



COLORADO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jon Pushkin
Pushkin Public Relations
303-733-3441; cell: 303-725-5031

PROGRAM SHELTERS CONTINUE TO REACH MAXIMUM CAPACITY DESPITE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

(DENVER, CO – April 12, 2004) The Colorado Domestic Abuse Assistance Program compiled the 2002 statistics for forty of the statewide domestic violence victim programs and shelter services. Together, these programs have answered over 200,000 crisis, counseling, advocacy, information and referral calls for victims of domestic violence, in the last year. Each program offers crisis shelters, legal advocacy, children's centers, transitional housing, individual and group counseling and 24-hour crisis lines to victims of domestic abuse.

The most drastic change in the last year has been the rise of non-residential clients using domestic violence victim programs. The total number of non-residential clients reached over 35,000 women, men and children, in comparison to the 5,000 victims who used shelter services. Non-residential clients might be using other victim services more frequently as an alternative to the already-full shelters in their area. Although programs provided 101,517 nights of shelter, they had to turn away over 10,000 women and children. This is most likely due to longer stays in the shelters by victims of domestic violence.

Local community support for domestic violence victims programs continues to grow, donating 446,346 volunteer hours last year. As program shelters and other services continue to reach maximum capacity, public support remains vital to the safety of victims. At the same time, programs have found that foundation, individual and grant donations have been decreasing.

The Domestic Abuse Assistance Program is a division of the Colorado Department of Human Services that provides statistics on the domestic violence victims programs they help fund.

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) - www.ccadv.org - is a 25-year old statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization providing resources, education, and training, and serving as a voice to more than 80 members and 60 programs serving some 40,000 battered women and children in Colorado each year.