abused Deaf women’s advocacy services

TRANSITION: noun ~ the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
CONTACT AND RESOURCES

ABUSED DEAF WOMEN’S ADVOCACY SERVICES
8623 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Office: 206-726-0093
Fax: 206-726-0017
E-mail: adwas@adwas.org

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
Deaf Advocates on duty 9 AM - 5 PM Monday - Friday PST
Deaf Only Videophone: 206-787-3224
Instant Messenger: ADWASHotline
E-mail: ADWAS@ndvh.org
24 hours | 7 days a week (Hearing advocates)
1-800-787-3224

ADWAS LOCAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS LINE
24 hours | 7 days a week
1-888-236-1355
Leadership doesn’t just happen at ADWAS, we make it happen.

Elise Holliday
2004 – 2010 Board Chair

Welcome Rob Roth
2011 Board Chair

Marilyn J. Smith
Founder and Executive Director, 1986-March 2011

Welcome Tiffany Williams
ADWAS Executive Director March 2011
The year 2010 offered two new experiences for ADWAS. First was the creation of a strong transitional plan for its second Executive Director in 25 years. The second was seeing ADWAS go through a full federal audit for the second time.

We concluded our work on the Justice for Deaf Victims National Training project with on-site visits to all the cities we trained in 2009. It has been heartening to see so many caring people now involved in the anti-violence movement in Deaf America. In October the Justice for Deaf Victims National Coalition held its biennial conference in Salt Lake City and will continue to mentor the new sister organizations.

After a two-year hiatus, the Hope and Justice dinner/auction came back by popular demand. A new auctioneer came on board with us and the sold out event was not only great fun but brought in over $100,000 to ADWAS. We also hosted our annual luncheon with Marilyn summarizing the work ADWAS has done for the past 25 years and lessons learned. Kellie McComas, a community member and survivor, shared her story.

In August, ADWAS was chosen as one of the best places to work in the Northwest by the Puget Sound Business Journal. All those honored were invited to an event at Safeco Field complete with picnic fare and an awards ceremony. Other recognition during 2010 included Marilyn being honored by the Seattle Storm, Deaf Hope in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Justice for Deaf Victims National Coalition, and the Bank of America.

In the spring and summer, representatives from the ADWAS board, staff, advisory group and the community held a series of meetings to prepare for the search and hiring of a new Executive Director to replace Marilyn who announced she would leave ADWAS when the agency celebrated its 25th anniversary in the spring of 2011. This well-coordinated effort resulted in offering the job to Tiffany Williams, who completed training with Marilyn in early 2011. Marilyn was very involved in a structured transition plan to prepare ADWAS for the big change. Estie Provow assisted in the transition, serving as interim Board Chair toward the end of 2010 for a few months.

All the staff made a commitment to take the agency’s cultural competency to a deeper and more meaningful level. Retreats with a facilitator were held and resulted in the creation of two groups to further explore issues affecting the agency, our volunteers, and clients. All of this work will continue for a long time.

Despite a rocky economy, ADWAS has been well supported to maintain client services with stable and adequately staffed programs. General administration and operating expenses continue to challenge our budget, in light of increasing regulatory requirements such as a large federal audit. Our generous donors and community provide much needed support and for that we are especially thankful.

Sincerely,

Elise K. Holliday
Chair, Board of Directors

Marilyn J. Smith
Founder and Executive Director
You may know me as the woman who answers the front door and assists with informing staff that their appointment is here. So maybe it seems counterintuitive to think that in my four years of working at ADWAS I have witnessed, firsthand, the transition in the lives of the survivors that walk through the door. But the opposite is true. Although I am not an advocate working intensely with the ins and outs of the needs of survivors, I do have the privilege and honor of experiencing positive growth, change, and perseverance throughout the time that these women* and their children walk through the front doors.

I am one of the first staff members to catch a glimpse at the initial emotion a woman is feeling when she comes to ADWAS to receive services. Whether she is here to take a parenting class, to see an advocate, or to sit down with a therapist, each time that I greet a survivor at the door I am able to see the positive changes in her from beginning to end. Survivors from a wide variety of backgrounds and histories come to ADWAS and they can all expect the same thing. They can expect a warm welcome, an open mind, utmost respect for their confidentiality, a safe space, and someone who can help.

During 2010 there were over 150 survivors that walked through the front doors at ADWAS. Each one of them has a story to tell about their journey and their process of surviving abuse. I may not know the details and needs of a survivor’s situation, but providing support services wherever necessary and however seemingly small, is crucial to the success of women and children living their lives free of domestic violence. It was hard to understand what this impact looked like until I found myself journaling about one of the experiences.

“I am inspired when I see a mother and her two children moving out of transitional housing and into a large home with their own backyard. This woman brought me to tears. I hugged her goodbye for a long time. Her embrace made me realize what a journey it had been for her and her family at ADWAS and through the transition into permanent housing. The time that I got to know her was just a blip on my life’s span, but in that time I had done my part in helping another person however small my help may have been…”

Whether it is answering the door, or having an open mind and heart to address a survivor’s immediate need, working as an administrative staff member for ADWAS has been an amazing experience to watch the transition in the lives of the women and children that we serve. As we continue to grow and change as a team, survivors can always depend on seeing a friendly face to greet them at the front door where the journey to healing begins.

