

# Mayor's Office To Combat Domestic Violence

## Key Programs, December 2011



### New York City Family Justice Centers

Each day in New York City hundreds of domestic violence victims reach out for help and our three New York City Family Justice Centers are there to guide them on the road to living a life free of violence. Domestic violence interrupts almost all aspects of victims' lives – from housing to employment and from support systems to their children's school. To be safe, victims need assistance with all of these issues. Not only do the City's Centers help victims during crisis, but they stay with the victim throughout their journey to safety by providing longer-term services. Clients may walk in and choose which services they want, including counseling, advocacy, meeting with a prosecutor, assistance with shelter and housing, self-sufficiency services, and civil legal assistance – all in their language while their children play safely in the next room.

OCDV and the District Attorneys' Offices are the primary partners of the Family Justice Centers. The Centers bring together dedicated domestic violence prosecutors, civil attorneys, and social service providers under one roof to help victims of domestic violence and their families. In total, eight City agencies and 27 community nonprofit providers, whose staff collectively speak over 30 languages, work on-site at these Centers.

The City's three Centers just celebrated their 149,000<sup>th</sup> client visit. The Brooklyn Center opened in 2005, the Queens Center opened in July 2008 and the Bronx Center opened in April 2010. Private/public partnerships support several innovative programs including the Brooke Jackman Family Literacy Program, the Children's Counseling Program and the Self-Sufficiency Program.

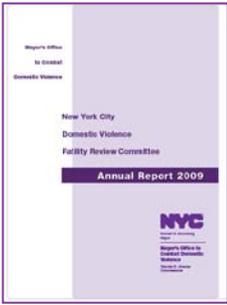


### Healthy Relationship Training Academy

The NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy is an initiative of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence with support from the AVON Foundation for Women and empowerment by mark through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York. The Academy offers bilingual workshops in English and Spanish on the topics of dating violence and healthy relationships for adolescents, young adults and parents. Each workshop is facilitated by two trained Peer Educators and consists of highly interactive activities designed to encourage discussion and critical thinking about the challenging topic of relationships. The Academy also offers training for staff members of organizations who work with adolescents and young adults. The curriculum is inclusive of diverse populations including immigrants, teen parents, runaway and homeless youth, and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth. Since the Academy's inception in 2005, over 1,250 workshops have been held with over 24,500 young people.

Workshops are offered year-round, Monday through Saturday, for organizations in New York City. The Peer Educators will travel to your location to facilitate the workshop. In order to schedule a workshop, visit [www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence/academy](http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence/academy).

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## Fatality Review Committee

The New York City Fatality Review Committee (FRC) was established in 2005 through Local Law 61, which requires the FRC to examine aggregate information pertaining to family-related fatalities and to develop recommendations for the coordination and improvement of services for domestic violence victims in New York City. The FRC is chaired by OCDV and is comprised of ten City agencies, two representatives from social services organizations, and two survivors of domestic violence.

OCDV, on behalf of the FRC, is currently conducting a Community Needs Assessment in five community districts in the Bronx to better understand a clustering of family-related homicides in that area. Through the Community Needs Assessment, OCDV is learning directly from service providers, community members and survivors of domestic violence about barriers that may exist that stand in the way of victims reaching out for services in the Bronx.

One issue that arose from the Community Needs Assessment, and which the FRC could address immediately, was the need to provide continued domestic violence training to City agency staff. Between September 2008 and May 2010, OCDV was able to provide training to over 1,000 staff at the Department of Homeless Services and the New York City Housing Authority.



## “You have the right to a healthy relationship” Public Education Campaign

In the spring 2010, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence launched a Citywide public education campaign, in English and Spanish, consisting of posters and palm cards placed in supermarkets, banks, pharmacies, restaurants and financial centers along with a Spanish-language public service announcement radio campaign. Events in the five boroughs officially launched the campaign in the summer of 2010.

This effort was created to increase communities' knowledge about domestic violence and where to get help. The campaign also aims to specifically reach people with disabilities by including information on the posters that highlights signs of abuse that people with disability may face in their relationships.

The campaign is partly funded by the Verizon Wireless HopeLine through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. Thanks to the strong support of committed business partners such as C-Town Supermarkets, CVS, Duane Reade, New York Community Bank, Northfield Bank, Pay-O-Matic, and White Castle in addition to other small businesses, posters and palm cards are being placed in thousands of locations throughout the City. The campaign materials are also being placed at several City agencies including the Administration for Children's Services, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Homeless Services, Human Resources Administration, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and New York City Housing Authority in addition to medical providers' offices.

To order posters or become a partner in this campaign, call (212) 788-3156. To learn how to make a donation for services to domestic violence victims through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, please visit [www.nyc.gov/fund](http://www.nyc.gov/fund).