

Family Violence Prevention Council aids Broome County

Since its creation in 1985, the Family Violence Prevention Council of Broome County has sought to reduce both the amount and severity of violent activities among family members. The council was formed as the Child Abuse Prevention Council by executive order of Carl Young, the Broome County executive, in response to a cluster of serious child abuse incidences. These highlighted the need for better coordination in addressing the problems of abuse and neglect.

In 1999, the council changed its name to Family Violence Prevention Council and expanded its mission to address all issues of family violence, including elder mistreatment and intimate partner violence, in addition to child abuse.



Public and Private Cooperation

An example of cooperation between public and private organizations, the council has 40 members, primarily professional volunteers. Representatives of United Way and seven of its member agencies (ACCORD, Action for Older Persons, Catholic Social Services, Crime Victims Assistance Center, Family and Children's Society, SOS Shelter, and YWCA of Broome County) are current members of the council.

The council is composed mostly of those organizations which form the network of services for those affected by family violence, plus a few community representatives. This helps assure that the decisions made and the directions chosen by the council are based on the strongest expertise in the community and that these decisions have the ready support of those organizations necessary to implement action.

Seven subcommittees perform most of the work of the council through a wide variety of activities that bring attention to issues concerning the prevention and treatment of abuse and ne-

glect as well as the systems currently in place to resolve problems in these areas.

20 Years of Accomplishments

What has the Family Violence Prevention Council accomplished in the last 20 years? Here are some examples:

- Established a Children's Advocacy Center for

Victims of Sexual Abuse and Serious Physical Abuse, in collaboration with many other local organizations, at the Crime Victims Assistance Center.

- Created many useful tools and informational brochures for both children and parents. These include helpful prevention information for parents of kindergarten children;

a "wallet card" for teens with information on dating violence and sources of help; and "Caregiver Tool Boxes" now available at all five Family Resource Centers in Broome County (call First Call for Help at 729-9100 for information).

- Developed a model school policy on identification and reporting of child abuse, which was distributed to 425 schools and accepted as a county-wide standard.

- Created a domestic violence bench book for use by local criminal courts.

• With financial assistance provided by a venture grant from United Way, offered cameras to local police agencies so that domestic violence evidence could be collected quickly.

• Raised funds to purchase and broadcast a television documentary on child abuse and coordinated several radio and television campaigns on prevention of child abuse and other types of family violence.

- Offered dozens of locally held professional conferences and forums on various topics associated with family violence.



April is set aside each year as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Parents, caregivers, grandparents, and neighbors can all have a part in making Broome County a great place for children.

Last year in Broome County, there were 2,367 reports of child abuse and maltreatment. Anyone who suspects a child is being abused or neglected should call the New York State Hotline for Child Abuse and Maltreatment at 1-800-342-3720.

For further information about the Broome County Family Violence Prevention Council, visit this website: gobroomecounty.com/FVPC, or call 778-2153.

To obtain this newsletter by e-mail, contact pr@uwbroome.org. Current and back issues also are available on our website: unitedwaybroome.org

what matters is published monthly by United Way of Broome County to highlight the positive results of your contributions to United Way on the people in our community.

United Way of Broome County, Inc.

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United Way of Broome County, Inc.
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MEMBER AGENCIES AND SERVICES - 2006
ACCORD—A Center for Dispute Resolu-
tion, Inc.

Action for Older Persons, Inc.
American Civic Association, Inc.
American Red Cross, Southern Tier
Chapter
American Social Health Association
Arthritis Foundation, Broome County
Chapter
Boy Scouts of America, Baden-Powell
Council, Inc.
Boys and Girls Club of Binghamton, Inc.
Boys and Girls Club of Western Broome,
Inc.--Family Center
Broome County Catholic Youth Organiza-
tion
Broome County Urban
League, Inc.
Broome-Tioga Associa-
tion for Retarded
Citizens
Catholic Social
Services of Broome
County
Community Planning
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.
Day Nursery Association



United Way
of Broome County

Deposit Foundation and Rural Housing
Services, Inc.
Family and Children's Society of Broome
County, Inc.
First Call For Help
Girl Scouts, Indian Hills Council, Inc.
Handicapped Children's Association of
Southern New York, Inc.
Jewish Community Center of Binghamton
Johnson City Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Legal Aid of Mid-New York
Literacy Volunteers of Broome/Tioga,
Inc.
Mental Health Association of the
Southern Tier, Inc.
National Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Society, Upstate New York
Chapter
Planned Parenthood of South
Central New York, Inc.
Retired and Senior Volunteer
Program (RSVP)
The Salvation Army
SOS Shelter, Inc.
Teaming for Technology
Voluntary Action Center
YMCA of Broome County
YWCA of Binghamton/Broome County

VENTURE GRANT RECIPIENTS - 2006

Action for Older Persons, Inc.
Boys and Girls Club of Binghamton, Inc.
Broome Community College Foundation
Children's Home of Wyoming Conference
Epilepsy Foundation of Rochester-
Syracuse-Binghamton
Faith in Action Volunteers of the Broome
County Council of Churches
Family Enrichment Network, Inc.
Fairview Recovery Services, Inc.
Foundation of the State University of
New York at Binghamton, Inc.
Jewish Community Center of Binghamton
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.
Recess Resources, Inc.
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
(RSVP)
Rural Health Network of South Central
New York, Inc.
SOS Shelter, Inc.
Volunteers of America of Western New
York, Inc.
Waterman Conservation Education
Center
YMCA of Broome County

If you live in Broome, Chenango, or Tioga
Counties, we can locate the information
or help you need . . . quickly and confi-
dentially.



Call us at 729-9100 (Broome County)
1-800-227-5353 (Chenango County)
1-888-266-5252 (Tioga County)
www.firstcallforhelp.info

Teaming for Technology

Teaming for Technology helps
nonprofit agencies in Broome County
with any technology problems they
may have, such as converting
databases, hardware and software
troubleshooting, computer installa-
tion and networking.

If you are a nonprofit organization in
need of technical assistance, call Bill
Newcomb or Ray Yeager at **729-2592**.

You CAN make a difference!

If you've always wondered what YOU can
do, call the **Voluntary Action Center at
729-2592**. Individuals, families, groups—
all are needed for:

- visiting
- office assistance
- organizing
- tutoring
- animal care
- committee work
- mentoring

. . . the possibilities are endless!



**VOLUNTARY
ACTION
CENTER**