

ON THE HOMEFRONT

UNITED IN BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Ho-Ho- HomeFront

The past year at HomeFront has been one of outstanding progress and success coupled with a great deal of intense work and challenges. The public face of HomeFront and the issue of domestic violence received a considerable boost, building from the Stop the Tears Gala. We also wrapped up the year with the revamped HomeFront Selinger Awards honoring frontline practitioners and held during Family Violence Prevention Month. We welcomed on board many new community partners and supports this year and hope to continue to grow and stretch our relationships with all of our collaborators working to end domestic violence.

Staff endured a tremendous work load and successfully navigated several substantial changes in the way we deliver work at the court house. Their resilience has been remarkable to witness and a great gift to the organization and its clients. Staff served approximately 2600 clients in 2008, demonstrated improvements in all markers of client care, responsiveness and service provision. In addition, to these remarkable performance results, they have also been active players in the start up of several collaborative community initiatives including the Collaborative Services Center pilot and the Elder Abuse Response Model.

While many of us are glad to wrap



up 2008 and take a well earned rest, we are extremely excited about the vista opening up as 2009 dawns. From the HomeFront staff and board we wish to extend Season's Greetings and hope the coming year is filled with love, laughter and family. **HF**

Making a Difference Every Day. Honoured Once a Year.

On November 18th the 8th Annual HomeFront Selinger Awards celebrated the spirit of the domestic violence sector and three outstanding individuals recognized for their dedication to improving the lives of Calgarians.

An evening of elegance, guests were welcomed to the Jack Singer Concert Hall Lobby for great food, cheer, live music and celebrations. A new format than previous years, the 2008 Selinger Awards began with a toast by Chief of Police Rick Hanson who passed the torch onto Debra Mauro, Co-Chairman of Albi Homes to begin the awards ceremony.

Every year the Awards Celebration honours the courage and dedication of frontline workers and volunteers in the domestic violence and justice/law enforcement sectors. Nominations are received from community agencies, government, law enforcement and the justice system. A panel of independent judges selected two individuals to receive the 2008 Selinger Awards who they believed demonstrated commitment, excellence, innovation and effective approaches to the problem of domestic violence and abuse.

This year the nominators of each award recipient presented the award to their deserving nominee. Lynda Joy Snyder of Calgary Counselling Centre presented



Chief of Police Rick Hanson toasts our frontline workers

Christine Berry with the Community Frontline Award, stating “commitment, compassion, optimism and hope sustains Chris as she works to address the impact of domestic violence in the lives of adults and children within our ever-changing community.”

Staff Sergeant Rosemary Hawkins and Sergeant John Guigon of the Calgary Police Service presented Constable Eric Nelson with the Justice/Law Enforcement Award and shared with guests a day-in-the-life-of which was a testament to Eric’s character, expertise and drive to affect positive change in all aspects of his work.

To close the evening, a special award was given this year to a frontline worker who has spent 25 plus years in the family and sexual violence sector. HomeFront Board Co-Chair Brian Felesky and Linda White from the Alliance to End Violence were honoured to present Karen

Walroth with a Life Time Achievement Award who graciously accepted. As Linda White states “Karen’s vision, leadership and determination have transformed the approach to family violence in Calgary over the past two decades. She will be missed.”

The Board and Staff of HomeFront extend our heartiest congratulations to all the nominees of the 2008 Selinger Awards. Visit our website homefrontcalgary.com to learn more about our award recipients and all our nominees. We look forward to next year’s celebration, and thank Calgary’s frontline workers for making a positive difference to families in crisis and transition. **HF**

Oh What A Night! Stop the Tears Gala raises \$1 million for HomeFront



Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

The Stop the Tears Gala featuring Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons hit a high note as \$1 million dollars was raised to help strengthen the collaboration of HomeFront’s strategic partners united in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

The event was a shining example of Calgarians generosity and HomeFront would like to thank all those who made the evening a great success. Presented by ARC Energy Trust and EnCana, September 16th 2008, will go down in HomeFront history as an evening to remember. Celebrating the 60’s with a performance by pop icon Frankie Valli, guests interacted with Marilyn Monroe and James Dean amongst other memorable characters, while they enjoyed an array of tasty delights by local Calgary eateries and bid on some exclusive silent auction items.

In addition to supporting HomeFront's collaborative work in the community, funds were also directed to support Jewish Family Service Calgary and YWCA Sheriff King Home. Thank you again to our major contributors and donors and all those who attended - your support helps to rebuild families and lives, ensuring our homes and communities remain safe. **HF**

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A Philanthropic Couple Worthy of Praise



HomeFront Stop the Tears Gala Steering Committee (left to right) John Dielwart, Bev Longstaff, Mary Ann Blackman, Eva Hoffman, Gord Hoffman and Brian Felesky

Well respected within the Calgary Jewish community and Calgary at large, Gord and Eva Hoffman give generously to an incredible number of organizations and causes. They regularly sweeten the deal by rolling up their sleeves to create memorable educational, community building and fundraising events that never fail to bring out the best in Calgarians.

As Honourary Chairs of HomeFront's Stop the Tears Gala, Gord and Eva Hoffman proposed the September 16 fundraiser to HomeFront early in 2008 and have since become strong supporters and ambassadors of the work HomeFront is doing in the community. Thanks to the Gala Steering Committee and the dedication of the Hoffman's, money raised by the Gala will not only strengthen HomeFront programs, but in the new year, cheques will be presented to the YWCA Sheriff King Home, a shelter dedicated to domestic violence victims and their families, and to Jewish Family Service

Calgary, to support their newly founded Shalom Bayit Project.

