown them pornographic movies, told them he kept a gun in his house "to kill squirrels and little girls," and warned them not to tell anyone about what went on at his house. Police executed a search warrant of Wedel's home and found more than 300 pornographic movies.

Wedel was originally charged with two counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct. In May 2008, the criminal complaint was amended to include two counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct, one for each victim. A jury found Wedel guilty on all counts later that month.

In November 2008, Judge Janet Poston sentenced Wedel on counts one and three to 144 months in prison and on counts two and four to 168 months in prison to be served concurrently. He was given credit for 176 days served and ordered to register as a predatory offender and supply a DNA sample. During the trial, Caroline Lennon was the prosecutor, and Eric Olson the defense attorney. At sentencing, Alan Harris was the prosecutor, and Robert Miller the defense attorney.

2008 Supporters

Individual donations comprise more than a third of all the revenue WATCH raises each year. These contributions are absolutely essential to our ability to fulfill our mission and we thank the more than 350 donors who supported our work last year. Your names appear below. If you would like to make a contribution before the end of our fiscal year on June 30, you may use the envelope in this newsletter, log on to the donate page of our website, www.watchmn.org, or call the office at 612-341-2747.

Susan Albright and Richard Knuth
Catherine Allan and Tim Grady
American Indian Neighborhood
Development Corp.
Ginna and Allan Amis
Susan Anacker and Jim Johnson
David Broesder and Barbara
Preston-Broesder
Marna Anderson and Jim Morgan
John and Barbara Anderson
Mark and Connie Andrew
Anonymous
Anonymous Fund of the Minneapolis
Foundation
Cathy Anson and Peter Vaughan
Sally and Peter Anson
Carolyn K. Arthur
Gordon Asselstine in honor of Yeleen
Joselyn's recuperation
Dave and Sue Astin
Martha and Bruce Atwater
Bev Balos and Mary Louise Fellows
Dana Banwer
Terry Barczak
Roger Beck
Ron Beining and Mark Perrin
Sue Bennett
Karin Birkeland and Lee Mitau
Lois B. and Jonathan S. Bishop Fund
of the Minneapolis Foundation
Sheila and John Bjorklund
Sally Blanks
Ruth and Robert Bly
Betty Boeck and Larry Roupe
Susan S. Boren
Tony and Erica Bouza
Susan Brambilla
Aviva Breen
Kathleen Brennan
Ellen and Jan Breyer
Wendy and Nick Brown
Hal and Dee Broxey
Mark and Dawn Bruggeman
M. Nicholas and Susan Slattery Burke
Andrea Cagle
Mark Caligiuri
Uri and Melissa Camarena-Michel
Bill and Connie Cameron

Susan B. Carbon
Christopher Cardozo
Karen Caron
Mary Lou Carpenter
Valerie Carr
Casa de Esperanza on behalf of
M. Liliana Espondaburu
Deborah Christakos
Beth Clark
Sharon Clarke
Dr. Susan L. Clarke
Annie and Fritz Cleveland
Wendy and David Coggins
Deb and Larry Lamb Cohen
Janet Conn
Diane A. Connor
Peter and Carrie Connor
Julie Corty and Richard Erickson
Family Fund of the Minneapolis
Foundation
Larry and Cheryl Coulter
Sage and John Cowles
David and Vicki Cox Fund of the
Minneapolis Foundation
Ginny and Will Craig
Janis and Ken Cram
John and Laura Crosby
Liz Cutter
Bunny D'Amico
Jennifer David
Barbara Jo Davis
Fran Davis
Judy Dayton
Mae and Toby Dayton
Mary Lee Dayton
Toni Decker
Lisa and Pat Denzer
Lea DeSouza
Dawn Dougherty and Jen Cornell
Joe Dowling and Siobhan Cleary
Lucia Duff
Jeffrey L. Edleson and Sudha Shetty
Molly Eichten and Dean Karau
Lollie and Alan Eidsness
Suzanne and Jim Elwell
Tara and Erik Engebretson
Louise Erdrich
Sandra and Phil Erickson