*ADWAS also serves male survivors.
In January 2010, ADWAS created the Community Education and Outreach position funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. Ingrid Tidblom was hired as the first specialist from January 2010 until March 2011. Currently, the job is held by Napal Tesfai. The objective of the position is to present educational tools to the community and expand our network of advocates and collaboration with service providers while being culturally and linguistically specific.

During the first year of operation, the highlights of the Community Education/Outreach Department include:

* Creating new strategies for accomplishing systemic change by becoming more culturally competent and increasing our knowledge about victims'/survivors’ preferred processes when accessing Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault services.

* Participation in national Sexual Assault Awareness Month by creating a community play, “To Understand History is to Know Herstory”, written by Ingrid Tidblom and directed by Ryan Schlecht. The event was successful with approximately 250 people in attendance who received information about Sexual Assault via the play and a talk after the play about sexual assault and ADWAS services.

* The production and recent release of “Far From Love.” It was written and co-produced by Cathy Schechter of Orchards Communication based in Austin, Texas. “Far From Love” is a 20-minute DVD with four scenarios about Domestic Violence, Teen Dating Violence, Same-Sex Domestic Violence and Stalking. The DVD is being used as one of several ways to educate and raise awareness in the Deaf Community, through our program: The Living Room Project.

* Recognizing that people often seek information or help from family/friends or faith-based organizations before turning to ADWAS. From this recognition, we developed a goal to increase the skills and knowledge of the community so they can support a victim/survivor. For this reason, we developed The Living Room Project in order to increase awareness, an understanding of how to support victims/survivors, and to shift accountability to the abuser with these tools, we also discuss solutions for ending Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Deaf Community.

The Living Room Project encourages community members to host a house party in an individual home (complete with food and drinks). During the evening, a viewing of the “Far from Love” DVD and discussion takes place. After the DVD, one or two ADWAS staff members are present to encourage and facilitate discussion and to answer questions.

If you or someone you know is interested in hosting a Living Room Project House Party, please contact ADWAS for further information.

~Napal Tesfai
Community Outreach Specialist
Every person who walks through the doors at ADWAS is on a journey. A journey to peace, to recovery, to happiness, to independence, to joy. Every person who walks through those doors is taking a step. And we who work at ADWAS have the privilege of walking alongside them. We are invited to share in the journey, to support each step, to be guided by the person who knows their own path best – the survivor. That first single step and each step a survivor walks with an ADWAS advocate will be followed by another and another until they traverse across, beyond, and around the many lessons they will encounter along the way. Across, beyond, to the other side.

Transition  *Noun*  1. a movement, development or evolution from one form or stage to another.  

We see many folks at ADWAS move across space – *transplanting* themselves from a life they had established. Some move across the street, some across the state, some across the country. They uproot, leaving behind much of what they had, and allow their community, including the folks at ADWAS, to support them as they step toward deepening roots in the Seattle soil.

We see folks move through a process of *translation* – gaining new language, insight, and awareness to explain and interpret their experiences. Through support groups people find solidarity, developing and strengthening their communities. Through advocacy people find a steady hand, a head full of ideas to share, and a wealth of options. Through living in a Deaf-centered space, people find accessibility – re-centering Deaf identity, and translating the world and its pervasive barriers as something to be overcome amongst a world of people-who-can.

Each person we see is undergoing a *transformation*: from where they have been to where they want to be; from the object of someone else’s action to the subject of their own life. It is the job of ADWAS to meet them on their path and walk with them for awhile. For as long as they need. We walk along together, working to clear the trail, unearth choices, become re-connected. Following their path, as they can see it far more clearly than we can. After all – it belongs to them.

~Sadie Pile  
Children’s Advocate
### ADWAS Statement of Financial Position
**December 31, 2010**

#### Assets

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<td>Non-Current Assets</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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#### Liabilities & Net Assets

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<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
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#### Net Assets

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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
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Audited by Watson & McDonell, PLLC
2010 Revenue $1,390,173

2010 Expenses $1,558,946
INTEGRITY
$25,000 AND ABOVE
Nancy Nordhoff

HEALING
$10,000 TO $24,999
Lynn and Howard Behar

VISION
$2,500 TO $9,999
Ellen Ferguson
Richard Ladner and Ann Sauer
Leslie and Matt Leber
Judy Pigott

JUSTICE
$1,000 TO $2,499
Kay Amos and Tony Hill
Anne Hollomon Baldwin and Joe Baldwin
Jan and Kenneth Block
Mr. George Brewster III
Anna Cavender
Suzanne and Don Dally
Dr. and Mrs. Philip Del Vecchio, Jr.
Joanne V. Girard
Jackie Matthews and Kurt Magnuson
Donna and Philip Mirkes
Estie L. Provow and Allie Joiner
Robert I. Roth and John A. Berg
Risa Shaw and Sharon Gervasoni

PERSEVERANCE
$500 TO $999
Anonymous
Sally S. