

Celebrating Solutions Award Nomination Form

Section 1 – General Program Information

Legal Name of Organization: Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc. (JGCC)

Year Established: 1982

Program nominated for award (if different): Greater Newburyport Domestic Violence
High Risk Case Response Team

Year Established: August 2004

Address: Two Harris Street

City/State/ZIP code: Newburyport, MA 01950

Contact Person: Suzanne C. Dubus

Title: Executive Director

Phone Number: 978-465-0999

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Email Address: SCDubus@JeanneGeigerCrisisCenter.org

Website Address: www.JeanneGeigerCrisisCenter.org

Brief description of the organization: Serving nearly 1,200 adults and 175 children annually, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center offers a 24-hour hotline, safety planning, high risk case review, a rapid response team, counseling, children's trauma intervention, court advocacy, legal representation, economic empowerment, self-esteem workshops, and referrals. The organization defines domestic violence as a public health issue that is only preventable when a coordinated community response is set in action. Staff and volunteers partner with social service agencies, law enforcement, hospitals, schools and businesses in order to form a safe haven in which local adults and children can overcome endangerment and fear as they move toward safety and independence.

Geographical area served: Direct services for clients are provided in nine cities and towns in northeastern Massachusetts. Professional education/consulting services are provided on a statewide basis and increasingly to regional and national audiences.

Is the organization tax-exempt under IRS 501 (c) (3) guidelines or a public agency/unit of government?

Yes

Please check up to five descriptors that best apply to the program you are nominating:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Prison-based |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care setting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coalition/collaboration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dating violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School/youth violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology/Internet service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underserved population | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment/training program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Hotline service |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal aid/assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public awareness/education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University setting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police/law enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batterer treatment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Multi-disciplinary risk assessment</u> |

Section II – Program Questions

Please use separate pages to respond to the following questions. Responses should be kept to 5 pages or less. Please use 12-point font size or larger.

1. Describe the mission of your organization in five sentences or less.
2. Describe the most innovative aspects of the program you are submitting for consideration.
3. Describe your program's implementation. What barriers did your organization have to overcome? How did you marshal the necessary resources for implementation?
4. How do you know your program works? Please site two examples. Although anecdotal examples are helpful, at least one example must include quantitative data.
5. Who are your key partners? What are their roles?
6. Could/should your program be replicated in other areas of the country? Why?

Section III – Signature

As one of the goals of the Mary Byron Foundation is to disseminate information about innovative programs and best practices, we wish to post exemplary Celebrating Solutions Award nominations on our website at www.marybyronfoundation.org. Those posted will include the organization's contact information. If you have concerns about this request, please address them to information@marybyronfoundation.org prior to submitting a nomination.

By my signature on this nomination, I grant the Mary Byron Foundation permission to use the contents of my nomination for the Celebrating Solutions Award in the manner and for the purposes set above. I further affirm that I am fully authorized to grant such permission to the Mary Byron Foundation.

Signature Suzanne C. Luhs

Date Oct. 3, 2007

Program Questions – Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

Mission of the Organization

The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is to empower members of our community to live free from fear, intimidation, violence or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy and education. One of our primary objectives is to improve victims' quality of life by giving them the option of remaining safely in their own neighborhoods – in the familiar places where they live, work, and attend school. We have structured our organization and our goals around achieving a paradigm shift: we want to move beyond shelters as the solution to domestic violence, and instead move toward system reform, batterer accountability, survivor self-sufficiency, and overall long-term stabilization.

Innovative Aspects

This nomination is for the *High Risk Case Response Team (HRCRT)* – our proven means of stopping violence against women by unifying the fragmented work of groups that are individually strong, but collectively stronger. Established in 2004, the HRCRT brings diverse parties to the table to identify high risk victims, share information, and strategize on individualized intervention plans.

The innovative aspects of the HRCRT are that it (1) is a collaborative effort among nine community groups, (2) uses a unique risk assessment to determine dangerousness, (3) utilizes cutting edge Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to monitor the locations of the most dangerous offenders, and (4) radically shifts our methods of victim protection away from shelter-based solutions, toward safer communities in general.

Led by us at the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, HRCRT members also include five local police stations, the probation department, the local hospital, and the area batterer's intervention program. These members agreed to work together beginning in August, 2004 at a public meeting convened by the district court judge. The meeting was held in the wake of a domestic violence homicide that occurred after the victim – a woman who was well known to advocates, the police, the courts, and the hospital – chose to remain in her home rather than flee, as she had done so many times before.

At the meeting, each group put forth the same question: "Can this community identify high risk cases earlier, and if so, can we provide interventions that interrupt the cycle of escalating violence that are not predicated on the victim escaping to shelter?" Firmly believing that fatalities can be foreseen and prevented, the parties at the table ended the meeting by agreeing to form an HRCRT that could collectively answer "Yes" to the aforementioned question.

To identify the most dangerous cases, the HRCRT developed risk assessment tools based on the research of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell. These assessments, which are completed jointly by victim advocates, responding officers and probation officers, provide a common language for discussing cases across various disciplines. The risk assessments form the basis for the individualized intervention plans, which are developed collaboratively and with significant participation from the victims, who are represented by Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. Considering the lethality level

of each case, the risk assessments and the intervention plans are updated continuously as the situations unfold.

