

NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana Bar Foundation
www.raisingthebar.org

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Louisiana ranks number one in the rate of women murdered by men. One out of every four women in a relationship will experience some sort of physical abuse in their lifetime. This could be your mother, your sister, your daughter or your friend. Domestic violence knows no boundaries, cutting across all socioeconomic lines effecting rich, poor, black, white, young and old.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As the largest statewide funder of legal services in Louisiana, the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is dedicated to helping protect families, empower victims and break the cycle of violence in Louisiana. This year the LBF awarded more than \$500,000 in grants to domestic violence agencies across the state.

According to 2009 statistics provided by our grantees, LBF funding was able to help over 14,000 women and 7,000 children in Louisiana with the safety they needed from an abuser. The agencies that the LBF funds enable people to leave abusive relationships and seek safety. The essential services provided by these agencies include a 24-hour crisis line; shelter for abused spouses and their children; legal services; education concerning domestic and dating violence; and establishing collaborative relationships with law enforcement, judges, clerks of court and prosecutors.

Here are some staggering statistics:

- In just one year more than 3,500 orders for protection are issued in Louisiana.
- Domestic violence is more than three times as likely to occur when couples are experiencing high levels of financial strain.
- Nationally, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.
- Children who repeatedly witness abuse learn and accept that behavior as a usual pattern of relationships.
Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

The domestic violence centers that the LBF funds provide legal services for women and children to help them feel safe again.

LBF Grants to Domestic Violence Programs in 2010

Beauregard Community Concerns, Inc. \$28,028.00

Calcasieu Women's Shelter, Inc. \$26,685.00

Capital Area Family Violence Intervention \$33,278.00

Catholic Charities of New Orleans - Project S.A.V.E. \$46,028.00

Chez Hope, Inc. \$22,028.00

D.A.R.T. of Lincoln \$20,528.00
Faith House, Inc. \$34,779.00
Family Counseling Agency/Turning Point Shelter \$9,750.00
The Haven \$38,528.00
Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse, Inc. \$17,528.00
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children \$37,778.00
New Start Center, A Domestic Violence Program \$44,715.00
Project Celebration \$22,028.00
Safe Harbor, Inc. \$47,528.00
Safety Net for Abused Persons \$44,528.00
Southeast Spouse Abuse Program \$15,000.00
St. Bernard Parish Battered Women's Center \$12,000.00
The Wellspring Alliance for Families \$25,028.00
Women Outreaching Women \$3,000.00

For a complete list of 2010 LBF Grants

<http://www.raisingthebar.org/GrantPrograms/GranteeList.asp?Year=2010>

Sources available upon request.

Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) entity organized under the state of Louisiana. As the largest state funder of legal aid, the LBF supports programs providing free legal services for the poor in all 64 parishes. Since 1989, the LBF has distributed more than \$40 million throughout Louisiana to help address the legal needs of indigent citizens, provide a basic understanding of the law, and assist with improvements to the justice system.

The LBF exists to preserve, honor and improve our system of justice by funding, developing or otherwise promoting efforts which enhance the legal profession, increase public understanding of the legal system and advance the reality of equal justice under the law.

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