Marion Etzwiler and John Shepherd
Steve Euller and Nancy Roerhr
Karen and Rick Evans
Jeanne Farrar and Myron Orfield
Miriam Karmel Feldman
Anne and Charlie Ferrell
Carla Ferucci
Sue Fite
David and Mary Grace Flannery
Charlotte Flowers
Barbara Forster and
Larry Hendrickson
Tom and Carol Fourre
Barbara and Ron Fraboni
Patricia Weaver Francisco and
Larry LaVercombe
Al and Franni Franken in honor of
Suzanne Koepplinger
Richard S. and Brigitte E. Frase
Arvonne and Don Fraser
Aisha and Steven Friswold
Janet and John Gendler
Penny and Bill George
Joe Gibbons and John Cullen
Theresa Gibbons
Scotty and Peter Gillette
Archie Givens and Carol Meshbesher
Lisa Goodman
Richard and Susan Hadley in honor of
Suzanne Koepplinger
Jocelyn Hale and Glenn Miller
Nor Hall and Roger Hale
Nancy Halverson and Mike Norton
Carolyn Ham
Bryce and Donna Hamilton
Jule and Betsy Hannaford
Sonja Harriday
Harriet and Edson Spencer
Foundation
Jacquelyn Hauser and
Thomas Tinkham
Blanche Hawkins
Terri and John Hawthorne
Judy Healey
Roger F. Heegaard Fund of the
Minneapolis Foundation
Anne and Peter Heegaard
Jeff and Lucy Heegaard

Thank you to our 2008 supporters

Joanne and David Heegaard
Helios Foundation
Janice C. Higgins
Joan Higinbotham
Norton Hintz and Mary Abbe
Andrea and Ken Hjelm
Mary Homrighous
Andrea and Nicholas Hopmann
Linda Houden and
Jerry VonAmerongen
Pat Hoven
Penny Hunt
Clark and Jeanne Hussey
Jeremy Iggers and Carol Bouska
Michelle Jacobson
Alison James
Kate Jaycox
Christina Jennings
Julie and Thomas Johns
Brent Johnson
David and Sharron Johnson
Denise Johnson
Eric Johnson and Jill Fedje
Jennifer and Mark Johnson
Josie Johnson
Lori and Nick Johnson
Tom and Victoria Johnson
Sharon L. Jones
Gary and Yleen Joselyn
Phyllis and Donald Kahn
Dick Kalin and Nancy Kleeman
Helene and Sheldon Kaplan
Sylvia and Sam Kaplan
Cathy Karasov
Victoria and Ira Kasdan
Marion and Sandy Keith
Miriam and Erwin Kelen
Cindy Kelley and Ken Zapp
Katharine L. Kelly
Pat and Bill Kelly
Sally Kenney and Norman Foster
Ken and Nina Rothchild
Amy and Mitch Kern
Marcus Kessler
Marjorie B. Kiewit
Mary Louise Klas
Peter and Bonnie Kramer
Suzanne Kramer
Rebecca and Vinnie Kutty
Dea and Phil L'heureux
Angela M. Lakedon
John Larsen and Michael Stewart
Elizabeth Larsen
Kristi M. Lassegard
Judith and Larry LaVercombe

Valerie C. Lee
Chuck and Mary Leer
Joe Leffel
Susan and Jim Lenfestey
Beth Ann and Doug Lennick
Kathleen Light
Alissa Light
John and Searcy Lillehei
Lew H. Linde
Andrew J. Loge
Dee and Nick Long
Lozier Family Foundation
Peggy and David Lucas
Charlene Lucken
Georgiana Ludcke
Bruce Lundeen
Margaret A. Lutz
Reid and Ann MacDonald
Cathy and Rick Madison
Tessa Coons and Jeffrey Martinka
Julie A. Matonich
James McCarthy and Gloria Peterson
Samuel and Patricia McCullough
Joyce and Richard McFarland
Kelly McGee and
Suzanne Staudenmaier
Linda Messenger and Robert Distad
Connie Metcalf in memory of
Robert Metcalf
Helen Metz
Violet Meyer
Lynell Mickelson and John Bellaimey
Laura and James Miles
Mary and Todd Miller
Judy Miller-Thomas
Minnesota Indian Women's
Resource Center
Shari Moore
Sheila Morgan
Jack and Chris Morrison
Kelly Morrison and John Willoughby
Kathleen and David Mortenson
Sara Mushlitz
Naegele Family Fund of
The Saint Paul Foundation
Kelly and Bob Nakasone
Patricia and Craig Neal
Maureen Kelly Neerland
Claire Christopherson Nelson
Sarah Nettleton
Win and Dr. Christie Neuger
Ardis Niemann and James Noonan
Jeffrey Nipper
Louise and Jim Noethe
Charlie and Liz Nolan

Sally and Jim Novotny
Greg Olson
Louise W. Otten
Diane Sims Page and
Justice Alan Page
Becky Palmer
Jan and Dan Parker
Anita Patel
Ms. Suzanne and Dr. William Payne
Deniz and Larkin Perese
Aimee Perron
Carolyn Perron
Sarah Perron
Sarah Z. and Thomas Perron
Peter and Lora Pesheck
The Honorable Duane and
Patricia Peterson
Joan C. Peterson and Paul Lussenhop
Susan Peterson
Robin Phillips
Cynthia Pillsbury
Sally and George Pillsbury
Susan J. Piva on behalf of
Cummins Power Generation
Doug and Mary Platt
Peggy and Ed Pluimer
Sally B. Polk
Louise Pope
William Price
Charlotte Quaintance
Charlie Quimby and Susan Cushman
Sharon Raygor
Linda and John Rebane
Charles and Susan Reinhart
Randi and Phil Reitan
Lewis and Connie Remele
Erik and Brooke Reseland
Heidi Rivkin
Nedret Rix
Lucy Rogers and Larry Grant
Ron and Glenda Dewberry Rooney
Tom and Gwynn Rosen
Mayor R.T. Rybak and Megan O'Hara
Cynthia D. Sain
Ellen G. Sampson
Dave and Andrea Scamehorn
Denise Scharlemann
Romaine Scharlemann
Karl and Ellen Schmidt
Bill and Wendy Schoppert
Mary and Slade Schuster
Thomas and Diana Scott
Tom and Pat Scott
Susan Segal and Myron Frans

Continued on page 8

Irving and Janet Shapiro
Elizabeth Shippee
Bruce Shnider and Pat Strandness
Catherine Shreves and Tom Bird
Margaret and Davis Shryer
Dawn Singh
Geraldine Slavek
Marilyn and Wally Small
Cindie and Jim Smart
Roxanne and Bill Soth
Nancy Speer
Pat Spratt
John Staloch
Noa and Theodore Staryk
Catherine Stepanek
Jan and Jim Stephenson
Robin and David Sternberg
Alecia Donovan Stevens
Sarah Stoesz
Glenda Struthers
Faith and Dan Sullivan
Mia and Brian Sullivan
Marguerite Sullivan and David Weiser
Mike Swanson and Kathy Spraitz
Jon and Julene Ray Swenson
Kate Tabner and Michael Boardman
Mary Tambornino
Katy Tanghe
Melanie Terwey
Cheryl Thomas and Roger Heegaard
Susan J. Thompson
Jean Thomson and John Sandbo
Laura Tiffany and Ned Foster
Jane Tilka and Mike Reed
Gail Tucker
Jennette Turner
Emily Ann and Gedney Tuttle

John and Nina Tuttle
Mary Ursu
Ruth Usem
Eric Utne
Nina Utne
Penny Van Kampen and Scott Borene
Mary Vaughan
Ben and Kelly Vickers
Joanne and Philip Von Blon
Erin Wacker
Phyllis Wagner
Carol A. Walden
Jennifer and Carol Walden
Dominique Walsh and Edward Gimbel
Nancy Register Wangen
Nancy and David Warner
Brenda Weiler in honor of Hal and
Dee Broxey
Weiser Family Foundation on behalf of
Irving and Marjorie Weiser
Wellstone Action
Sally Westby
Tim Whalen and Claire Canavan
Kelly White and Phil Jones
Whitney Foundation
Tom and Angie Wicka
Frances and Frank Wilkinson
Jodi Williams
Winnidell Wilson
Penny Winton
Rufus and Elizabeth Winton
Steve and Kathy Wishart
Margaret and Angus Wurtele
Steven Zabel
Dr. Martin Zanger
Rebecca A. Zanger
Julie and Charlie Zelle

To celebrate WATCH's 15th anniversary, the following people made special gifts in honor of our founder, Susan Lenfestey.