The use of risk assessments is innovative and challenges the traditionally incident-driven criminal justice system to widen the lens through which domestic violence cases are viewed. The assessments help illustrate the batterer's history and pattern of behaviors, and allow for considering distinct acts of violence in context. When the lethality factors and violent behavior patterns are understood system-wide, homicides can be prevented.

Another unique contribution of the HRCRT is that team members were able to provide testimony that ultimately led to legislation to expand the use of GPS as a tool to monitor habitual domestic violence offenders. Greater Newburyport has been leading the way in the use of this technology as part of a coordinated response.

Implementation, Barriers, and Resources

The objectives of the HRCRT are to:

- Identify high risk cases
- Increase offender accountability
- Interrupt the escalation of violence by creating individualized intervention plans
- Improve the victim's trust in the criminal justice system
- Improve the victim's access to community-based services
- Increase the number of strangulation cases identified, charged and prosecuted
- Increase the number of 58A Dangerousness hearings
- Increase the number of victim contacts
- Increase the number of cases using GPS

The methodology for accomplishing these objectives is based on four guiding principles: (1) risk assessments help determine which offenders are dangerous; (2) close monitoring of dangerous offenders must be continuous and coordinated, (3) information changes rapidly in high risk cases; and (4) clear channels of communication must exist across all disciplines.

In a twelve-month period, the HRCRT screens hundreds of cases and intervenes in about forty of the most lethal ones. These cases are continuously evaluated and monitored using risk assessments, affidavits, anecdotal evidence, and the expertise of the HRCRT members, who meet at least monthly. In between meetings, team members exchange case updates via email and crisis-oriented conference calls. Team members, in turn, share vital information and response plans with their respective departments.

In a follow-up interview, one victim described the benefit of our approach with these words: *"Because he had several outstanding warrants the police were able to arrest him without ever putting me in the middle – something I was extremely grateful for. The High Risk Team was able to work together to get the best outcome for me and my child, and they did it by keeping me out of the picture until I eventually became strong enough to stand up to him. For that I will be forever grateful."*

Regarding barriers to implementation, the greatest threat involved the cultural differences between the parties on the HRCRT. Generally speaking, there are long-standing, deeply engrained differences between the police perspective and the advocate perspective on matters pertaining to domestic violence. Consequently, barriers could have arisen if the team members felt unwilling to share their territories; if different groups misunderstood each other's roles; or if key contributors interpreted confidentiality rules too narrowly. The threat of these occurrences, however, was relatively easy to overcome due to the groundwork laid by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center between 2002 and 2004.

During those years, the agency (then called the Women's Crisis Center) implemented its *Building Bridges* program, which was nominated for a 2005 Celebrating Solutions Award. *Building Bridges* is a training curriculum conceived and developed by the staff of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and civilian advocates. A first step of law enforcement-advocacy partnerships, the program builds trust between unlike groups, without attempting to change organizational cultures. By practicing a deeper understanding of each other, different groups can migrate toward effectively working together.

With most groups in Greater Newburyport having already participated in the *Building Bridges* program before August 2004, the HRCRT members were ready to move forward on active collaboration. The members were able to honor their different internal values and to find overlap in common goals, namely victim safety and effective police response.

A second potential obstacle to HRCRT operations related to lack of funding. For nearly three years, the HRCRT operated without having specific funds designated for its support. Despite the lack of financial resources, the participating groups made their involvement a priority and found creative ways to self-sponsor the team. Job responsibilities were reconsidered; database support was contributed; training resources were donated, etc. Having operated without funding for a significant period, and having proven its effectiveness, the HRCRT is now hopeful that public funds will become available to support its operation and the replication of its model program.

In terms of resources, the most important ones were largely intangible, such as having all parties recognize the need to change the systemic response to domestic violence; having philosophical agreement on the next course of action; and having effective working relationships in place. (While these were important resources to the Greater Newburyport HRCRT, it should be noted that these resources can be developed nearly anywhere, as they are primarily contingent on having a passion for the cause and a willingness to collaborate.) Also significant was the fact that the community-based interventions were vibrant and strong.

Evidence of Effectiveness

From its onset, the HRCRT set out to measure its effectiveness. Performance measures included:

- Screening 100% of domestic violence cases for dangerousness and lethality factors
- Holding monthly meetings of all partners at the Newburyport Police Department
- Identifying and closely monitoring the highest risk cases
- Providing more women and children with services in the community (not at a shelter)
- Measuring the number of strangulation cases identified, charged and prosecuted
- Measuring the number of 58A Dangerousness hearings, as well as cases on GPS
- Measuring the number of victim contacts

The results are promising. Since its inception, the HRCRT has identified and monitored 42 victims who were in extreme danger. Of these, only 2 (5%) have been re-assaulted. There have been no homicides.

All of the cases involved a male perpetrator and a female victim. Of the victims, 95% remained in their homes. 73% of the women also received a variety of tangential support services from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. Offering their perspectives, some women have told us that involvement from the HRCRT "*dramatically improved*" their ability to leave, because they felt supported and because the risk assessments provided a "*dose of reality*" about how perilous their situations truly were.

