

# Victims of Crime Services Providing a Safe Haven for Victims of Domestic Violence



Toni Made, Renee Silversmith-Wewa, Marie Calica, Lea Wilson and Jolene Boise.

by Lenora Starr

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control approximately 75% of female American Indian/Alaskan Native homicide victims are killed by someone they know; almost one-third are killed by family members.

In Warm Springs, the Victims of Crime Services served 136 clients in 1998 and 234 clients in 1999. Toni

Made, Victims of Crime, Women's/Children's Services Coordinator, "I don't believe there is any more violence in Warm Springs than before. I believe the people are ready now to take a stand against violence in Warm Springs. Please know that we (Victims of Crime Services) are here for you and we do not judge you. We will support your decision and choices. We will represent you and be your voice in your time of need."

The Victims of Crime Services provide a variety of services to victims of crimes. Among these services is crisis intervention which include counseling at the scene of the crime, safe shelter, emotional support and court advocacy. They also provide referral services, emergency transportation and community awareness presentations. According to their pamphlet, the VOCS program offers 24 hour safe shelter for people who are in need of protection from domestic violence. Victims of crime are respected and treated with dignity and compassion. The VOCS Department is here to provide support, information and assistance for victims of crime. Their mission is to promote the safety and justice of all crime services in our community.

Marie Calica is the director of the Victims of Crime Services and is responsible for keeping the program running smoothly. She continually seeks grant monies that keeps the VOCS program operating. Currently VOCS receives a minimum of three grants. The grant dollars have fully furnished the Victims of Crime Services building. Grant monies make up the bulk of the budget. Without the grant assistance and the magnanimity of volunteers it would hardly be possible for the VOCS to continue its services.

Jolene Boise, Secretary for VOCS handle the administrative duties and assists wherever she's needed says,

"I'm more aware of the issues of battered women. I'm aware now that there is a place for them to go and I think that it's good that they have a place to go. I think that it's excellent that there is a program to help them." She transferred from the legal aid department and adds, "It's like jumping the fence. Before in legal aid, we were defending the criminals and here we prosecute them." She notices, "Most of the abuse is because of alcohol abuse."

Lea Wilson is the Indian Women's Prosecutor for Victims of Crime Services. She attended the Central Oregon Community College and transferred to Syracuse University in New York where she studied Political Philosophy and Pre-law as well as ethnic studies.

She received a community service scholarship and worked at the Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance (COBRA) House and that is when she knew that she wanted to work with minorities, "I knew where I wanted to go in life. This is everything I wanted to do. I feel like I'm helping women and children and the true keepers of the land. Just because I'm not Native American doesn't mean I don't care from my heart because I do truly care, my mother is from Spain. I want to learn about the culture. I have been listening to the elders when they speak to me and I listen about the rituals."

Lea Wilson says that victims of crime develop a "learned helplessness

and it becomes a deep seated problem."

VOCS demonstrates the cycle of violence being feelings of tension building to anger and fear which builds into an explosion and then a calmness of loving and contriteness where the batterer makes promises in his state of guilt and remorse, such as "It will never happen again."

There are many reasons why a battered woman will continue the relationship with the batterer. According to information from the VOCS some of them are: A battered woman often faces the most danger when she tries to leave. She may be threatened with violence and death if she tries to leave.

Many women have been trained to believe that they are inferior to men, having less value than men and it is their job to serve the men in their lives.

Many women are so emotionally damaged that they have lost their self-esteem and their own ability to cope with an unknown or difficult situation.

Battered women experience paralyzing fear and they believe there is no place for them to go.

The Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services Staff want the community to know that there is place to go.

When a call is made to the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department, a responding officer will ask the victim if they would like any to speak to someone from the Victims of Crime Services Program. Once the officer and

the victim determine the services of VOCS is necessary, a call is made to VOCS. The responding VOCS staff will assess the situation keeping in mind that the safety of the victim is the main priority. From there it will be decided where to keep the victim safe and what other services can be provided.

Renee Silversmith-Wewa is an Advocate with the VOCS. She recruits volunteers for the program where they presently have 14 volunteers. She was recruited by Sister Pauline to be a volunteer. She says, "Sister Pauline is a big influence on me. Two years ago we went on a Domestic Violence Awareness walk and Sister Pauline convinced me to volunteer." Renee's goal is to be a registered nurse, "But right now I want to help these people. God changed my Plans."