Marna Anderson and Jim Morgan
Sally and Peter Anson
Sue Bennett
Hal and Dee Broxey
Diane A. Connor
Julie Corty and Richard Erickson
Sage and John Cowles
Vicki and David Cox
Judy Dayton
Barbara Forster and
Larry Hendrickson
Patricia Weaver Francisco and
Larry LaVercombe
George Family Foundation
Archie Givens and Carol Meshbesher

Jule and Betsy Hannaford
Jacquelyn Hauser and
Thomas Tinkham
Blanche Hawkins
Marjorie B. Kiewit
Helen Metz
Sara Mushlitz
Diane B. Neimann
Sally and George Pillsbury
Peggy and Ed Pluimer
William Price
Nancy Speer
Sarah Stoesz
Laura Tiffany and Ned Foster
Nina Utne

2008 FOUNDATION DONORS

WATCH is grateful to the following foundations for their generous support in 2008.

Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen
Foundation
Beverly Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
Bush Foundation
Charlson Foundation
Ronald Fingerhut Family Foundation
Kopp Family Foundation
Minneapolis Foundation
Nash Foundation
Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation
Women's Foundation of Minnesota

2008 IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who donated goods or services in 2008.

Bill Cameron
Elliot Diviney
Hennepin Lake Liquors
Sam and Sylvia Kaplan
Sarah and Tom Perron
Glenda Dewberry Rooney
Riverbrand Design, Todd Spichke
Shapco printing, Robert Hillstrom
Trizec Properties
YWCA of Minneapolis

2008 EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFTS

Thank you to the following employers who doubled the donations of their employees by matching their gifts to WATCH.

Piper Jaffray
Qwest

We do our best to ensure our records are accurate, but if we have made a mistake in listing your name, please let us know. We will happily make a correction, and thank you for your understanding and support.

Volunteer profile

Simeng Han interned with WATCH in the summer of 2008 and is returning for a second internship in 2009. Simeng is in her third year at Macalester College. While back home in China for her winter break, Simeng took a few minutes to tell us via e-mail about her experience with WATCH.

Why did you choose WATCH for your summer internship in 2008?

I chose WATCH originally because I am interested in pursuing a career in law. I am most interested in the economic as well as the social aspect of the subject. I am attracted to the "real world issues" found in the social sciences, and in addition, I have long been exposed to the work of NGOs and nonprofit organizations and believe in helping in the little ways we can.

What surprised you most about the court system during your summer with us?

Because of the importance of the legal system to American society, I would not have imagined the amount of delays that occur. I had always imagined that punctuality, which is expected for appointments and classes, would have been even more important in court.

Why are you coming back for another internship with WATCH in 2009?

I absolutely loved working with everyone in the office, and the work in the court was great in helping me improve my observation and note-taking skills.

What do you hope to do and/or learn more about during your second internship at WATCH?

I hope to become involved in more long-term projects, such as the year-long CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection or Services) Project. And since my classes are very much focused on law, I hope to gain some interesting insights to apply to what I will be learning in class.

How has your experience with WATCH related to your education? Has it changed the way you think about your classes or academic life?

As I have mentioned previously, I hope to go into law. This internship definitely reminded me of the good that can be done by pro bono work, and I hope that what I learn at WATCH will keep me from getting lost in the corporate world! I think that this internship has also made me realize I should attach slightly less importance to grades and instead focus on learning what truly interests me and apply the theory I learn to real-life situations.

How has WATCH impacted the way you view the American justice system?

I believe that before this experience, I had a more idealized view of the court just because I didn't know the system. Still, the judges I monitor (with a few exceptions) treat the defendants fairly and respectfully and are, indeed, very helpful.

How do you feel having an international perspective, as you do, affects the way you think about the issues you observe through your work with WATCH?

I believe that too often people attempt to define what is morally right or wrong from their own personal value system and do not understand why people in certain cultures behave in a certain way. While I may not agree with such behaviors (i.e., some cultures' stances on domestic abuse) and do not condone certain attitudes, I also try not to pass a value judgment on the culture as a whole. I understand that the cases we watch present difficult issues and that victims from some cultures may be even more frightened than usual to report a domestic assault. But I know how it feels to have people from other cultures who have no idea of the context under which an action is done condemn it because it offends their sensibilities. Having an international perspective makes me more wary of quick value judgments, even though we obviously are all affected by our own values.


What you do see as the most important work WATCH does?

I definitely think that providing public access to the court system is most important. An understanding of and familiarity with the law, especially for those who are most unable to access it, as well as public scrutiny of the system, are what I believe will spur improvements in the system.

