

ON THE **HOMEFRONT** *10 Years*

UNITED IN BREAKING THE CYCLE
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Thank you to

Jennifer K. Blezard

for volunteering her time to write the Winter issue of *On the HomeFront*.

HomeFront looks through an open door to 2011

HomeFront's annual Holiday Gathering celebration was hosted December 8. As a kick-off to the event, executive director Kevin McNichol, joined staff and partners to launch their newest pilot project, High Risk Management Initiative (HRMI).

HRMI exists as a collaborative partnership to facilitate the treatment of high-risk domestic violence offenders. Its goal is to reduce the threat of harm to victims of domestic violence by chronic offenders and foster more effective use of system resources.

After a successful year at HomeFront and a successful 10 year anniversary celebration, McNichol says 2011 is shaping up to be a positive year. As Calgary emerges from the recession, his sentiments are for a positive 2011.

"I'm hoping it's going to be a calmer year. The community and the economic gloom is

lifting up in general," he said.

As the agency enters its second decade, HomeFront staff will be aiming towards serving and saving the larger community, since they have made great strides towards saving the individual.

One of HomeFront's greatest successes for the last decade has been to see pilot projects like DCRT now in full-swing, collaborating with HomeFront and making a difference in the community.

McNichol says he feels it's time now for HomeFront to take a leadership role within the greater Calgary community.

The overall view for 2011 as HomeFront embarks down the fresh path to a new year will be focused upon fostering healthy relationships, positive and communicative collaborations and effecting systematic societal change. **HF**

Airdrie Community Links Mandated Treatment Program maintains strong ties with HomeFront

The Airdrie Community Links Mandated Treatment Program is the latest example of a collaborative organization that has used HomeFront's principles to implement a local program.

The mandated treatment program works in collaboration with Airdrie Police Services, Alberta Health Services Addiction and Mental Health and the Airdrie District Victim Assistance Society.

Now in its third year, the mandated treatment program has seen a visible increase, estimated at about 25 per cent, in referrals to the Airdrie Men's Treatment Program.

Caren Anderson, Coordinator of the mandated treatment program, says the biggest impact has been the collaborative response now in action in Airdrie.

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“We’re very connected to HomeFront,” said Anderson. HomeFront provides funding for the Airdrie Treatment Services Program.

Community Links looks to serve not only Airdrie but some of the other outlying rural areas like Olds and Didsbury. It also encompasses the North Rockyview district.

The collaborative approach has been instrumental in drawing referrals.

The main goal of the program is to prevent further instances and reduce the rate of intimate partner violence and family violence.

The treatment program is male focused and works to facilitate the rehabilitation of male offenders by providing education and counselling services. The program is also currently working towards implementing a women’s treatment program.

Just this past November, which was family violence prevention month, the PEACE Committee which is made up of representatives from Community Links, Alberta Health Services Addictions and Mental Health, Airdrie District Victim Assistance Society, school personnel and the Airdrie Boys and Girls Club featured a Light the Night for Family Violence Prevention event.

Light the Night was the first such event of its nature and is based upon the premise of Take Back the Night.

Part of the event was a candle light vigil accompanied by a moment of silence for all those affected by family violence.

Kevin McNichol was a guest speaker at the event and was present to talk about the HomeFront philosophy.

“It takes a village to raise a child, and that’s what collaborative response is all about,” said McNichol.

To learn more about Community Links visit www.nrvcl.ab.ca. **HF**

HomeFront Executive Director tops in Avenue Magazine



Kevin McNichol, Top 40 Under 40 inductee by Avenue Magazine.

HomeFront’s Executive Director, Kevin McNichol, was honored with this year’s Top 40 Under 40 award. Featured in the November edition of Avenue Magazine, McNichol was selected for being an inspirational leader in the non-profit sector.

Avenue’s Top 40 Under 40 looks for what is considered to be

the “best and brightest in Calgary” when reviewing nominations. Inclusive in this category are business people, entrepreneurs, artists, designers, athletes, community organizers, politicians, teachers and inventors. These are people who give back to the community and “elevate the city through their work.”

Candidates are selected by Avenue’s editorial staff. Nominees are filtered down to a list of about 100 individuals who demonstrate exceptional levels of achievement in the community or their career.

The judges look for a nominee’s willingness to help people and their drive to improve their community.

McNichol was selected because of the impact he has had on HomeFront and the fostering of community collaboration to prevent, intervene and ultimately end domestic violence.

“I feel really humble,” said McNichol. “It’s other people who deserve this, not me. [But] I feel proud to be nominated outside of my normal sphere.”