Regarding the offenders, 74% had criminal justice involvement after the case was accepted by the HRCRT. Of these perpetrators, 54% were detained prior to trial as a consequence of dangerousness hearings or probation violations. Twenty cases have closed: 19 closed relatively quickly by plea bargain, after which 75% of the batterers were incarcerated, 15% received probation with mandated batterer's intervention, and 5% were continued without a finding. Another case went to trial and the defendant was found not guilty. Overall, violent perpetrators have been kept off the streets.

The second example that illustrates the effectiveness of the HRCRT has to do with the recognition that has been earned from independent experts. In October 2007, the HRCRT received the *Spirit of Advocacy Award* from the *National Network to End Domestic Violence*. In May 2007, a report issued by the *Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security* ("*Domestic Violence in Massachusetts: Providing Tools to Protect Victims*," pg. 18) recommended that the HRCRT project be funded as a model for replication in Massachusetts.

Awarded the *Essex County Anti-Crime Council's Good Citizen Award* (2006), the HRCRT was also the subject of published reviews in *Domestic Violence Update* (April/May 2007) and *Slate* (May 2007). Presentations about the team model have also been made at important conferences, namely the *11th International Conference on Violence, Abuse & Trauma* and the *MA District Attorneys' Victim Witness Advocate Conference*.

In proclaiming October 2007 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, *Governor Deval Patrick* described the work of the HRCRT as a promising practice. So far this year there have been no domestic violence-related homicides in the region covered by the HRCRT, while elsewhere in Massachusetts the number of these homicides has greatly increased over last year's figures.

Overall, the HRCRT has earned recognition for its role in providing victims with options other than shelter; for introducing tools that objectively show the dangerousness of batterers; and for exemplifying a new level of community engagement.

Key Partners

Led by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, the HRCRT includes the Chief Probation Officer from the District Court (Newburyport, MA), the Director of Batterer's Intervention at Caritas Holy Family Hospital (Methuen, MA), staff of Anna Jaques Hospital (Newburyport, MA), and police officers from Amesbury, Newburyport, Newbury, West Newbury and Salisbury, MA. The HRCRT also holds a memorandum of support from the Essex County District Attorney's office

and receives consultation from Diane Rosenfeld, a domestic violence expert from the Harvard University School of Law.

Victims of domestic violence are also key partners, providing essential input to the HRCRT process. Advocates from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center inform the victims of their options and empower them to make decisions. In turn, the victims' requests and concerns are communicated through the advocates to the other external partners. (Written consent is obtained prior to sharing information. Only essential information is shared, and only with those people who absolutely need to know.)

Representing the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center are two key staff who have led the effort in forming the team and maintaining its momentum. These individuals are:

Kelly Dunne, Associate Director, joined the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in 1997. Kelly has designed and implemented trainings for the Executive Office of Public Safety, the MA Office of the Commissioner of Probation, and the MA Police Academy. Her work focuses on reviewing the civil liberty rights of battered women and the systems set up to protect those rights. Named an Unsung Heroine by the MA Commission on the Status of Women, Kelly has testified before the Joint Commission on Public Safety and Homeland Security on how the criminal justice response to domestic violence crimes can be reformed.

Mardi Chadwick, Esq., Victim Services Coordinator, became an employee of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in 1998. For nine years, she has represented countless women in contested family law matters in the probate and family courts. She continues to provide representation in the most difficult cases. Mardi has conducted various trainings throughout the Commonwealth for criminal justice professionals, including law enforcement, probation officers, attorneys, and victim advocates. She is a tireless supporter of battered and threatened women and is a leader in calling for systemic reform.

Replication

We are determined to share our methods as we actively seek to improve the options that are available for victims outside of our region. In the words of Marilee Kenney Hunt, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has "*exactly what our experts describe as their vision for an enhanced response.*" We believe the time has come to help expand the practice of our methods. In fact, we are currently seeking to provide training and technical assistance to three additional district court jurisdictions in Massachusetts.

The HRCRT is an easily replicable model. The basic strategies of early identification of high risk offenders, coordination and communication, individualized intervention, and monitoring and containment of high risk offenders can be implemented anywhere. While variations of the team process might be developed to accommodate different geographical settings or team compositions, the core methods have a high degree of general applicability.



JEANNE GEIGER CRISIS CENTER, INC.

Mary Byron Foundation Responses

a) There are two distinct populations that this program reaches: the first is the victims of high risk perpetrators, those at the most serious of grave injury or homicide. Each year we are screening in approximately 25 high risk clients. The second population reached by this project is the number of new communities that are requesting technical assistance from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to implement their own high risk teams thereby reaching many more victims. During FY08 we provided training to three new communities.

b) Cited as Model Program for replication throughout Massachusetts, Domestic Violence in Massachusetts, Providing Tools to Protect Victims, Senator Jarrett T. Barrios, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, May 2006

Essex County Anti-Crime Council, Good Citizens Award, October 2006

National Network to End Domestic Violence, Spirit of Advocacy Award, October 2007

Highlighted in Governor Deval Patrick's press conference in October 2007 as a promising practice that will help end domestic violence homicides

Awarded contracts by the Executive Office of Public Safety to conduct two conferences about risk assessment and forming multidisciplinary teams (December 2007)

Contracted by the Department of Social Services to create a fifty-page manual about risk assessment that will be distributed to all Massachusetts domestic violence organizations.

c) We created the Greater Newburyport High Risk Response Team because we needed to have a plan in place for those victims of high risk violent offenders who could not or would not go into a domestic violence shelter. Our vision is that every state will have a network of high risk teams that will end domestic violence homicides; that women and children will be able to stay in their own homes, their own communities safely because the criminal justice system will hold offender's accountable for their crimes.

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Client Services

Supplemental Questions

1. The Greater Newburyport High Risk Response Team uses risk assessment tools to identify cases that are at greatest risk of serious re-assault or a potentially lethal attack. Risk assessments provide a framework for communication to put violence into context. The team develops individualized intervention plans to interrupt the cycle of escalating violence. Increased monitoring of dangerous offenders and the sharing of information among disciplines ensures that these cases do not slip through cracks in the system.

Any of the team members can bring cases to the team. The team meets on a monthly basis but we have protocols in place should a case need to be brought in the interim. When a case is presented, the entire team constructs a timeline to determine if the violence is escalating in severity or frequency. Once the case is accepted as a high risk case, we identify different strategies to contain the offender to keep the victim safe.

2. According to *“Assessing Justice System Response to Violence Against Women: A Tool for Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and the Courts to Use in Developing Effective Responses”*, a report from the Office on Violence Against Women, “Early intervention in violence against women cases coupled with meaningful penalties and sanctions for offenders can save lives and prevent future violence.” The foundation of the Greater Newburyport High Risk team is risk assessment. Based on our research on risk assessment we created officer checklists and trained all officers in each department on risk assessment protocol. Each officer assesses for risk factors on scene at every domestic violence call and those risk factors are included in the narrative of the police report. (The highest risk factors are threats to kill; possession of a weapon; strangulation; forced sex; extreme jealousy or possessiveness.) The investigator that does the follow up on these cases conducts further investigation particularly when the highest risk factors are present.

Advocates and social workers on the team tend to have more time with the victim than law enforcement and for that reason we screen high risk cases using the danger assessment scale. We score the danger assessment internally and use the results to help inform our work to keep the victim safe.

3. See year two report....(attached)
4. At the end of the year we interview victim/survivors to ascertain their experience with the project and how it has effected their lives. One victim reported that “being labeled high risk was initially hard to accept” but it helped her to “understand the reality of what happened”. Another victim suspects that victims “don’t realize what high risk is” and the risk assessments provided a “dose of reality “that it “really is that bad”. Victim/survivors also reported that help from the team “dramatically improved” their ability to leave because they “felt supported” and “like I wasn’t making it up”. One woman

stated that without the team "I wouldn't have been able to leave, not a chance."

5. The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center created Standards of Excellence to use as a guide in our work on the team and as well as with other communities.

Excellent multidisciplinary teams are those that work in concert to monitor and contain the perpetrator to increase the safety of the intended victim(s). This is a collaborative problem solving model.

- All team members have received training in risk assessment;
- All team members are aware of their roles, responsibilities and confidentiality restrictions;
- The team leader is a skilled facilitator/leader of the team and encourages communication and accountability among team members;
- The team has regularly scheduled meetings;
- The team has an agreed upon protocol for urgent cases that arise between meetings;
- All team members have the information they need to accomplish its goal of offender containment and victim safety;
- The team collects statistics and tracks outcomes of case dispositions and victim safety;
- The team issues an annual report to the community and its stakeholders on any issues distinctive to its community; the impact of the work of the team, and documents emerging best practices.

The following recommendations are specific for law enforcement and domestic violence organizations as the majority of case referrals and follow up services originate with these team partners.

Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement fully adopts the *Massachusetts Policy for Law Enforcement Response to Domestic*;
- At least 70% of law enforcement officers are trained in risk assessment

Domestic Violence Service Providers

- All staff are trained in risk assessment
- Staff has received certification in Danger Assessment
- Appoint a lead advocate for each high risk case
- Present updates and/or new high risk cases to staff members

We believe the goal is to have several fully operational excellent teams operating in each region across the Commonwealth within three years. To that end, we have identified three distinct phases of a team and the technical assistance we will provide:

Early Teams: are defined as those organizations and communities that have established a good working relationship but have not formed a multidisciplinary team of professionals i.e. domestic violence and sexual assault advocates; law enforcement; probation; healthcare practitioners; batterers intervention; as well as others identified by each community to do this work together.

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center would assist these communities to: map the existing strengths and gaps in the community (using the attached Community Assessment); facilitate a community meeting that gives all potential partners a thorough understanding of risk assessment and the research behind this model; share our experience in the formation of our team. We would also help interested communities create a formal structure to do this work as well as create a timeline to achieve their goal.

Emerging Teams: Have completed the initial work necessary described in "Early Teams" and have now identified the partners and agreed to move forward with forming the team.

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center can provide technical assistance to these teams to meet their immediate goals: 1) establish protocols within each organization on how they will identify high risk cases to present to the team; 2) train *all* partners in risk assessment; 3) train on what it means to be part of a multidisciplinary response model. This is the foundation of the work of the team and there must be a shared understanding and agreement of these principles. We will provide technical assistance through telephone conversations; email correspondence; and individual and group meetings.

Once this work is done, we will provide ongoing technical assistance to address the issues that arise as the teams form and begin the process of presenting cases. Typical issues include the creation and adoption of operating policies and procedures; confidentiality requirements; and team accountability.

Established Teams: This is a seasoned and effective team. The entire team has been trained; the team practices are established and practiced and a memorandum of understanding is in place; the team is meeting regularly and cases are being presented.

The next phase for this team is to collect data and analyze its impact. The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center will provide models and tools for assessing impact. New team members will also be invited if necessary or desirable. Established teams will meet with staff from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center and other peer teams from similar kinds of communities or on a region-wide basis to capture the unique challenges of doing this work; document lessons learned and identify emerging best practices for their communities.

Attachment: question # 3

GREATER NEWBURYPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK CASE RESPONSE TEAM

REPORT 2005 – 2007

Who we are: This team of professionals, led by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc. works together to identify and address the most dangerous cases of domestic violence in the Greater Newburyport community. The team is made up of professionals from victim services, probation, law enforcement, certified batterer's intervention program and the local hospital. The team uses risk assessment tools to identify victims at greatest risk of a serious re-assault or a potential lethal attack. The team develops individualized intervention plans to interrupt the cycle of escalating violence. By increasing the monitoring of the dangerous offenders and sharing information across disciplines the team helps to ensure that these dangerous cases do not slip through cracks in the system.

The Greater Newburyport Domestic Violence High Risk Case Response Team accepted 42 cases from April 2005 through April 2007.

Victim Demographics

Age	15 and under	16-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	Unknown
	0	7% (3)	21% (9)	26% (11)	36% (15)	3% (1)	7% (3)

Race	White	Hispanic
	93% (39)	7% (3)

Employment Status	Employed	Unemployed	Students	Unknown
	38% (16)	24% (10)	7% (3)	31% (13)

Length of Relationship	0-1 Years	1-3 years	3-5 years	5-7 years	7-9 years	10+ years	Unknown
	10.5% (4)	26% (11)	9.5% (4)	9.5% (4)	9.5% (4)	24% (11)	10.5% (4)

Victim Study (N=42)

- 100% of the cases involved a male perpetrator and a female victim
- 38% of the cases involved either spouses or ex-spouses
- 62% involved dating relationships
- 93% reported previous domestic violence
- 33% reported an increase in the severity of the violence over time
- 57% had children in common with the perpetrators
- 31% reported that children witnessed the violence
- 22% received medical attention for injuries
- 55% had a non fatal strangulation incident
- 86% had restraining orders against their perpetrators at the time the case was accepted
- 5% (2) victims reported re-assaults after the team accepted the case
- 73% utilized follow up services from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center
- 5% (2) victims fled to domestic violence shelters.

Attachment: question # 3**Perpetrator Demographics**

Age	15 and under	16-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
	0	5% (2)	17% (7)	40% (17)	33% (14)	5% (2)	0

Race	White	Hispanic	African American
	(90%) 38	5% (2)	5% (2)

Employment status	Employed	Unemployed	Workman's Comp	Unknown
	38% (16)	24% (10)	2% (1)	33% (14)

Perpetrator Study (N=42)

- 74% had substance abuse problems
- 12% had diagnosed mental health disorders
- 31% had reported incidents of abuse towards children on the risk assessment; 85% (11) of those reported incidents rose to the level of physical or sexual abuse
- 7% threatened/attempted to kidnap children that he had in common with the victim
- 19% abused pets
- 66% threatened to kill their partners
- 33% threatened to commit suicide
- 57% exhibited stalking behavior
- 13% were charged with intimidating a witness
- 24% used a weapon in an assault.
- 29% had access to guns

Case Dispositions (N=31)

- 74% (31) had criminal justice involvement after the case was accepted by the team
- 95% (19) were disposed of through a plea bargain, 5%(1) went to trial
- **75% (15) of dispositions resulted in incarceration.**
- 15% (3) received probation and certified batterer's intervention as part of their sentence
- 5% (1) were found not guilty
- 5% (1) were continued without a finding
- 54% (15) of those with criminal justice involvement were detained prior to trial; of these 93% (14) were held on dangerousness hearings (M.G.L. c. 276 § 58A) and 7% (1) was held on probation violation surrender.
- 40% (8) of those disposed had GPS tracking devices placed on them. Of those on GPS, 38% (3) were pre-trial and 62% (5) were post-sentencing
- There have been no violations in any cases using GPS tracking.

Victim Perspectives

- **Risk Assessments help victims realize the danger of their situations.** One victim reported that being labeled "high risk" was initially "hard to accept," but it helped her to "understand the reality of what happened." Another victim suspects that many victims "don't realize what high risk is" and the risk assessments provided a "dose of reality" that it "really is that bad."

