



**HOMEFRONT**  
STOP IT WHERE IT STARTS

# On the HomeFront

## Holiday Message from Kevin McNichol, Executive Director



It is hard to believe another holiday season is upon us. Reflecting on the year past, HomeFront has been a busy place with a number of changes and growth in its operations and personnel, leaving us well positioned to continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve and in the broader community. I am grateful to all of you who continue to

support our clients and HomeFront. As we enter the New Year I am very hopeful about our future. I look forward to our continuing to work together to lighten the loads of those in need. The board and staff of HomeFront hope you enjoy the holidays. Please take good care of yourselves and your loved ones. HF

## Involvement with HomeFront; a Positive Experience

*Names have been changed to maintain anonymity.*

Randy never imagined that his family's life could be so complicated by someone they loved. Randy's wife Donna had been repeatedly abusive to their eldest child Mark, and the entire family was not only going through a painful divorce, but also had to endure going to specialized domestic violence court system to stop Donna's abusive and violent behaviour towards Mark.

When the police were called and the complaint became a domestic violence file, HomeFront caseworkers immediately became involved. Domestic

court caseworkers, a key group within HomeFront's package of support services, were immediately assigned to the case before it went to court.

*"...the judge naturally assumed that I was the accused."*

"When we first went to court, the first 15 minutes were hell. Being the father involved in the case, the judge naturally assumed that I was the accused," says Randy. The situation was reconciled that first court sitting but Randy still remembers how the experience made him feel slightly distrustful of justice system.

"I had no idea what to expect or what I should know," says Randy. "My court caseworker Ewa and the child welfare worker Lisa helped answer all the questions I had. I appreciated getting their opinions because I knew they had a lot of experience in the field."

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## 2007 Selinger Invitational Tournament

The 2007 J.P. Selinger Invitational golf tournament saw a bit of rain, a bit of shine and a lot of fun on a chilly September 17th. Participants advised that they had a great time and the event was certainly resounding success for HomeFront, the sole organizer and benefactor of the tournament.

The silent and live auctions conducted by The Honourable Judge Sean Dunnigan, former Police Chief Jack Beaton and Angela Knight & Julie Rosendaal from CBC added some hilarity to the evening portion of the program. The Honourable Judge Sean Dunnigan also served as emcee for the evening, keeping the program light-hearted and uplifting. The day would not have been possible without our sponsors:

**Host Sponsor:** Deerfoot Meadows

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The total proceeds generated by the tournament were **\$66,951!** These revenues are directed towards our providing high quality services and programs for victims of domestic violence.

Mark your calendars now for the **2008 Tournament: Tuesday, June 17th at River Spirit Golf Club.** HF

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## Bagpipes Honour the Selinger Legacy



With his kilt and pipes, Allan Hargreaves was a familiar sight at the 2007 Selinger Invitational golf tournament, piping golfers to the shotgun start. Allan has worn a lot of different professional hats, but all with a common thread. He currently manages corporate security for Devon Canada Corporation; a job which relies on his experience as a former member of the Calgary Police Service (CPS).

“I joined the Service at the age of 22, working full-time and taking classes at the same time to finish my schooling,” says Allan. He gave 26 years to the Service in Calgary before retiring.

During his service with CPS, Allan worked with the Homicide Unit, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Unit and was Inspector in Charge of Organized Crime, tasked with disrupting, dismantling and arresting those involved in gang violence. During the six years he spent in the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Unit he met then Chief Crown Prosecutor Jerry Selinger. Together they worked as a team, police

officer and justice counterpart, trying to break the increasing cycle of domestic violence in Calgary.

“As I was transferring from the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Unit over to Homicide, Jerry was just beginning to push for a program that would recognize needs and offer support and services to victims of abusive relationships,” recalls Allan.

That initial push by Jerry Selinger bore fruit in the form of HomeFront (formerly known as the Calgary Justice Working Project). For the past seven years HomeFront has worked collaboratively with justice, the community and service providers in Calgary to keep offenders accountable and victims safe. It was the vision of people like Jerry Selinger and the dedication of people like Allan Hargreaves that contributed to the establishment and success of the HomeFront initiative.

It is fitting that Allan is still connected to HomeFront and to the memory and legacy of Jerry Selinger. HF

# Honouring the Heart and Soul of the Sector

Friday November 16, 2007 saw frontline domestic violence workers and volunteers from Calgary and area honoured at HomeFront's 7th Annual Selinger Awards Luncheon. A theme of "home" resonated throughout the luncheon, as frontline workers and volunteers were recognized for their work in the field of sexual and domestic violence. The event is the only one of its kind to pay tribute to the exemplary work performed by dedicated professionals and volunteers in the stressful arena of domestic violence intervention and prevention.