McNichol says he truly enjoys his work at HomeFront and that he’s been able to marry his passion for making a difference.

To McNichol, his collaborative work with HomeFront and its partners is all about removing barriers for people who are hurt and abused.

Naturally an introverted personality, McNichol says his work as executive director has been a positive challenge towards making him more outgoing.

With training in psychology and social work, McNichol brings empathy to his role in dealing with domestic violence situations.

Under McNichol’s leadership, HomeFront is constantly growing and looking towards new horizons. Projects like DCRT, and their newest pilot, HRMI have all come in to being in the last two years.

Working in the community to facilitate inter-agency collaboration has been what makes the HomeFront model unique. The ultimate sustainability of these projects is something that McNichol considers a key priority. **HF**

Students use domestic violence prevention month to scrub out DV



For Mount Royal University student William Conner, domestic violence prevention month was the perfect opportunity to make a difference in his community.

Conner and classmates Simone Fisher, Colin Chung and Peter Njongwe collaborated to “extend the metaphor of soap as a cleaning tool to one that could help ‘Scrub Out Domestic Violence’.”

The four students are enrolled in the Entrepreneurial Experience class at MRU’s Bissett School of Business.

“This was about more than just grades for us,” said Conner. “Members of our group have been personally impacted by domestic violence. We realize that if we aren’t willing to push ourselves to combat this problem, then who will?”

The project was initiated to challenge students in what MRU calls its “Innovation Tournament.” The Innovation Tournament is an initiative in which students are given a seven day window in which they can take a product and add social or economic value to it.

Conner, Fisher, Chung and Njongwe took the bars of soap and labeled each with a woman’s name. Each named bar represented a woman affected by domestic violence. They then circulated the MRU campus and other locations to sell them.

Organizations like HomeFront and YWCA Sherriff King Home each received a portion of the projects’ proceeds and the group was happy to announce they won second place in the MRU Tournament, simply by adding significant lasting value to ordinary soap. **HF**

Hi 5 10/11

Partners in justice facilitate return of abductees



A/Detective Sandra Seager of the Domestic Conflict Unit (DCU) worked in collaboration with foreign affairs and Child Find International on a case for three years.

A Canadian citizen left the country after divorcing her spouse, taking their minor child with her. This was a violation of the criminal code. The woman was under a warrant for her arrest for two years while she resided outside of Canada with the child.

Foreign affairs worked closely with the DCU to monitor the woman’s whereabouts. When she returned to Canada this winter, with the cooperation between various partners in justice like foreign affairs, the Crown, RCMP and DCU, the warrant was executed and the woman arrested.

With the cooperation from the various partners, arrangements were made via DCU to escort her and the child so they could remain together until they arrived in Calgary, whereupon she was processed for abduction.

Her case is now awaiting trial, and the child has been returned to live with her father.

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“Everything had to be linked,” said Seager. “To work with foreign affairs, to collaborate with all those units in the RCMP made the real difference.”

Seager formulated the original plan to have the child returned with as little disruption as possible. She took the file over from the original detective in order to facilitate a safe return to Canada. **HF**

HomeFront donor to continue supporting agency

Stephen Raby, Q.C., has been donating to HomeFront since 2007. Although he has no professional contact with the agency, Raby feels that HomeFront is a worthy cause to support.

Raby maintains his own successful commercial real estate practice in Calgary and acts in various legal capacities in that arena.

His introduction to HomeFront came in 2007 when he was chair of the Calgary Bar Association. During a conversation with HomeFront Board Co-Chair, Brian Felesky, Raby learned about HomeFront. At the time, the Calgary Bar Association had decided to sponsor the 2007 Selinger Golf Tournament.

Raby says from there, he got to know more about what HomeFront does in the community.

“One of the key things for me is that it’s an interdisciplinary group that got together,” said Raby.

He says continued funding is one of the most critical ways to

contribute to an organization like HomeFront as it has a ripple effect, impacting HomeFront’s partners and the community as a whole.

The HomeFront concept is one that resonates with Raby as it speaks to multiple areas of domestic violence.

“I would hate to see it discontinue due to lack of funding,” he said.

Because domestic violence affects so many levels of society, Raby says HomeFront is a key player in reducing, educating and treating domestic violence issues.

Raby says he’d like his donation to go wherever it’s most needed.

Ideally, Raby would like the community to be more aware of HomeFront and its services. He envisions a Calgary where agencies such as HomeFront are no longer needed because domestic violence incidences have become non-existent. **HF**



YES! I want to help HomeFront improve the lives of those affected by domestic abuse.

Please direct my contribution to:

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