

LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS & ADVOCACY/UNITED NATIONS

Passaic County Delivers

A “Blow to Domestic Violence”



On August 4, 2009, *The Record* reported on a new program that was introduced by St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center and the Passaic County Courthouse. The purpose of the new venture is to better help domestic violence victims.

The Passaic Vicinage Hospital Project “will allow victims coming into St. Joseph’s ER for treatment to obtain temporary re-

straining orders from a judge right then and there via teleconferencing.”

The reasoning behind this program lies with the experience that medical personnel have had in the ER. The victims of domestic violence come into the ER ready to take legal action against their perpetrators. Later, however, they back down. By allowing the vic-

tim to go before a judge immediately, hesitancy is eliminated and saves the victim time. It also lessens the risk that victims face when they leave the hospital and have to go to court.

This program also allows the judge to see the victim. The technology also allows still photos of the victim’s injuries to be taken.



TOUGH TIMES FOR CFA—WE WILL HELP

The Center for Food Action reports that the number of families needing help continues to grow. They have experienced a 50% increase in requests for food assistance at their Carlstadt site and Hackensack’s numbers are up 32%. At the same time donations are down. The

Center has a website, www.cfanj.org, where their latest newsletter can be viewed as well as other information and statistics about Bergen County. We are making a special effort at our Beefsteak Dinner on October 16th. We are asking those who attend to bring items of non

-perishable food that we will bring to the Center for Food Action. October 16th is World Food Day. What better way to commemorate the day! While those attending the dinner will have their fill, they can help those less fortunate, a number, unfortunately, that is steadily growing.

Written

&

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Visit us at:

www.zontanvnj.org

***The U.N. has estimated that there are 5 thousand honor killings of women a year, the majority in the Muslim world.**

Only one (1) percent of the world's landowners are women.

98 percent of people in Egypt say they believe that girls have the same right to education as boys.

THE WOMEN'S CRUSADE

The August 23rd issue of *The New York Times Magazine* was devoted to women's issues. The keynote essay was by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn who have written a book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, which will be available for purchase in October.

Many who read *The New York Times* on a regular basis know that Mr. Kristof has been a crusader for women's rights for many years. He and his wife Sheryl WuDunn won a Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for their coverage of China's Tiananmen Square democracy movement.

In the essay written for this issue, they write, "The oppression of women

worldwide is the human rights cause of our time. And their liberation could help solve many of the world's problems, from poverty to child mortality to terrorism. A 21st century manifesto."

The essay recounts the stories of women living in poverty who have been helped through education and microcredit and how helping them has helped their families and their communities.

In this essay it is noted that the best way to improve the state of the world is to improve the state of women's lives beginning with education. Another proposal is to eliminate iodine deficiency around the globe, by helping countries iodize salt.

Fetuses that do not get enough iodine often have an impairment in brain formation. Another is to eradicate obstetric fistula.

The authors note how education has helped keep girls from being trafficked and how microfinance has changed the cultural norms from macho to equality.

It is impossible in this small space to recount all the success stories told of in the essay. Go to www.nytimes.com to read the entire article, in fact the entire issue. What you will find is that Zonta has been on the right track. There is also a "do-it-yourself Aid" section that gives advice on how each of us can help.

Twenty-one per cent of young women surveyed in Ghana reported that their sexual initiation was by rape.

130 million women around the world have been subjected to genital cutting

55 per cent of the seats in Rwanda's lower house of Parliament are held by women.

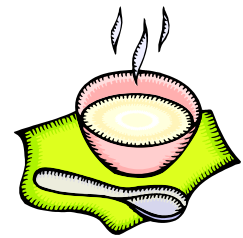
THE HUNGER SITE

The Hunger Site, www.thehungersite.com/clickToGive, was founded to use the power of the internet to help eradicate world hunger. It is helping to feed the world's hungry. By going to the site and clicking on the "Click here to Give- it's Free" button indi-

viduals get sponsors to donate a cup of food for each click. There is no cost. Of course, the site has ads for various products, but there is no requirement to buy anything.

The food is distributed by Mercy Corps, Feeding America (formerly America's

Second Harvest) and Millennium Promise. One hundred percent of the sponsors fees goes to charities. Check it out for yourself.



SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1820

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 says that sexual violence threatens world peace and security. It is used as a tactic of war to dominate, humiliate, terrorize and displace. Sexual violence can be a war crime, a crime against humanity and an act of genocide. There should be no amnesty or impunity for sexual violence. Women are entitled to full

and equal participation in all peace-building processes. States must uphold human rights; all parties to armed conflict must protect civilians. Resolution 1820 includes all of the above and reaffirms Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security which was passed in 2000.

Why is Resolution 1820 important? It places sexual violence on the agenda of the

U.N. Security Council. It recognizes sexual violence as a security issue that demands a security response. It affirms that sexual violence affects not only the health and safety of women, but the economic and social stability of nations. It demands parties to armed conflict prevent and punish sexual violence. **There is no security without women's security.**

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE COUNCIL OF WORLD LEADERS

JULY 8, 2009

“In many parts of the world, women are routinely beaten, raped or sold into prostitution. They are denied access to medical care, education and economic and political power. Changing that could change everything.”

New York Times Magazine, cover, August 23, 2009

The topic of the Council of World Leaders on July 8, 2009 was “Ending the Atrocity, Stop Rape Now: UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.” Featured were The Honorable Margot Wallstrom, Vice President of the European Commission and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, US Ambassador-at-Large for global Women’s Issues, US Dept. of State. The event was facilitated by Ms. Ines Alberdi, Executive Director of UNIFEM.

Ms. Alberdi’s opening remarks presented an overview of the issue of sexual violence in conflict and the actions UNIFEM has taken to address this issue. She referred to sexual violence in conflict as “history’s greatest silence.”

Ambassador Vermeer spoke about her newly created position in the US State Dept. and her role in the struggle to eradicate sexual violence as a tool of conflict. She said, “The issue is nothing less than a global scourge.” Her strategy to battle violence against women would be through “economic empowerment, legal reform, education and healthcare.” She sees the problem as one of dehumanization of women. She called for “a move from words to action on this issue.”

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

COMMIT * ACT * DEMAND: WE CAN END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!

The theme of the 16 Days of Activism 2009, November 25th , International Day Against Violence Against Women, to December 10th, International Human Rights Day, is Commit, Act, Demand: We CAN End violence Against Women!

- Commit: We all have a responsibility to end gender-based violence, women, girls, men, boys.
- Act: Every action, no matter how big or small, can make a difference.
- Demand: We are all accountable for playing our part in reducing violence at the individual and community levels, as well as at the nation-state and global levels.

The above comes from the 16 Days of Activism website maintained by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers. More information to come!