

the  
calendar

TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE, TRAINING &  
NETWORKING THROUGH  
MCADSV

VISIT [WWW.MCADSV.ORG](http://WWW.MCADSV.ORG) FOR  
REGISTRATION AND AGENDA  
INFORMATION

TELECONFERENCE:  
CHILD PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES PARENT  
AGENCY AGREEMENT  
PLANS

■ JUNE 24TH

TELECONFERENCE:  
ROLE OF FRIEND OF  
THE COURT IN  
CUSTODY

EVALUATIONS

■ JULY 28TH

CRISIS LINE TRAINING

■ AUGUST 13TH

LOCATION: TBD

NEW SERVICE  
PROVIDER TRAINING

■ SEPTEMBER 16-19TH  
OKEMOS, MI

### Teen Center Annual Conference 2008: A Law Enforcement Symposium

June 5, 2008

Washington, DC

Break the Cycle presents its 2008 Conference at The Carlyle Suites. It will provide innovative training, support critical dialogue, and explore best practices for law enforcement responding to teen dating violence. Representatives from Break the Cycle, Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, National Center for Victims of Crime, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape will participate in short presentations and group discussions. For more information, contact [teencenter@breakthecycle.org](mailto:teencenter@breakthecycle.org).

### 2008 Women of Color Institute—Victory Over Cultural Adversity: Breaking New Ground

June 26-27, 2008

Augusta, MI

The 2008 Women of Color Institute (WOCI)—Victory Over Cultural Adversity: Breaking New Ground will provide advocates working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence an opportunity to engage in comprehensive presentations covering topics confronting survivors and advocates. Workgroup sessions will focus on increasing advocates capacity to work more ethically and effectively with survivors as well as encourage advocates to build more engaging services that represent a better cultural competency for their service community. An exclusive networking and development gathering will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. where you will have the opportunity to engage with other leaders and attendees for an evening of discussion, presentation and open forums addressing topics pertinent to you and fellow industry professionals! Workgroup sessions will follow on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Women of Color Task Force activities encourage participation from persons who bring life experience and skills that would enhance their agency's ability to serve or create meaningful connection to underserved communities. For more information, please contact Sarah Jarous at 517-347-7000, ext. 30 or at [sarah.jarous@mcadsv.org](mailto:sarah.jarous@mcadsv.org).

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Linea Nacional sobre la Violencia

Domestica

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) TTY 1-800-787-3224

[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

# the Coalition Connection

Your [link](#) to cutting edge information on the issue of violence against women

### Private Housing Company Won't Evict Domestic Violence Victims After ACLU Lawsuit

A groundbreaking settlement agreement finalized between a domestic violence survivor, a private housing complex and a property management company offers victims of domestic violence, stalking, date rape and sexual assault far reaching protections from eviction and discrimination. This is the first settlement of its kind that applies to private housing. The settlement follows a federal sex discrimination lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Michigan on behalf of Tanica Lewis—a domestic violence survivor who had been evicted from her apartment because of her abuser's behavior—against the property management company Management Systems, Inc. and the housing complex North End Village. Management Systems manages 50 housing communities in Detroit and Flint, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio, including North End Village. The lawsuit charged that under the federal Fair Housing Act, Management Systems' policy of evicting domestic violence victims because of their abusers' actions constitutes sex discrimination in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act and Michigan's Civil Rights Act.

"We commend Management Systems and North End for recognizing that landlords should not blame women for the criminal acts perpetrated against them," said ACLU Women's Rights Project staff attorney Sandra Park. "All too often, landlords force victims of domestic violence out of their homes, based on the stereotype that victims can control the violence and have chosen not to do so. We hope that this settlement encourages other private housing companies to enact proactive policies that comply with federal law and help rather than harm women."

The settlement goes beyond the federal Violence Against Women Act's (VAWA) housing law in both substance and scope and serves as an exemplary model for private housing policies throughout the country. VAWA applies only to public and voucher housing and does not affirmatively provide for early lease termination and/or relocation to tenants who must flee violence.

Under the settlement, North End Village and Management Systems, Inc. will not evict or discriminate against tenants

(Continued on Pg. 2)

May  
2008



The Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is dedicated to the empowerment of all the state's survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Our mission is to develop and promote efforts aimed at the elimination of all domestic and sexual violence in Michigan.

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because they have been the victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, whether or not the abuser is residing in the tenant's household. The property management company will also offer early lease termination and relocation to tenants who have been the victims of such abuse and need to leave their homes to ensure their safety.