Volunteer notes

- ✓ In an OFP hearing today, the petitioner testified that the respondent held her down on the bed and tried to force her to have sex with him. The judge responded that she did not find this to be domestic abuse because 'not much can happen in two to three minutes.'
- ✓ A victim was visibly upset and shaken while reading her impact statement during a sentencing today. Afterwards, the judge did not even acknowledge the victim's remarks or her emotional state.
- ✓ In domestic violence court today, the judge seemed confused at times. He sometimes did not understand what the credit days were and which ones to revoke. The clerk, however, did a great job informing him. While I wish the judge had been more knowledgeable, I was impressed that he took the time to make sure he understood what the attorneys were asking for and that everything was clarified before he proceeded with his rulings. He also was always looking for input and recommendations from the clerk, attorneys, and probation officers.
- ✓ In one order for protection (OFP) hearing today, the judge's patient, calm, and nonjudgmental demeanor and probing brought out a lot more information. From the parties' responses to his questions, the complexity of the allegations and situation became clear, and the need for a guardian ad litem for the children was established.
- ✓ While waiting for a sentencing in the Government Center, a probation officer looked at me and said, 'I hope WATCH notes that probation is always here on time,' after telling his client that they were waiting on the attorneys. The probation officer went on to do an exceptional job helping the defendant understand the conditions of her sentence.
- ✓ I wish the clerk would make an announcement in domestic violence court about when the hearings will begin and give the reason for any delays. This would not have caused the hearings to start any sooner, go any better, or change any outcomes, but it would, in my opinion, help make the audience feel respected and included. One of the issues I have with court is the long silent wait the audience has to endure.
- ✓ During a sentencing, the attorneys couldn't agree on whether the defendant should be ordered to submit a DNA sample. The judge determined that a sample did need to be submitted and explained to the defendant that his DNA would be entered into a criminal database, then chuckled and joked, 'that is assuming the BCA even processes the sample.'
- ✓ As always, the probation officers in domestic violence court were well-prepared and offered important and pertinent information. In my opinion, they are the strength of this courtroom.
- ✓ When I walked into the courtroom for a trial at the Government Center, the victim's entire family stared at me as if I knew the defendant. Because it was so crowded, I had to sit on the defendant's side of the courtroom, which may have made them think we were cohorts. I felt like the fact that we are both black males added to their assumption. I proudly displayed my red clipboard.
- ✓ While in domestic violence court, I overheard two people in the gallery commenting on court personnel talking and joking around in court. I can see that this is a hard situation. Court staff can't just sit silently at all times since the courtroom often serves as their office, but I can also see how people watching could be offended when they are here for a case that is very serious to them.
- ✓ While at a sentencing for a Latino defendant, two members of the defense team were talking about 'Western notions' and how 'that culture' views impregnating 11- and 12-year old girls as okay. The victim and members of the defendant's family were in and out of the room throughout the morning and I wondered whether they heard the comments and if so, how they would feel to hear their culture portrayed that way.
- ✓ In the middle of a sentencing, with the defendant and his attorney standing at the podium, the judge left the bench to go to his chambers and retrieve case information. Everyone sat and waited for 45 minutes for his return without knowing what was going on or when he would be back.
- ✓ In felony arraignments today, the judge's rulings were inconsistent with what I have seen other judges do in that court. In one case, the judge conditionally released a defendant without bail who was charged with felony domestic assault by strangulation. Usually in this court, defendants are required to post some kind of bail, even when conditions are attached to their release, something I think would be critical in this potentially lethal type of assault.

Thumbs up/thumbs down

 Thumbs up to researchers at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System's National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder for pointing out the need for gender-informed and gender-specific healthcare for service women who have been victims of rape and sexual harassment.

In the first study to focus on the link between sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder in Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the Center reviewed healthcare screening data from more than 100,000 veterans. Researchers found that one in seven women military veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts seeking Veterans Administration medical care report having experienced sexual trauma during their service.

The study also found that men and women veterans who reported sexual trauma were three times more likely than non-victims to be diagnosed with a conditions such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, adjustment disorders, and substance-abuse disorders.

 Thumbs up to the U.N.-backed Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents for

recommending that tourists who go abroad to abuse children should face the prospect of prosecution in their home countries if they are arrested in nations with lax penalties.

Sweden already has such a law, and about 3,000 experts and government representatives from 137 nations backed the concept at the Congress. They also supported the creation of detailed sexual abuse databases in nations around the world so that governments can document the extent of sexual exploitation of children beyond the sex trade. The International Labor Organization estimated at least 1.8 million girls and boys under age 18 were involved in the global sex trade, but nobody knows how much the number has grown since then. "It is very hard to know the true size of the problem," said Geoffrey Keele, a spokesman for UNICEF, a Congress co-sponsor. "Only things that are known are budgeted and planned for. We're going to try to get governments to do in depth studies in this area..."

