

Highlights and Accomplishments

2010 was a milestone year for The Healing Center as we celebrated ten years of service planting seeds of hope and change. Seeds that have transformed and impacted individual lives; victims and survivors of family violence. We are proud of the programs we have created, and the work accomplished in meeting our mission goals of providing intervention and prevention services for families. We provide support, referrals, and other vital services. Some of our clients are high risk, some are referred by faith leaders, schools and other community based agencies. All are seen by our family worker. Staff interacts with various offices to advocate for the appropriate services for each client and their children. Many of the women who come to The Healing Center are non-English speakers, and some are undocumented. We partner with organizations that provide legal services, shelter, counseling and health services. On many occasions we provide emergency clothing and food. In 2010 we reached out to over 900 individuals by means of school and church workshops, domestic violence trainings, outreach mailings and telephone inquiries. We added 35 new cases to our current case load.

Our Daughters of the Lotus Project, meets every week for two hours to focus on topics such as teen dating violence, bullying, love, jealousy, physical and emotional development, personal goals and higher education. The mothers of the girls continually tell us how their daughter's views are changing as a result of the Daughters of the Lotus program. They are grateful that their daughters are viewing life from an informed and positive perspective. Last June several of the girls participated in a community awareness event, where they displayed leadership skills in their willingness to share domestic violence information with the community.

One of our highlights in 2010 was when two survivors Rose and Mary (not their real names) shared their personal experiences, at the *United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Project* meeting where the focus was on violence against women. To hear them tell their stories to an international community was empowering for them and for those who heard them speak, a living testimony of women who months prior could not tell anyone their secret.

To commemorate International Women's Day we hosted a luncheon with women from our support group and Council Member Sara Gonzalez. The women shared their personal growth stories, shared the hardships they had overcome and gave testimony of how their lives have improved as a result of coming to The Healing Center.

We provided domestic violence workshops to local schools, community based organizations and churches. Our collaborative clergy and community meetings are thriving, the attendees include: local pastors, Domestic Violence Police officers, community members and other community based organizations. Topics discussed include Characteristics of Domestic Violence, Orders of Protection, Stalking, Why Victims Stay, Dos and Don'ts in Faith communities and Faith Issues that at times have been roadblocks for domestic violence victims.

Our October clergy and community meeting was featured in a documentary aired on ABC TV Station titled, **I Believe You, Faith's Response to Intimate Partner Violence.**

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In May we held our Annual Interfaith Breakfast with a diverse community of faith addressing intimate partner violence. Speakers included: Jacqueline Ogega, *Religions for Peace*, Anushuvan Margaryan, *Interfaith Center of New York*, Wanda Lucibello, *Kings County District Attorney's Office*, Bishop Julio Mercado, *Association of Hispanic Ministers*, Robina Niaz, *Turning Point*, Kevin Powell, *Author and Activist*, and Rabbi Diana S. Gerson, *Dayenu! Initiative at the New York Board of Rabbis*.

In October during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month our Annual Dinner Dance Benefit was held at The Grand Prospect Hall. The Honorable Charles J. Hynes, Kings County District Attorney was our honoree. It was a great tribute to have District Attorney Hynes accept our designation and speak at the event. We are proud to be a partner of the *District Attorney's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence* through a grant from the United States Department of Justice's Office on Violence against Women.

We celebrated Christmas together with many of the women we serve and their children. We had arts and crafts activities, and Santa Claus gave age-appropriate toys to every child and teenager. Blankets, hats, scarves, gloves, and gift cards were given to all the mothers. Gifts were donated by Board Members, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and donors. Reindeer antlers and Santa hats were worn by adults and children alike. Everyone had a fun, safe and healthy time.

We are graciously thankful for ALL the support Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Pastor Paul provides The Healing Center. As we continue to grow in 2011 we are optimistic about the future. We are looking forward to continue building our financial infrastructure and the sustainability of our organization during these hard economic times.

The Board of Director's, staff, and volunteers are committed to continue with The Healing Center's mission.

Thank you,

Antonia Clemente
Co-Founder/Executive Director

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