

Help End Domestic Violence

Vigil commemorates 27 murders in 2011-12

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

A crowd of about 40 people turned out to Dawson Park in North Portland Thursday evening to remember the 27 victims of domestic violence killed during the last year. Around the stage, paper bags, lit up from within represented the dead. The candlelight vigil, organized by Portland Women's Crisis Line, aims to bring the community together to stop partner and family violence.

Rebecca Nickels, executive director of the nonprofit crisis line, introduced the speakers, saying it is the stories of those who have escaped violence that make it possible for her to continue her work.

Survivor Anastacia Papadopolous spoke of escaping a violent relationship. After a vicious attack, where her husband bit off some of her nose and attempted to kill her in front of her children, Papadopolous called the Portland Women's Crisis Line and was given help to leave. Now, she said, she was lending the only thing she had in order to give back, her voice.

Through speaking out, Papadopolous said, "I take something back that was taken from me over the course of 10 years living with an individual who was very violent, physically and emotionally abusive."

More people need to help to prevent more lives being lost, she said.

"We need to talk about domestic violence, not only in the month of October; we need to talk about domestic violence every day because it happens every day.

"I remember coming to last year's event, and thinking I would have been one of those bags," Papadopolous said, he voice breaking. "My name would have been called out and my parents would have been present and maybe even my children if he hadn't killed them too."

Elder Elmer Yarborough, spoke powerfully of being sexually abused as a child, and about the terrible impact of seeing his mother lying on the floor with her head split open and bleeding, left unconscious to die while her attacker continued watching television. If Yarborough had not been able to call the police his mother could be dead, he says. She carries the scars to this day.

"I look on the scar and every time I see it I become angry again but then I remember that my mom survived. In order for us to stop domestic violence

"Young people often times make excuses for why their boyfriends beat them, make up excuses as to why they should succumb: he had a bad day, he was drunk... There's never, ever a reason for any man young or old to out his hands on a woman EVER. I don't care what she did, no woman ever deserves that," he said

Yarborough called up Yashanee Vaughn's little brother Keyonte who brought red balloons.

"As we release these balloons we will never forget Yashanee or anyone else that died because of violence. It is my hope that young men are held accountable for their crimes," he said. "Young women set an example, that when a man put his hands on you walk away from him so that your children not be exposed to such violence that they grow violent and become violent themselves."

Reach the Portland Women's Crisis line at 503-235-5333 or toll free at 888-235-5333. Native American women can call NAYA's crisis line at 503-288-8177. African American women can find culturally specific services at Bradley Angle's Healing Roots Center, 503-281-2442.

Next Week: Part Two: Survivors Speak

Read the rest of this story online at www.theskanner.com



Worship in Pink



An afternoon of inspiration, education and hope is on tap at the Worship in Pink campaign for breast cancer awareness and early detection, Sunday, Oct. 30 from 2 - 6 p.m. at the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center Atrium, 501 N. Graham, in Portland.

The event includes celebration; breast health and wellness information; performance by the Sisters in Survival Choir directed by Julianne Johnson with Janice Scroggins and Ambrosia; a special memorial tribute to those lost to breast cancer; speakers and a special reading of "The Breast Cancer Monologues." The event is free, sponsored by Legacy Health and the Oregon and SW Washington Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE Come and Experience Faith and Miracles!
MINISTRIES

Join us for our
Thanksgiving Service
With Special Musical Guest
Dawn Robinson



Friday, November 18th at 7pm
New Song Community Center
2511 NE MLK Blvd • Portland, OR 97212
Corner of NE MLK Blvd and Russell Street
Doors open at 6pm for every service.
For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481
or log on to www.mfhimportland.com

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Eat Fresh
buy **HOME GROWN**

EASY & FUN TO SHOP • SENSIBLY PRICED
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

The friendliest store in town.
newseasonsmarket.com