Attachment: question # 3

- **The coordinated team response provided victims with more options to safely leave the relationship.** Victims reported that help from the team “dramatically improved” their ability to leave because they “felt supported” and “like I wasn’t making it up.” One woman stated that without the team “I wouldn’t have been able to leave, not a chance.”

Conclusions

- **Risk Assessments provide a common language** across disciplines to discuss cases and develop interventions. Risk assessments put individual incidents of violence into context and gather information essential to an effective criminal justice response.
- **Multidisciplinary communication and a coordinated response are critical** to victim safety and offender accountability. 95% of victims reported no further assaults during this 2 year period, 54% of the offenders were held on pre-trial detainment, and 75% received committed time.
- **Increased monitoring of offenders and use of the M.G.L. c. 276 § 58A dangerousness hearing are powerful tools** to increase victim safety. Research shows that most intimate partner homicides occur after separation. Using all available methods to monitor and contain high risk offenders including GPS is essential to victim safety.
- **Safer Communities:** Safety planning in these cases included detaining the high risk perpetrator before disposition giving the victims safety options beyond shelter.

Recognition:

Cited as Model Program for replication throughout Massachusetts, Domestic Violence in Massachusetts, Providing Tools to Protect Victims, Senator Jarrett T. Barrios, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, May 2006

Essex County Anti-Crime Council, Good Citizens Award, October 2006

National Network to End Domestic Violence, Spirit of Advocacy Award, October 2007

FOUNDING PARTNERS

- Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc.
- Newburyport Probation
- Family Safety Project – Caritas Holy Family Hospital
- Amesbury Police Department
- Newburyport Police Department
- Salisbury Police Department
- Newbury Police Department

PARTNERS

- Anna Jacques Hospital
- Rowley Police Department
- West Newbury Police Department

CONSULTANT

Diane Rosenfeld, Harvard Law School

For more information on the team-

Contact Kelly Dunne, Associate Director, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc. at 978-834-9710 ex 20

*Information in this report gathered from victim interviews, risk assessments, police incident reports, court records and information provided by High Risk Team members.

Attachment to Question # 5

Community Readiness Matrix

Current Assessment

- Dual Arrest
- Conviction Rate – Plea vs. Trial
- Probation/Level Supervised
- Batterer Intervention (referrals and compliance) and Anger Management
- Homicide Rate
- 209A Violation Rate/Issued
- Dangerousness Hearings (58A)
- GPS Usage
- 51A Rate
- Stats From DV Agency
- Domestic / Proper Categorization

Relationships

- Buy in Top
- Key Partners at the Table – cell phones
- Legacy Issues
- Leadership / Qualified + Credible and has the time to lead.
- Commitment to change

Services & Resources

- DV Services Legal/Economic
- Roundtable
- Technology
- DV Officer
- Adequate cameras
- Specialized Probation Officer
- VAWA Funded Advocate
- Batterer Intervention
- Training Money
- Funding
- Data Management

Training

- DV Agency- Risk Assessment
- Police Training – 70% Uniformed Officers and Dispatch
- District Attorneys and Victim Advocates
- Roles, Legacy Issues, Existing Collaborative, Confidentiality, Relationship Building

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: FEB 11 2000

Employer Identification Number:
22-2474823

DLN:
17053001712040

Contact Person: JEFFREY D SPROUL ID# 31182

Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500

Our Letter Dated:
November of 1983

Addendum Applies:
No

WOMENS CRISIS CENTER OF
GREATER NEWBURYPORT INC
~~21 STOREY AVE~~ 2 HARRIS ST.
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950

Dear Applicant:

This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization that is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

Your exempt status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is still in effect. Based on the information you submitted, we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(1) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(1) organization.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your private foundation status, please keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown above.

Sincerely yours,

Steven T. Miller

Steven T. Miller
Director, Exempt Organizations

District Director

P.O. Box 1680, GPO Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202

Date: JAN 19 1984

Women's Crisis Center of Greater Newburyport, Inc.
166 High Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Employer Identification Number:
22-2474823
Accounting Period Ending:
June 30th
Foundation Status Classification:
509(a)(1)
Advance Ruling Period Ends:
June 30, 1985
Person to Contact:
E. Wadoski
Contact Telephone Number:
(617) 223-4241

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Because you are a newly created organization, we are not now making a final determination of your foundation status under section 509(a) of the Code. However, we have determined that you can reasonably be expected to be a publicly supported organization described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Accordingly, you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period. This advance ruling period begins on the date of your inception and ends on the date shown above.

Within 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period, you must submit to us information needed to determine whether you have met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period. If you establish that you have been a publicly supported organization, you will be classified as a section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization as long as you continue to meet the requirements of the applicable support test. If you do not meet the public support requirements during the advance ruling period, you will be classified as a private foundation for further periods. Also, if you are classified as a private foundation, you will be treated as a private foundation from the date of your inception for purposes of sections 507(d) and 4940.

Letter 1045(DO)(6-77)

(2)

grantors and donors may rely on the determination that you are not a private foundation until 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period. If you submit the required information within 90 days, grantors and donors may continue to rely on the advance determination until the Service makes a final determination of your foundation status. However, if notice that you will no longer be treated as a section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) organization is published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, grantors and donors may not rely on this determination after the date of such publication. Also, a grantor or donor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act that resulted in your loss of section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) status, or acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service has given notice that you would be removed from classification as a section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) organization.

If your sources of support, or your purposes, character, or method of operation change, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. Also, you should inform us of all changes in your name or address.

Generally, you are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. If you have paid FICA taxes without filing the waiver, you should call us. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other Federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

You are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$10,000*, or \$25,000 for years ended on or after December 31, 1982. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$10 a day, up to a maximum of \$5,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

Letter 1045(00)(6-77)

(3)

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



District Director

cc:

This letter supersedes our previous letter dated November 10, 1983.

* For tax years ending on and after December 31, 1982, organizations whose gross receipts are not normally more than \$25,000 are excused from filing Form 990. For guidance in determining if your gross receipts are "normally" not more than the \$25,000 limit, see the instructions for the Form 990.

* Beginning January 1, 1984, unless specifically excepted, you must pay taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) for each employee who is paid \$100 or more in a calendar quarter.

Letter 1045(DO)(6-77)

FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION
no. 22-247823
Fee: \$15.00

Examiner

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108-1512

Name
Approved

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT
(General Laws, Chapter 180, Section 7)

We, Jane Touhy, "President / ~~President~~
and Karen Hudner, "Clerk / ~~Assistant Clerk~~
of Woman's Crisis Center of Greater Newburyport, Inc.
(Exact name of corporation)
located at 2 Harris Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
(Address of corporation in Massachusetts)

do hereby certify that these Articles of Amendment affecting articles numbered:
1
(Number those articles 1, 2, 3, and/or 4 being amended)
of the Articles of Organization were duly adopted at a meeting held on March 28, 2005 by vote of
15 members, 15 directors, or 15 shareholders**.

- Being at least two-thirds of its members legally qualified to vote in meetings of the corporation; OR
- Being at least two-thirds of its directors where there are no members pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 180, Section 3; OR
- In the case of a corporation having capital stock, by the holders of at least two-thirds of the capital stock having the right to vote therein.

That the name of the corporation shall be changed to:
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc.

C
P
M
R.A.

SECRETARY OF STATE
RECEIVED
05 JUN 29 PM 3:31
CORPORATION DIVISION

*Delete the inapplicable words.
**Check only one box that applies.
Note: If the space provided under any article or item on this form is insufficient, additions shall be set forth on one side only of separate 8 1/2 x 11 sheets of paper with a left margin of at least 1 inch. Additions to more than one article may be made on a single sheet so long as each article requiring each addition is clearly indicated.

P.C.

The foregoing amendment(s) will become effective when these Articles of Amendment are filed in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 180, Section 7 unless these articles specify, in accordance with the vote adopting the amendment, a later effective date not more than thirty days after such filing, in which event the amendment will become effective on such later date.

Later effective date: June 30, 2005

SIGNED UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY, this June 21 day of _____, 2005

Jane Touhy _____, *President / ~~XXXXX President~~
Jane Touhy

Karen Hadner _____, *Clerk / ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Karen Hadner

*Delete the inapplicable words.

FY08 Program Budget
High Risk Response Team

Budget: High Risk Response Team	
Department of Social Services	15,000
HRH Foundation	18,000
Executive Office of Public Safety	14,400
Agency Fundraising*	28,200
Total Income	75,600
Expenses	
.50 FTE of Associate Director	40,000
.25 FTE Advocate	12,500
Fringe Rate @ 24%	15,000
Printing	800
Program Supplies	500
Telephone	1,200
Indirect Cost @ 8%	5,600
Total Expenses	75,600
* grantwriting and fundraising events	

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS****EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

(617) 725-4000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR**TIMOTHY P. MURRAY**
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 11, 2008

Ms. Marcia Roth
Executive Director
The Mary Byron Foundation
10401 Linn Station Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40223-3842

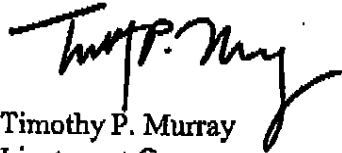
Dear Ms. Roth,

I write as the Chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence to illustrate why the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is deserving of the Mary Byron Project's Celebrating Solutions Award. The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been an innovator in the field of domestic violence in Massachusetts over the last twenty years. The staff of Jeanne Geiger has been part of the leadership team helping the Patrick-Murray Administration bridge gaps in victim's safety through cross discipline collaboration and creating options for victims beyond shelter.

The Greater Newburyport Domestic Violence High Risk Case Response Team was established in the aftermath of a domestic violence homicide/suicide that occurred in Amesbury, Massachusetts in 2002. Under the leadership of Suzanne Dubus and Kelly Dunne, the Center organized the community, examined the gaps that existed and created a new model for response. This model is based on identifying high risk offenders early. Providing safety for victim's during the pre trial period and coordinating efforts of the courts, probation and law enforcement. By increasing information sharing among disciplines, coordinated monitoring of high risk offenders and making sure victims have access to high quality services such as legal representation and counseling, this program is seeing proven results. The Center's staff has been working with other communities in the Commonwealth to replicate this evidence based model to increase our ability to interrupt the cycle of escalating violence and save lives.

As Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth I am proud to have the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center and the work of the High Risk Response Team recognized. Recently, we have acknowledged the Center's efforts and recommended the High Risk Response Team model be studied for replication in other communities in Massachusetts. I hope you look favorably upon this innovative approach to a devastating community-wide scourge and the Center's contribution to our state's awareness and challenges to overcome domestic violence.

Yours truly,



Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE ESSEX DISTRICT
SALEM NEWBURYPORT LAWRENCE

JONATHAN W. BLODGETT
District Attorney

Ten Federal Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

TELEPHONE
SALEM (978)745-6610
FAX (978)744-2161
TTY (978)741-3163

July 9, 2008

Celebrating Solutions Awards
Mary Byron Foundation
10401 Lin Station Road
Louisville, KY 40223

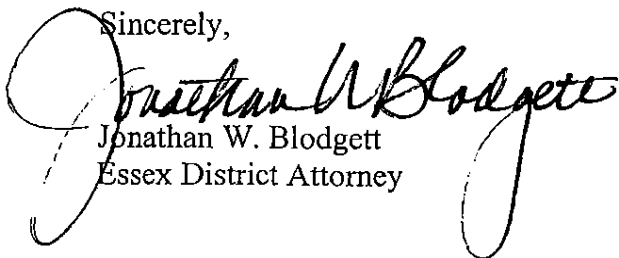
To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center's application for the prestigious Mary Byron Celebrating Solutions Award. I believe that the mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center and the work of the High Risk Case Response Team (HRCRT) are a perfect fit for your award criteria, and the center is worthy of this national recognition.

My office has a long-standing, collaborative relationship with this program, its staff and Executive Director, Suzanne Dubus. The HRCRT has shown to be a successful approach within Essex County in helping to stop violence against women by unifying organizations, strengthening relationships and providing a means to share critical information and develop strategies for intervention. This national model is being replicated throughout our county and in many others areas throughout Massachusetts and the nation. Assistant District Attorneys and Victim Witness Advocates from my office currently participate in the planning of these teams and look to Jeanne Geiger for support and training. We actively participate as a member of the HRCRT and are committed to working with our partners to eradicate violence against women and children.

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center was instrumental in creating this model program. I hope you will seriously consider them for the Creating Solutions Award.

Sincerely,


Jonathan W. Blodgett
Essex District Attorney



July 10, 2008

Ms. Marcia Roth
Executive Director
Mary Byron Project

Dear Ms. Roth,

It is a great honor and with enthusiasm that I offer this letter of support for the selection of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center (JGCC) for the Mary Byron Celebrating Solutions Award. The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is an active and most committed member of Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

The JGCC is an innovative, survivor-centered, solution oriented domestic violence program that makes a difference every day for victims and their children in need of support and services in the Newburyport area. However, the impact of their work has fortunately extended far beyond their services area. While never losing sight of their commitment to the families they serve they have influenced not only their own local partners in public safety, health and human services, but other domestic violence services providers, policy and practice leaders at the state and national levels. They have led a transformation of the field that is currently saving lives and will continue to prevent and reduce homicides.

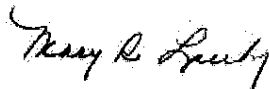
As a coalition member of Jane Doe Inc. in Massachusetts, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is an innovative contributor and thought leader in our efforts to end domestic violence. Jane Doe Inc. is proud of the work accomplished by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. Suzanne Dubus, Executive Director, has recently been sworn in as a member of the Governor's Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

In 2002 a homicide in Amesbury, Massachusetts was the impetus to create the High Risk Response Team. The uniqueness of the High Risk Response Team and the success of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in its implementation have been recognized throughout the state of Massachusetts and beyond. At a time when domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts have increased by 300% since 2005, there has not been a homicide in the area of northern Essex County that is served by Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center's approach has allowed Jane Doe Inc. to provide a better informed body of recommendations to state and national policy leaders.

Working closely with the staff at the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center I have had the opportunity to see first hand how effective this approach is and the success of the High Risk Response Team to save lives. Coordinating multiple agencies including courts, probation and law enforcement to monitor offenders is a challenge. Perhaps the most telling of testimonials to the power and success of this organization's work is to listen to law enforcement and other High Risk Team members speak proudly of their work that is saving lives. Where once they dreaded taking the next domestic violence call, they now go to work each day knowing they are making a difference to victims and their children in a way that they'd hoped but never dreamed was possible. In my over 30 years of work in the domestic violence field at the local, state and national levels I have had the very fortunate opportunity to work with a few people who have followed the truth of the experiences of victims, taken risks in thoughtful and intentional ways that have resulted in landmark practices that have changed our work forever. Suzanne Dubus is one of those people and she has of course has surrounded herself at JJGC with a staff of people much like her. We are very fortunate to have them in this field, in Massachusetts and in the membership of Jane Doe Inc.

Please let me know if I can offer further information or support for this nomination.

Sincerely,



Mary R. Lauby
Executive Director