



Louisiana's Women Leaders

NEWS SERVICE - October 16, 2007

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Governor's Office on Women's Policy Committed to Eliminating Domestic Violence Abuse

Governor's Office on Women's Policy's (OWP) commitment to serving the needs of Louisiana women is rooted in 40 years of service. Eliminating domestic violence and working on behalf of women, children, and families is a top priority of OWP.

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides us with a special opportunity to emphasize the severity of domestic abuse and to offer victims additional support. Domestic violence is not only a personal tragedy; it is a serious crime that negatively affects women, men, children, neighborhoods and communities.

OWP Persists in its Efforts to End Violence Against Women

Recent Accomplishments

Recent accomplishments of OWP's persistent efforts to end violence against women:

- Distributed marketing materials for Domestic Violence Awareness. Provided the Domestic Violence crisis line phone number as well as educational and training materials, pamphlets and videos.
- Completed 2007-08 grants awards process awarding more than \$6 million in state and federal funds through its Family Violence Program.
- Funded grants for 20 family violence programs and shelters statewide. Women and children are offered services which include safe, confidential 24-hour shelters; counseling; transportation; legal assistance; protective orders; health care; housing placement and job skills training.
- Provided Grantsmanship Training to 15 domestic violence

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directors and/or staff.

- Distributed Annual Reports to constituents statewide.
- Provided, through a partnership with the Louisiana Department of Social Services, training to family violence advocates working in social services agencies, law enforcement and the judiciary.

OWP Future Activities

Family Violence Quality Assurance Standards

OWP is in the final stages of completing the first revision of Family Violence Quality Assurance Standards. The standards are required for shelters and programs to continue receiving state funding.

Fourth Annual Family Violence Directors Roundtable

The Fourth Annual Family Violence Directors Roundtable will be held October 24-25 in Lafayette for directors of family violence service providers statewide whose programs are funded by OWP. This event is an annual opportunity to bring together OWP leadership and directors for information exchange and training.

Willing to Serve

The Governor's Office on Women's Policy website now offers a talent bank where Louisiana women can go on-line and submit their resume and credentials to serve on boards and commissions. The talent bank is entitled "Willing to Serve" and can be accessed at <http://www.la-womenscommission.com/willingtoserve.cfm>.

Louisiana's Women Leaders

Louisiana's Women Leaders is a special initiative of Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco with support of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu. Louisiana's Women Leaders focuses on the vision, influence and power of women in Louisiana and their dramatic impact on recent changes in the political, economic and social fabric of the state. Women first gathered under this banner in New Orleans in May of 2004. Regional conferences were also held in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lafayette. In October of 2006, following the disastrous storms of Katrina and Rita, more than 300 women gathered at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux to reclaim the initiative's earlier momentum. This spring, during a weekend in the Capital City, Louisiana's Women Leaders gathered again and the Louisiana's Women Leaders News Service was born.