HomeFront would like to thank the Hoffman's and all the Gala Steering Committee Members for their dedication to ensuring the success of The Stop the Tears Gala. Not only have we raised significant funds to help strengthen the collaboration of our strategic partners, but have also significantly increased awareness around HomeFront and the issue of domestic violence. **HF**

Gala Steering Committee Members

Co-Chairs

John Dielwart
Mary Ann Blackman

Honourary Chairs

Eva & Gord Hoffman

Committee

Joanna Bisley & Kevin McNichol
Mary Ann & Dave Blackman
Patricia & Jim Davidson
Anna & John Dielwart

Stephanie & Brian Felesky
Cindy & Brian Ferguson
Myrna & Ron Ghitter
Karen & George Gosbee
Karen & Fred Green
Liz & Wayne Henuset

Bev Longstaff & Joe Struck
Debra & Tom Mauro
Shayra & Moez Moledina
Kelly & Alex Pourbaix
Toshimi & Bill Sembo
Susan & Mac Van Wielingen

Hi- 5 10/11 Club



To recognize the positive and dedicated work of Calgary's frontline officers, HomeFront and the Calgary Police Service give a "High Five" to deserving officers for their work on a 10/11, which is police code for a domestic call.

Case:

On October 28, 2008 at approximately 12:30 am police were called by a victim extremely fearful, as her estranged husband was seen outside her residence with a gun. He had gained access into her attached garage and was attempting to gain entry into the residence.

Numerous resources were utilized to ensure the callers safety. There was also a 2-year-old child in the residence and numerous risk factors for violence.

Four Communications Officers continually relayed

information and updated police responders. Sergeant Wayne Potter, of District 7, was in command of the high-risk incident and ensured an appropriate police response. 15 officers were utilized from various areas including neighboring District 3, K-9, and HWC2. The female caller and 2-year-old were brought into safety and the area was searched for the suspect.

Eventually two potential addresses were identified and attempts were made to locate the suspect, in District 2. An additional 25 officers responded to the search but the suspect's location was still unknown.

Almost 7 hours had passed and police continually dedicated resources to conduct checks and ensure safety. After an entire evening of searching, a related vehicle was located with one occupant. Police were able to establish the suspect's location, where he was taken into custody. The suspect was interviewed and police proceeded with eight criminal charges involving criminal harassment/stalking, threats, weapons offences and break and enter.

Various areas of the Calgary Police Service were instrumental in responding to this call including: Districts 7, 3, 2, 1, K9, HWC, Ident, Public Safety Communications, Domestic Conflict Unit, and Arrest Processing.

Through further collaboration with partners including: HomeFront, Crown, Mental Health and others – the potential risk of this incident is being addressed and both the victim and suspect are getting the intervention needed to prevent such an incident in the future.

The work of many hands and partners are needed to truly address situations such as this. Without the dedicated actions of everyone, this situation could have been tragic. **HF**

Volunteer at HomeFront!

Alicia Van de Sande, previously HomeFront's Community Mobilization Officer, has now moved into a new position as our Human Resources Development Coordinator at HomeFront. As part of her new role, Alicia has been busy coordinating volunteers to provide support to our Court Caseworkers, Partner Support Program and our collaborative work with the Calgary Police Service and the Hi-5 10/11 Program.

Volunteers are the backbone of any not-for-profit organization and engaging volunteers fulfills HomeFront's mission in two ways. As Alicia states, "First, it provides direct support to our client base and

secondly, volunteers help to bring more awareness of our organization and the issue to the broader community."

Volunteer opportunities with HomeFront offer diverse areas of interest for those looking for a unique challenge. "The value added of course, is each volunteer brings with them a new perspective, a new way of thinking and new energy," adds Alicia.

HomeFront would like to welcome our new volunteers and encourage anyone interested in donating their time to visit our website www.homefrontcalgary.com/volunteer. **HF**

The Ins-and-Outs of the HomeFront Board



HomeFront Board Co-Chair Brian Felesky thanks Bob Pynn for his dedication to the HomeFront Board.

At HomeFront we operate under a unique board. Our members not only fulfill the duties of a typical not-for-profit board, but they also represent the collaboration that is HomeFront at its highest level.

With a new year approaching, HomeFront would like to thank our outgoing members for their dedication and commitment to our board and welcome our new Board of Directors who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and advice as we continue to face new challenges and growth.

Welcome Debra Mauro from Albi Homes, Lloyd Robertson as Calgary's new Chief Crown Prosecutor, and Christina Tortorelli from Child and Family Services.

On November 18th, prior to the Selinger Awards, our board and staff presented our outgoing board members with a painting from the "HomeFront Series" by artist Teresa Posyniak, thanking Karen Walroth, Carolyn Goad and The Very Reverend Robert Pynn for their commitment to improving the lives of families impacted by domestic violence. Your guidance will be missed, but we wish you well with all your future endeavors. **HF**

HomeFront Board of Directors 2009

Robbie Babins-Wagner, MSW
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Brian Felesky, QC (Co-Chair)
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Tess Gordey, BSW, RSW
Staff Sgt. Rosemary Hawkins

Arla Liska, BSW, RSW, MBA, CHRP
Bev Longstaff (Co-Chair)
Donald W. MacLeod, QC
Debra Mauro
Kevin McNichol, MSc, RSW
Shayra Moledina, RN, MA, GMAP

Lloyd Robertson
Gayla Rogers, PhD, RSW
Dawn Tining, MA
Christina Tortorelli BA, MA, RSW

HomeFront caught Red Handed



From November 12 -20th HomeFront staff were caught red handed. A creative campaign with exciting prizes encouraged everyone to give generously to the United Way of Calgary and Area. Together we surpassed both our participation and fundraising goals. Way to Go!