For the first time, children and adolescents participated fully in drafting the action plan and attendees left with a comprehensive blueprint for action that covers laws, policies, regulations, and services.

New technology gives Minnesota police officers access to domestic abuse no contact order information from squad cars

When police officers across the country respond to calls, they use computers in their squad cars to locate criminal justice information. They check the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for information on such things as suspects' criminal histories, arrest warrants, and existing court orders. NCIC lets them know whether a suspect is already under the jurisdiction of the court, and if so, what restrictions the court has put on their behavior—that is providing the state where the offense occurred has the capability to input such data into NCIC.

As of December 2008, Minnesota now has that capability for domestic abuse no contact orders. Following passage of a 2006 state law, Minnesota counties have been setting up the technology to enter information on these orders into the

statewide crime database, Minnesota Criminal Information System (MNCIS). At the same time, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension updated its computer system to transfer MNCIS data to NCIC.

No contact orders, issued by judges as conditions of release from custody or as part of a sentence after a defendant is convicted of a domestic abuse crime, prohibit a defendant from having contact with his victim(s). If responding officers can verify that a no contact order exists and that it is being violated, they can make an arrest at the scene. This tool thus gives law enforcement officers the information they need to hold men accountable for violating these orders.

WATCH

608 2nd Ave. S., # 465
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-341-2747
E-mail: watch@watchmn.org
Web: www.watchmn.org

Nonprofit
US postage
PAID
Permit # 4920
Minneapolis, MN

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Executive Director: Marna Anderson

Staff:

Sarah Coulter, Court Monitoring
Coordinator
Dawn Dougherty, National Project Director
Anita Gopaldaswamy, Volunteer
Coordinator
Anna Light, National Outreach Assistant
Donna McNamara, Development &
Communications Director
Nashad Muse, Administrative Assistant
Jonathan Williams, Intern

Founder: Susan Lenfestey

Board Chair: Sara Mushlitz

Board of Directors: Khatra Ali,
Beverly Balos, Ron Beining, Lisa Denzer,
Liliana Espondaburu, Jacquelyn Hauser,
Kate Kelly, Amy Walsh Kern,
Susan Lenfestey, Anita Patel,
Sarah Perron, Joan C. Peterson

2008 WATCH volunteer court monitors

Our work depends on the loyal service of volunteers who donate their time to observe the courts each day. We sincerely thank each and every one of you.

Reanna Aguirre
Andra Avalon
Muna Ali
Abby Bar-Lev
Rita Berg
Breeana Blalock
Melanie Boes
Elizabeth Borer
Wendy Brown
Dee Broxey
Hal Broxey
Dawn Bruggeman
Casi Butts
James Callerstrom
Leone Carstens
Kristie Clark
Janet Conn
Jennifer Cornell
Sonia Dahlheimer

Joel Davis
Toni Decker
Jake Fischer
Brooke Fitting
Susan Gibbons
Simeng Han
Joanne Henderson
Anne Herreid
Janice Higgins
Holai Holbrook
Erbyne Jarvis
Anna Johnson
Jennifer Johnson
Solomon Kassa
Holly Kellar
Katharine Kelly
Don Krein
Paul Kwako
Jessica Linn

Catherine London
Maira Lynch
Akesa Mafi
Susan Maki
Anisha Mangalick
Cara Marrinan
Kelly McGee
Justin McCluskey
Mary Miller
Nimet Moloo
Maybeth Moses
Sarah Nelson
Natalia Nevin
Christa Nicols
Tatyana Nosenko
Jessica Nowlin
Jessica Ofstedahl
Gabrielle Orfield
Anneka Peterson

Louise Pope
Reilly Pruitt
Sara Rogers
Tanya Rosin
Katrina Roste
Roberta Saunders
Denny Scharlemann
Leah Schreiner
Mary Lay Schuster
Scott Smith
Sarah Soucie
Mike Stewart
Caitlin Tierney
Jessica Vase
Jason Wagner
Dominique Walsh
Devona Wells
Linda Westby
Christy Williams

Thank you to Rebecca Kutty for editing, Todd Spichke of Riverbrand Design for design, and Shapco Printing for printing.