Renee says that the volunteers are a vital part of the VOCS program. Many volunteers are needed: office, on call crisis response, on call shelter response, fund raising, public relations, transportation and other areas. If you would like to become a volunteer contact Renee Silversmith-Wewa or other staff at the Victims of Crime Service Program. VOCS, "We believe in the right of each and every person, to live their lives free of violence. The VOCS provide Services to all people of our nation and community who are survivors of violence."

For more information call 553-2293.

# Local Business Leaders & CBS News Correspondent Hattie Kauffman Speak To Youth In Business Seminar



Hattie Kauffman spends a few moments following her keynote address to answer questions from Victoria Smith and Reina Estimo.

By Lenora Starr

Hattie Kauffman, CBS News Correspondent was the keynote speaker at the Youth Leadership in Business Conference held at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort May 26, 2000. Hattie is a four-time Emmy award winning television news correspondent. In 1989 she became the first Native American journalist to report on a national broadcast.

Hattie offered advice to the junior

and senior high school students, "Whatever business it is you choose to be in, you have to seize the opportunities." She offered as an example the time she was an apprentice at KING TV in Seattle sacrificing many of her weekends to get the story. Any time someone wanted time off she would volunteer to be the reporter for any event assigned to her. Getting those stories and working overtime started opening doors allowing her more television air-

time. She recalls one of her colleagues getting mad at her and saying, "Oh you! Hattie Kauffman, you would cover the rats in the sewer having a meeting at midnight!" She laughs at that memory now but it was her dedication and hard work which earned her the big break to be the first Native American Journalist to file a report on a national broadcasting network. It was on ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings. Since that time she has spoken to vic-

tims of Columbine, residents of a Hawaiian leper colony, a grandmother on death row and Mexican residents making their living from scavenging garbage. She remembers after a request from her producer having to reluctantly ask one of the Mexican residents "What's the most valuable thing you own?" Expecting to get a video shot of the woman showing a cup or something, Hattie is pleasantly surprised to hear the woman respond, "Mi familia" which translates to "my family."

Reina Estimo, a tribal member graduating from Madras this year is hoping to become a journalist. She asked Hattie what Hollywood actors she has interviewed. Hattie has interviewed Whoopi Goldberg, Jeff Goldblume, Elizabeth Taylor and other celebrities.

A daredevil adventure series featured Hattie rock climbing, white water rafting, mountain climbing and scuba diving with dolphins. She's featured on a baseball card in underwater gear with the dolphins.

Colleen Roba owner of the Cartoons Espresso and her daughter Rochelle were the next featured speakers. "I took a 10 week business class and it took me three years to get my business grant. I learned about the business by trial and error," Colleen Roba, Some of the advice Colleen offered to the students who may want to start a small business is to do a lot of research. "We went to a lot of coffee huts to check out the quality of the machines and the products. The owners were really willing to share what they knew of the business."

In her closing comments she said, "You make life what you want it to be. No one will do it for you." Her daughter Rochelle explained that they would be venturing out along the highway for more business. "There's a

lot of traffic that comes through there."

Dalles Stovall, Chief Executive Officer of the Bright Wood Corporation headquartered in Madras was the next featured speaker. The Bright Wood Corporation is a secondary lumber remanufacturing plant selling its products from any of their 14 plants and ships them all over the World. Brightwood also owns a plant in New Zealand.

His father founded Bright Wood in 1960. He and his siblings inherited the company after his father passed away. He told the students, "We have a lot in common. Do you know what that is? I inherited my company. What will you inherit? You will inherit this reservation. That's a big responsibility. Your elders had a good vision. They wanted to have good childcare, good medical care and elder care. What do you have to do to keep it going? Build revenue. What will you contribute to the vision?"

He said the most important thing to becoming a successful business is, "You have to be able to work with people." He continues, "Another good attribute is listening." He says a good leader is a good organizer and is good at listening.

In one form or another, two words resonated from each of the featured speakers. "Hard work," was the two words that echoed throughout the sessions.

Dalles shared with the young audience how his father was a cotton picker from Arkansas and dirt poor. Yet through his hard work he became a successful business owner and managed to put his children through college.

Mike Ahern of Ahern's Grocery and Deli was another featured speaker. He offered this as advice to the stu-

dents: Work hard, be dedicated, take care of the customer, take care of the employees and always look at changing. Fred Wallulatum who offered a prayer to open the workshop asked Mike, "What's the recipe for the chicken?" Mike is keeping that a secret along with the secret sauce.