HomeFront thanks our independent judging panel members for the wisdom and integrity they demonstrated in the selection of this year's Selinger Award winners. The 2007 Judging Panel included: Rob Blackwell, Aspen Properties Ltd.; Sheryl Fricke, Executive Director, Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying, Alberta Children's Services; Joy Johnson-Green, Executive Director, Sonshine Community Centre; Angela Knight, CBC Communications; Ann McLean, B.S.W., R.S.W.; and Terry Selinger.

Each year awards are presented in the Justice/Law Enforcement, Community Frontline and Community Volunteer categories. The 2007 award recipients are:

In the Justice/Law Enforcement category, the award was presented to Patti Knott of the Domestic Conflict Unit (DCU) of the Calgary Police Service. Patti's role as a civilian Domestic Violence Risk Specialist has her hidden away in an office, at the other end of the phone. This has not stopped Patti from being somewhat of a legend within the field of domestic violence intervention.

She is the point of contact for all calls to DCU from various individuals, both victims and offenders, seeking insight and advice on domestic matters and deals with approximately 13,000 files per year. The consummate professional, Patti is the perfect example of how one person can make a difference.

**Heartiest congratulations  
to all the nominees for the  
2007 Selinger Awards  
– they are all winners!  
But most importantly,  
our community and  
families impacted by  
domestic violence are  
winners because of their  
commitment, skills  
and dedication.**

Pol N. was celebrated for his continued work bridging cultural gaps as a frontline community practitioner at the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society and the Khmer Canadian Buddhist Cultural Centre. Pol has been providing counselling to individual clients and their families as well as groups of refugees and immigrants in the areas of cross-cultural awareness and family violence. In addition to his group work, Pol counsels over 300 clients annually. Pol has also worked collaboratively with FaithLink and the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Calgary, conducting research on family violence

among Cambodian women in Calgary. Pol works to raise awareness of the issue and strengthen relationships between spiritual communities and community service agencies in order for them to work together to prevent domestic abuse. His commitment and dedication to continue the awareness drive targeted to the Cambodian community is a means of uniting the community and breaking the cycle of violence.

Harjeet Jugdev, an 11-year volunteer with Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter was the recipient of the Community Volunteer award. Harjeet's non-judgmental approach to everyone who enters the shelter is invaluable. She understands that people respond to domestic violence in many different ways and treats everyone with equal respect. Harjeet's commitment to the shelter is evident in the way she is willing to help with any task to make sure clients receive optimum service. She always carries out her duties with warmth, enthusiasm and, most importantly, with a smile. Harjeet has taken it upon herself to remain current with issues of domestic violence in order to better serve client needs and changing demographics. She has also initiated several programs to assist with wellness, financial independence and professional development for shelter clients as well.

HomeFront extends our sincere apologies to both Dave Reay of Calgary Legal Aid and to Bruce Llewellyn of Community Corrections (Probation). Dave submitted his nomination of Bruce for the 2007 Selinger Award in the Justice/Law Enforcement category long before the deadline. We unfortunately misplaced this nomination. Bruce is a worthy nominee and we will ensure that this nomination is included in the 2008 award selection process. HF

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HomeFront is funded by

**Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Mental Health Board, The Calgary Foundation, City of Calgary Crime Prevention Investment Plan, Community Incentive Fund, The Prairieaction Foundation, United Way of Calgary and Area and the Victims of Crime Fund**

Mark was in his early teens at the time and had a younger sibling. Randy was the adult contact for the caseworkers during the court process, but the children also received support. Both Ewa and Lisa took extra time to explain to them what was happening during the court process. Their sensitive yet open approach left Randy's family feeling like they could ask any question and get the answers they needed.

Once the court case was concluded, HomeFront's Partner Support Program took over the file. Dedicated callers from

the program contact clients regularly to check on their safety, needs and keep them informed of any changes in the offender's probation status.

"I felt pleasantly surprised that someone in the justice system was phoning us regularly asking about our needs and constantly offering support," says Randy. "I wondered if this was an anomaly."

Liz was Randy's Partner Support caller and he can't stop saying how much he valued their bi-weekly, then monthly

contact. Those check-in phone calls made Randy and his family feel like their concerns had been heard and understood. Most of all they felt supported.

"Liz was always prompt, courteous, professional, and honest," says Randy. "The care and attention all HomeFront's support workers gave our family made me feel that things were done right with our court case. Dealing with HomeFront has been a positive experience for me and my son." HF

## Thank you to Daniel Douglas

HomeFront extends a heartfelt thank you to Daniel Douglas, the author of HomeFront's fall newsletter.

Daniel is in his second year of Journalism at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). He learned about HomeFront initially after seeing Executive Director Kevin McNichol on television. Daniel was later referred to HomeFront as a writer by Lorrie Gainor of Gainor Communication Associates Inc.

"I learned a lot about HomeFront while I was working on stories for their newsletter," says Daniel. "I believe what HomeFront does is really important."

Daniel is looking forward to a career as a reporter in politics and/or government and hopes to eventually settle in Montreal or Ottawa to fulfill that goal. HomeFront wishes Daniel the best of luck with his future endeavours. HF

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

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- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
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