

# ICADV ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to engage all people in a movement to change the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women. We do this through education, advocacy and quality victim services.

## FROM IOWA TO AFRICA, A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR 2009

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**Background:** In 2009, the ICADV Board of Directors instituted a Sabbatical Leave Policy. The policy is intended to assist in restoring and energizing long time employees. ICADV has realized that our richest resource is the experience that our staff has accumulated in the field. Our Executive Director has over 27 years of experience, with 16 of those years at ICADV. She was the first staff member to take her sabbatical leave. The following is a synopsis of how she spent her time.



**My African Adventure, Laurie Schipper:** I traveled to Mozambique for 1 month with a global volunteer group called African Impact. I taught preschool, adult Edson's English, HIV/AIDS education, rebuilt homes destroyed in the 2007 cyclone that hit Vilanculos, and worked weekly at a local orphanage. It was a beautiful, amazing and difficult on the soul experience. I was so happy to come home but now miss Africa in ways I didn't think were possible.

I miss the rhythm of Mozambique...the sounds (the first sounds of the morning, women doing laundry, children laughing and playing in the river..., smells (the ocean, the smell of fish as men bring in the catch of the day, fire and smoke)..., and colors (African material, the sky, the sand, the ocean)...the rhythm of Africa is what I will always remember in my heart. Unfortunately, I will also carry the images of sick and dying children, poverty and hunger, decay...a country, a continent that doesn't have enough of anything for its people to do more than try to survive and yet they do survive and are grateful for the life and the beauty that surrounds them. They reminded me to be grateful too.

#### Important Facts about Mozambique:

- Average Life Expectancy: 36 years and infant mortality among the worst in the world. Human Development index is one of the lowest on earth.
- 1 in 6 Mozambicans are infected with HIV/AIDs
- The official language is Portuguese (40%) although the majority in Vilanculos speak Shitswa.
- Following their independence from Portugal on June 25, 1975, there was a 10 year violent civil war killing 1 million; creating 1.7 million refugees; and internally displacing several million.
- A cyclone devastated Vilanculos in Feb. 2007, destroying most homes and buildings.

## TRAINING

**T**raining efforts for advocates and other professionals continue as usual. ICADV trainer Kirsten Faisal provided 42 trainings in 2009, to 1190 participants. She was also on the team that coordinated the second Iowa Victim Assistance Academy. Future plans for the Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance will include presenting more advanced training to the very dedicated employees of Iowa programs, who are seeking to broaden and deepen their

knowledge and experience rather than seeking basic skills.

ICADV's certification process is also currently undergoing revisions and hopefully we will be able to offer some more advanced materials and to explore the possibilities of electronic learning for next year.

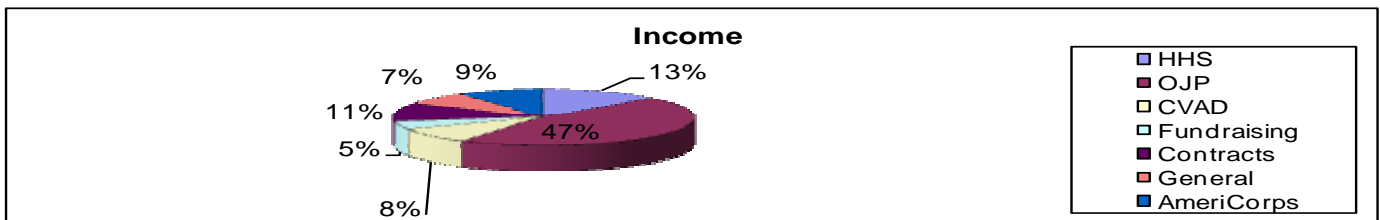
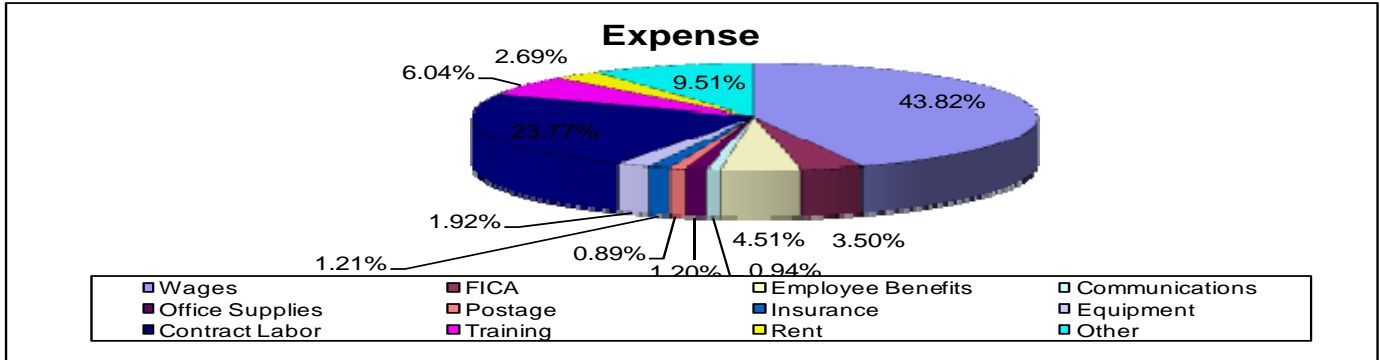
Kirsten has been consulting with the Batterers Education Program to assess and update the current curriculum used with male perpetrators and to create standards and curriculum for integrating cultural competency throughout all aspects of the BEP. This will be rolled out in 2010 in a series of statewide trainings.