Studies from across the country confirm the connection between domestic violence and homelessness. The 2005 Hunger and Homelessness Survey by the United States Conference of Mayors found that half of the U.S. cities surveyed reported that domestic violence is a primary cause of homelessness. Another 2005 investigation by the Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York, a fair housing group, found that 28 percent of housing providers in New York City either flatly refused to rent to a domestic violence victim or failed to follow up as promised when contacted by an investigator posing as a housing coordinator for a domestic violence survivor assistance program.

"Landlords often only learn about domestic violence because victims have sought the help of police or the courts," said Kary Moss, Executive Director of the ACLU of Michigan. "When victims know that they may face eviction if a landlord finds out about the abuse, they are less likely to seek this assistance and more likely to submit to the abuse. We hope that other private housing companies will follow Management Systems' lead and put in place policies that help end the cycle of violence which sometimes compels women and their children to live on the streets."

The settlement and other legal documents are available online at [www.aclu.org/fairhousingforwomen](http://www.aclu.org/fairhousingforwomen).

### **10 New Health Brochures from the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants**

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants has recently posted ten new health brochures which serve as a tool to help fill in communication gaps between the service provider and the client. Topics covered include: Violence in the Home; Health Insurance and Medicaid; Living with Disabilities in the U.S.; Personal and Home Hygiene; Dental Care and Hygiene; Healthy Pregnancy; Keeping Your Baby Healthy; Watching Your Child Grow; Common Respiratory Infections; and Asthma.

All brochures are available for download free of charge, are written at a 5th grade reading level and are culturally appropriate. They are of course best utilized with verbal education and should not be handed off without discussion. These brochures are available in Arabic, Vietnamese, English, Burmese, Karen, Swahili, French, Somali, Spanish, Hmong, Farsi, Kirundi, Bosnian, and Russian.

To access these brochures electronically, please visit <http://www.refugees.org/hltoolkit>.

### **Task Force Denounces Michigan Supreme Court Ruling on Health Insurance Benefits**

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force denounces the Michigan Supreme Court ruling mandating that local governments and state universities can't offer health insurance to the same-sex partners of their employees. The court ruled 5-2 that Michigan's 2004 ban against same-sex marriage also blocks domestic partner policies affecting employees with same-sex partners at universities and other public-sector employers.

### **Sexual Assault Services Program Announced**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) announced a new Sexual Assault Services Program in April to support the establishment, maintenance and expansion of rape crisis centers and other programs and projects to assist victims.

In addition to establishing rape crisis centers, awards made through the program will help states, Indian tribes and territories provide intervention and related assistance services. These may include: 24-hour hotline services; accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice and social support systems such as medical facilities, police and court proceedings; crisis intervention; and community-based, linguistically and culturally specific services and support mechanisms including outreach activities for underserved communities.

The new program "will focus on providing improved services for sexual assault victims and a stronger criminal justice response to sexual assault crimes," OVW Director Cindy Dyer said. "I look forward to working with sexual assault victim advocates, service providers and criminal justice professionals to implement this important program."

Announcements regarding eligibility requirements, funding thresholds, and application procedures for the Sexual Assault Services Program is forthcoming. Once available, the grant solicitation will be posted on [www.ovw.usdoj.gov/](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/).

### **Avon Announces Second Year of Grant Program to Empower Women**

The Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund is an initiative of Avon Products, Inc. designed to empower women and improve society by providing individuals with cash awards that will enable them to pursue projects that better the lives of women (of all ages) in the United States.

Initially launched in March 2007 as a one-year initiative in celebration of International Women's Day, the Hello Tomorrow Fund has been extended for a second year. The fund will continue to award \$5,000 each week, through April 2009. Winners are deserving individuals who have submitted a compelling application to launch or expand a program or project to empower women in their communities and beyond.

The award is for an individual, not an organization or company. Women and men are eligible to win as long as the program or project benefits women of all ages in the U.S. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and a legal permanent resident of the U.S. or a U.S. citizen to apply. Application submission and selection of winners is organized in a quarterly cycle. Upcoming deadlines are June 2, 2008; September 1, 2008; and December 1, 2008. One winner will be publicly announced every Tuesday through the Hello Tomorrow Web site.

See the program's Web site for complete program and application information, profiles of past winners, and links to resources and organizations relevant to women's issues at <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15012803/avon>