

Safe Havens' Noteworthy News

Safe Havens' New Leadership

Safe Havens' Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Board member Nancy Nienhuis will serve as Chair for the coming year. Nancy holds a doctorate in Religion, Gender, and Culture from Harvard University. She is the Senior Vice President for Operations, Dean of Students, and Faculty of Theology at Andover Newton Theological School, where she teaches courses on social justice and intimate partner violence. Dr. Nienhuis is interested in issues of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, particularly as those issues are addressed in the training of clergy. Her articles appear in *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *The Journal of Pastoral Care*, and *The Journal of Religion and Abuse*. She is currently collaborating with Harvard Divinity School colleague Prof. Beverly Mayne Kienzle on a book that compares theological responses to domestic violence in the lives of medieval saints with contemporary responses to such violence.

Dr. Nienhuis has been a tireless supporter of Safe Havens for the past four years and we look forward to her tenure as Board Chair!


Welcome Back to Traci Jackson Antoine!

Safe Havens is thrilled to welcome back former employee Rev. Traci Jackson Antoine. Traci has rejoined the staff as Program Coordinator primarily for Safe Havens' Rural Technical Assistance Project, which is funded by the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. The Rural Technical Assistance Project addresses domestic and sexual violence and faith in rural communities across the U.S.

Traci will identify and reach out to rural service providers who want to collaborate with faith-based leaders to improve access to services and to end domestic and sexual violence. For anyone who knows Traci, you know what a perfect job this is for her. Welcome back TJA!



Safe
Havens



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On the Local Front...

Sermon Contest Results: Congratulations to Rev. Robert Moore and Stephanie Shute Kelsch! They are the winners of Safe Havens' 2nd Annual Sermon Contest. Both of the winning sermons will be posted shortly on our website www.interfaithpartners.org. Be sure to check out the sermons.

SH on the Move: Safe Havens has relocated. We are now located in Third Sector New England's NonProfit Center near South Station in Boston.

Our new mailing address is: **Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, 89 South Street, Suite 601, Boston, MA 02111.** Our new phone number is **617-951-3980.** Our email address is still info@interfaithpartners.org.

We would like to thank the law firm of Kopelman and Paige for seven wonderful years under their roof. We are so grateful for the support we received from the firm and staff and we miss them every day.

Supporting Safe Havens: Your support enables us to continue to educate Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith communities about how to respond to elder abuse and sexual and domestic violence.

All donations to Safe Havens are used to provide outreach, training, and education to faith communities. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at 617-951-3980 or amkatzman@interfaithpartners.org. You can donate via our website at <http://interfaithpartners.org/donate.html> or by sending a check to Safe Havens, 89 South Street, Suite 601, Boston, MA 02111. And thank you in advance for your much needed support!

Elder Abuse Training for Faith Community Leaders and Members

Last month, Safe Havens partnered with The Essex County District Attorney's Office and the Elder Justice Network of the Greater North Shore for a presentation on elder abuse for faith community leaders. Held at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, presenters engaged 22 concerned clergy and faith leaders about elder abuse, how to respond, and where to refer for help. Participants learned that "elder abuse is a larger problem than they realized," and that the faith community's response is critically important.

If you would like Safe Havens to speak to your faith community about elder abuse, please contact us at 617-951-3980 or email us at info@interfaithpartners.org.

Upcoming Local Programming

Safe Havens looks forward to participating in "**Supporting Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence in Our Congregations: A Training Institute for Clergy in Hampshire and Franklin Counties**" on January 12, 2012 in Northampton. The Training Institute is sponsored by the Massachusetts Rural Domestic and Sexual Violence Project of the Department of Public Health, Everywoman's Center of UMASS/Amherst, and New England Learning Center for Women in Transition. Designed to explore strategies to make congregations safer for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, the program will provide clergy with improved understanding of domestic and sexual violence; tools and skills for responding safely and compassionately to victims and survivors; referrals to community partners who can help; steps for moving the conversation forward in the faith community; and an appreciation for the clergy's and the faith community's unique role in addressing domestic and sexual violence. For more information about this program, please contact Safe Havens at 617-951-3980.

Safe Havens is once again collaborating with the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers to present programming to the faith communities of Lowell. The program, funded by a Parker Foundation Grant, will support the second phase of MAPS' domestic violence community capacity building project: "**Building Bridges Between Faith Leaders and Service Providers.**" In Phase One of this project (2007), Safe Havens and MAPS participated in cross-training, learned more about how to empower leadership in Portuguese-speaking faith communities, and improved access to services. Several Portuguese-speaking churches also received training. The goal of this phase of the program will be to expand training to other faith leaders in the Lowell area and to multiply the prevention and information resources available in the community. Watch for more news about this programming in the late winter/early spring.

Interested in learning more about Safe Havens and our work?
Please contact us at 617-951-3980 or info@interfaithpartners.org,
or visit us at www.interfaithpartners.org.

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In the Spotlight



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Safe Havens

Wishing you and your families a peaceful winter season! Happy New Year!