

# **BATTERED WOMEN'S PROJECT**

## **TIMELINE**

1977 TODAY

- 1977** Interested people meet to explore the need for family violence services in Aroostook County
- The first statewide meeting of battered women's advocates is held, and the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services (MCFCS) is established as a nonprofit organization. A steering committee, made up of representatives from each member project, is formed.
- 1978** Local Group becomes known as the Aroostook Task Force on Family Violence
- 1979** Grant Proposal written for submission to Department of Human Services for funding of Aroostook County efforts
- Eleven member Board of Directors elected and Bylaws approved
- The Maine Legislature approves funding for shelters and safe houses for the victims of domestic violence.
- 1980** Ten volunteers and a work-study student work for the project
- Board of Directors vote to rent an apartment for shelter services
- Shelter services provided at local hotel in Presque Isle area and an apartment next to the Court House in Caribou.
- Pro Arrest Policies are in-acted.
- Maine's Protection from Abuse Order is created.
- Maine passes a law against marital rape.

- 1981**                      **Aroostook County Task Force name changed to the Family Support Center**
- 1984**                      **Shelter purchased in Caribou with MSHA assistance**
- 1985**                      **Staffing of agency consisted of 1 FTE Executive Director, 1 FTE Women's Advocate and 1 PTE Children's Advocate.**
- Outreach office opens 1 day a week at the Houlton District Court by a position supported by a grant from the Chicago Resource Center.**
- Safe home network created in southern Aroostook.**
- WEET funds part-time secretarial position in Caribou (Welfare, Education, Employment Training)**
- 1986**                      **Board of Directors approves opening of an office/shelter in Houlton. (First shelter was a rented apartment over the Temple Theater, later staff member's husband purchased a home for a shelter with the condition that once we secured funding we would purchase it from him).**
- 1987**                      **State Funding awarded, thus making Children's Advocate a FTE, 1 Community Response Coordinator, & 2 Women's Advocate/Comm. Response positions in Houlton**
- Outreach office opens 1 day a week in Madawaska (outreach was based at the district court in Madawaska)**
- Women's support group started in Madawaska**
- Safe Home Network established in the St. John Valley**
- Funding from Senior Community Service Employment Program allowed the hiring a new employee in the Caribou shelter.**
- Houlton Shelter and staff move to new location (see notes in 1987)**
- First Candlelight Vigils held in Presque Isle, Houlton and Fort Kent**

**First national hotline established with monies from Johnson and Johnson.**

**Maine State Housing Authority approves financing of the shelter in Houlton**

**HUD approves \$100,000 for the establishment of first Transitional home in Caribou. This allowed for the hiring of a FTE manager.**

- 1988**                      **Houlton Shelter purchased by Family Support Center**
- Maine State Housing approves additional \$30,000 grant for construction and furniture for Houlton shelter. Also FEMA funds helped purchase furniture**
- 1989**                      **The Shelter Operating Subsidy Grant program is funded by MSHA, providing funds for shelters, including domestic violence shelters**
- 1990**                      **Family Support Center becomes the Battered Women's Project, New Visions For Women.**
- 1991**                      **Maine Law Mandates that domestic violence must be taken into account in determining custody and visitation**
- 1992**                      **Administration Office moves to Presque Isle**
- 1993**                      **Maine's Stalking Law Passed**
- 1994**                      **Violence Against Women Act becomes Law**
- 1995**                      **Administration Office moves to Main Street, Presque Isle creating an outreach office**
- 1996**                      **Office in SJV opens partnering PTE battered women's advocate and PTE sexual assault specialist and funded by VAWA S.T.O.P. Grant. Office space donated by Fort Kent**
- 1997**                      **2 additional Transitional Housing units opened in Caribou in collaboration with Facilities Inc.**
- SJV office now has FTE.**



**The Maine Legislature passes the “Violence Intervention and Prevention” (VIP) bill to increase funding to domestic violence project and sexual assault centers for the first time in 16 years.**

**2003**

**3 Units of Transitional Housing opens in Houlton**

**Resource For Change becomes a separate 501C(3)**

**The Maine Legislature enacts a law which grants judges the discretion to issue a temporary protection from abuse order that prohibits the defendant from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon.**

**Project receives 2 year DOJ rural child victimization grant to increase outreach and increase community partnerships**

**2004**

**Transitional House purchased in Madawaska with funding from MSHA**

**5 FTE in SJV**

**2005**

**Transitional Housing opens in Madawaska**

**Madawaska Outreach office opens**

**First annual Community Response to Domestic Violence workshop held in Houlton at Houlton Regional Hospital**

**Maine Silent Witness Project hosted by Fort Kent. 10 silhouettes of women murdered because of domestic violence in Aroostook County were made and will be housed here.**

**Battered Women's Project**

**24-hour hotline**

**1-800-439-2323 / out of state 207-769-8251**