Robert Macy, Sr. owner of the Warm Springs Market, "When you get into a business, you have to apply yourself 6-7 days a week, 14-16 hours a day." He talked about the many frustrations of running a retail business, taxes on charges accounts, people not paying their charge accounts, employees not showing up to work, and the time and effort it takes to run a business. He did comment on the one thing to avoid, "An absentee manager is a good target to get taken (embezzlement)." Me and my wife won't leave the store more than 5 days. Although a good amount of money comes through the store, the Macy's are fortunate to see 6% of that money once the bills are paid.

Ron Suppah was the last speaker. He offered this advice, "Work hard and select good people. He told the students the vision has to be accepted by yourself and your team. Know the tribal process. Have a good business plan. Utilize the experts, such as the small business center staff. Know your Land Use Committee. Lobby. Know your Tribal Council. Know the Tribal Realty process. And he closes with, "Stay positive and have a good attitude, work hard and just do it."

The students had an opportunity to attend a dance in the evening and finish out the conference the next day with some closing statements by Mike Clements and a networking luncheon.

# Gathering of Nations 2000 Award Two Warm Springers In Dance & Speaking Events



Aurelia Stacona Places 2nd in Golden Age Women's Buckskin

By Lenora Starr

The 17th Annual Gathering of Nations pow-wow held at the University of New Mexico Pit attracted more than 2,800 Native American dancers, 48 drums and thousands of spectators.

Aurelia Stacona placed 2nd in the Golden age Women's Buckskin category and Charles Tailfeathers took the Northern Men's Traditional Championship. They each took home a portion of G.O.N.'s \$100,000 in prize monies.

The Gathering of Nations is the premier event for the Miss Indian

World. This year, Lillian Sparks, a Rosebud Sioux residing in Maryland will travel worldwide as Miss Indian World 2000. Although Miss Warm Springs 2000, Alyssa Macy was not chosen as Miss Indian World, she did capture the spotlight to be honored with a trophy for being the best public speaker. Twenty four young women competed for the title this year.

History was made when the 19 Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico gathered together for their first public performance. Never has all the 19 tribes gathered together for such an event. Although they are Pueblos, their style

of dress was different and there songs are different. They had to come together to learn a song together and dance together. At they paraded in onto the floor from the tunnel of the pit, the announcer rallied a roar from the crowd when he announced the "The Pueblos obviously survived the Spanish attack on their people, because here they are. All 19 Pueblos Tribes of New Mexico, dancing and singing before us."

Another historical event took place. Presidential Candidate Al Gore made a brief appearance at the Gathering of Nations Pow-wow.

For a spectator seeing a pow-wow this large for the first time, the event was overwhelming. The grand entry of dances dressed in their finest regalia descending from the stairs of the arena to the floor of the pit to dance behind the flags of our nation. Dancers from all over the United States and Canada joining together on the floor for one grand entry, the colors swirling together make it difficult to distinguish one dance from another.

MariJo Moore featured writer in the Gathering of Nations official program offers her insight as to why the Native American people dance. "To dance is to pray is to heal, to heal is to give, to give is to live, to live is to dance. These lines express my belief that the dances of American Indians are beautiful metaphors for celebrating life to the fullest."

Entertainment was provided while dancers took a break. Among the entertainment were Northern Lights from Alaska. They were a group of youth who demonstrated a variety of cultural dances indigenous to their tribes. Other entertainers included Lewis Burns from Australia, Delphine Tsinajinne, Chief Billie with his band and Aragon Star and her band.

The Indian Traders' Market was set up adjacent to the arena under a big tent. Inside the tent were artists selling, turquoise and silver jewelry, sand paintings, beadwork, tanned buckskin, and almost anything you can imagine

that can be created by the hands of artists. Just outside the tent were the food vendors selling everything from bar-b-que chicken to fry bread. Fry bread made by the Pueblos was selling

for \$3 a piece.

The Gathering of Nations Committee are in the process of planning the next gathering. They are non-profit organization who's vision is to pro-

mote the traditions and culture of Native American People in the most positive manner possible. Also to provide Native and Non-Natives people to participate, practice, teach and exchange tribal traditions among all tribes.



Lillian Sparks is the new Miss Indian World. Alyssa Macy looks on from the background. Alyssa was selected as the best public speaker



World Class Chantpuit



Historical dance Performance