

## An Unsung Heroine

Safe Havens is thrilled to announce that our own Anne Marie Hunter, Director, has been selected by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as one of the Commonwealth's 100 Unsung Heroines of 2011.

This year's honorees were celebrated at the State House on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Senate President Therese Murray and State Treasurer Suzanne Bump addressed the Unsung Heroines as "women who don't make the news... they make the difference!" The ceremony was followed by a reception in the State House's Grand Staircase.

You might not know that Anne Marie is an

ordained United Methodist Pastor who received her Master's Degree from Harvard Divinity School and her Doctorate in Religion and Society from Drew University. In 1991, Anne Marie founded Safe Havens, and, the rest, as they say, is "herstory!"

I hope you will join us in congratulating Anne Marie on this honor. She absolutely is an "Unsung Heroine!"

For more information about the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, please contact MCSW at 617-626-6520 or email at [mcsw@state.ma.us](mailto:mcsw@state.ma.us).



## Safe Havens

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### On the Local Front....

- Two months have passed since the program ***Preventing Relationship Violence: A Muslim Response***, but we at Safe Havens are still in awe!

On March 26, over 50 participants learned about the Islamic model for achieving healthy relationships and preventing abuse from Salma Elkadi Abudgideiri, LPC, of the Peaceful Families Project, and Imam Mohamed Magid, current President of the Islamic Society of North America and Executive Director of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center. The day was co-sponsored by Safe Havens, the Islamic Center of Boston/Wayland, and the Islamic Center of New England. One participant said, "**There was a lot of positive feedback and people are asking for more.**"

Ms. Abudgideiri also presented to over 30 participants from the Boston area Muslim community at a program co-sponsored by Safe Havens and the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center of Boston on March 25.

Safe Havens is honored to have collaborated with these wonderful organizations and trainers, and hopes to do more in the future.

- Many thanks to the **Pastoral Associates of Merrimack Valley** for sponsoring Safe Havens to present the ***Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Workshop*** on May 5 at the St. Julia Parish Center in Weston. Twenty-five ordained and lay ecclesial ministers from Archdiocese of Boston learned about DV and developed intervention skills and appropriate pastoral responses.

## In the Spotlight

### Safe Havens' 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sermon Contest

Have something to say about faith and domestic violence??? Then check out Safe Havens' 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sermon Contest!

Safe Havens is accepting sermons, khutbah, dvar torah, spiritual teachings, etc. on domestic violence and faith. "Sermons" are due **August 1, 2011**. For more info, please see <http://interfaithpartners.org/2nd%20Annual%20Sermon%20Contest.pdf>.

### Safe Havens' Board of Directors

Under the leadership of Dr. Nancy Nienhuis, Chair, and Carol Kopelman, Co-Chair, the Safe Havens Board of Directors is moving in new and exciting directions—and is looking to expand! If you have experience in fund development and are interested in joining, please email Alyson @ [amkatzman@interfaithpartners.org](mailto:amkatzman@interfaithpartners.org).

Watch for more information about our Board of Directors in the late summer newsletter!

## Wear Something Purple on June 15!

June 15, 2011 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. To show your support for ending elder abuse and neglect, Safe Havens is asking all our friends and supporters to wear something **purple** on this day.

This year marks the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect by raising awareness of cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

Throughout the United States and the world, elder abuse and neglect is often either under-recognized or not acknowledged as a problem. Yet, according to the National Elder Mistreatment Study, "11% of older Americans experienced emotional, physical, or sexual abuse and/or neglect in the past year." Often, the abuser is a family member, caretaker, friend, neighbor, a person of authority, or a person with whom there is an expectation of trust.

Because many victims of elder abuse turn to their faith communities for help, Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence is calling on faith communities of all denominations to use June 15 as an opportunity to share information about abuse, neglect, and exploitation in later life.

We hope you will consider organizing a group of volunteers to call or visit isolated seniors, developing an awareness program, creating a press release for your local paper(s), or wearing something **purple**. Every little bit helps, and even small actions can have big impacts!

To learn more about elder abuse and what your faith community can do, please visit [www.interfaithpartners.org/elderhome.html](http://www.interfaithpartners.org/elderhome.html). Safe Havens has developed resources specifically for faith communities who want to learn about elder abuse and wish to collaborate with their area service providers on this issue. To receive a hard copy of our resources, please call Safe Havens at 617-654-1820.

For more information about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, or to download a free copy of the Elder Abuse Awareness Community Guide Tool Kit, please visit [www.inpea.net/weaad.html](http://www.inpea.net/weaad.html).

## Don't forget to wear something purple on June 15!

Interested in learning more about Safe Havens and our work? Please contact us or visit us at [www.interfaithpartners.org](http://www.interfaithpartners.org).

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Partnership Against  
Domestic Violence

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