Kirsten was also able to take a sabbatical in 2009. What follows is the summary of her experience:

After 13 years at ICADV, I took a sabbatical this fall... consequently it rained every day in October. Sorry, my bad. Nevertheless, I was able to write, walk my dog, reconnect with my spiritual practice, and spend time with old friends. There have been some significant changes and challenges in my personal life over the last few years and it was a relief to have time to sit back and process them. Thank you for the opportunity to decompress and re-energize myself.

# Fiscal Report

ICADV ended fiscal year 2009 with \$1,699,895 in revenue and \$1,733,909 in expenses, representing an overall net loss of \$34,014. At the end of this fiscal year, the cash balance was \$61,130, due to past years' overall net income.



## '09 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

On September 15, 96% of Iowa DV programs participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following

figures represent the services provided in one 24-hour period:

- 924 victims served in one day
- 456 victims were provided shelter
- 468 victims received non-residential assistance and services

- 389 hotline calls answered
- 1,084 educated in prevention and education trainings
- 102 requests for services were left unmet

## PREVENTION

ICADV jumped into prevention work with both feet in 2009. Tess Putnam joined our staff as a full-time AmeriCorps member thanks to a small DELTA PREP grant. The DELTA PREP program helps DV coalitions figure out how to incorporate prevention into every facet of our work. Tess and ICADV's trainer, Kirsten Faisal, went to a national training and learned everything they needed to know to get the rest of the staff rolling on prevention.

We started by holding a family biking event called "Break the Cycle, Ride Your Bike," in October. The event was officially called off due to bad weather, but we took the show on the road and presented material to over 200 students in Des Moines elementary schools. The message was very well received!

We also followed the DELTA PREP program and reworked our mission and vision to include prevention as a primary focus. We are proud of the final product and excited to see how it will guide us in our future work.

Finally, Tess organized a men's committee to create partnerships with men who are doing work related to prevention in communities around Iowa. The group is meeting regularly and making plans for the coming year. We are looking forward to more challenging prevention work in 2010.

## HOUSING & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Economic abuse can be a big part of a batterer's power over their victim. The role of our housing and economic justice program is to take that power away from abusers. In a year when survivors across the state of Iowa have experienced great economic hardship, that job has provided many challenges.

In 2009, we trained and equipped more than 40 advocates to implement domestic violence specific financial literacy education in their programs. We also held our first ever webinar on housing options for new immigrants. Additionally, we provided ongoing technical assistance to programs in accessing stimulus programs including the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program as well as the state-sponsored stimulus program IJOBS.

## The 3rd Annual It's About Time Gala resulted in more than \$61,000 to fight domestic violence!

### THANK YOU

Supporting Sponsors! \$5,000- \$7,500

Time to Obtain Safety Sponsors! \$2,500



& Shawne P. Kleckner

Time to Change the Law Sponsors! \$1,000

Mike & Marne  
Woods

Scott Frost with  
Morgan Stanley



### Special Thanks to:

Mike Sunstrom our auctioneer, Joseph's for our beautiful awards, PALS Linen & Uniforms for the donation of table linens, Nancy Ferguson of Visions of You Photography, and our Emcees Catilin Coyner of KCCI, Erin Kiernan of WHO, and Rachel Pierce of ABC5!

Roxanne &  
James Conlin  
Family Trust



Time to Train Sponsors! \$500

William & Sarabeth Anderson

Ankeny Jaycees

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Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys

Krista Jacob & Jim Oliver

Polk County Women Attorneys

Principle Financial

Johna Sullivan

Internet Solver

Food and Beverage Providers



Mary Ann  
Smith Catering



## DEVELOPMENT

This year ICADV's development department got geeky in a big way! No, we didn't all start wearing suspenders and pocket protectors here in the office, but we did start to utilize different social media and fundraising websites online, with great success.

We used firstgiving.com for our

annual fund drive this year, and sent out a lot fewer actual letters. So, we saved on materials, postage, and staff time, and raised **\$18,196 in individual donations**. This is more than double our 2008 donations! (visit [www.icadv.org/thankYou.asp](http://www.icadv.org/thankYou.asp) for a full list of donors.)

You can donate online anytime at <http://www.firstgiving.com/16309>.

You can also check out ICADV on facebook.com. Yes, we have finally jumped on the Facebook bandwagon. We are on Facebook in a

few different forms. Our group has more than 375 members, and more than 250 people are fans of It's About Time.

The easiest way for you to get connected is to go to [www.facebook.com/ICADV](http://www.facebook.com/ICADV). This takes you to our event page. Become a fan of our event, and then click the link to go to our facebook group, and you can join that too.

Finally, we are on Twitter too! Follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/ICADV>.

ICADV Board of Directors

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ICADV Vision Statement

- Every woman will be safe in her own home.
- No woman will fear the one she loves.
- Women and their children will be treated with dignity and respect.
- Communities will support healthy relationships and healthy sexuality.

# LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS: MUNA & SKYLARK

This past year, the **MUNA Clinic** served more than 1,000 clients, working on immigration cases, protective orders, and family law cases. They also held 91 trainings, reaching more than 1900 people with important information about the intersection between immigration and domestic violence. Despite funding challenges, MUNA is working hard to assist victims all over the state. MUNA staff have also been working hard to build their collaborative approach to providing services, working with various ICADV programs such as prevention and economic justice, to make sure each survivor has what they need to thrive.

Finally, congratulations are in order for Tina L.B. Fisher and family, on an adorable baby boy, born in January!

The **Skylark Project** expanded its services in the past year to become more comprehensive. The vast majority of women at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women have been victims of domestic

violence or sexual assault at some point in their lives – prison officials estimate the number around 80%. Many women at the prison express anxiety about returning to their communities because they fear both the stress of re-entering society and avoiding re-victimization. In response, the Skylark Project began offering re-entry counseling to help individual women connect with service providers in their communities and increase their chances of successful re-entry. In addition, we began facilitating *Seeking Safety* classes designed to teach healthy coping skills for dealing with the co-occurrence of post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse. Most of our staff are now trained facilitators, and since last spring have facilitated seven fourteen-week courses.

We are also continuing to assist women with commutation applications, and we accepted three new clients in the fall. With the help of University of Iowa College of Law students, we are assisting seven women with their applications for commutation.

## CHILD WELFARE

This year, Annette Williams, our child welfare coordinator, was very active in communities around Iowa. She served as a trainer, providing over 430 professionals in various fields with valuable information that will allow them to better serve children that they come into

contact with in the course of their work. She consulted directly on cases for more than 35 victims, providing vital insight into how domestic violence affects children. Finally, she provided technical assistance to various service agencies, such as the Department of Human Services, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, and the Children's Justice Council,

among others. Annette has been very busy, because on top of all that, she had a lovely baby boy this December! Congratulations to the Williams family!



## RURAL EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY HELP (REACH)

**R**EACH, ICADV's AmeriCorps program, has had another exciting year. Last year REACH members provided advocacy to hundreds of individuals statewide seeking relief from domestic violence and sexual assault.

Last year, members completed more than 8094 victims contacts, providing short term counseling, medical, personal and legal advocacy, support groups, shelter,

and/or food and supplies. REACH members recruited 245 volunteers who served more than 2570 hours at their programs. In addition, members facilitated 73 presentations in communities across Iowa.

Right: AmeriCorps members complete service projects.

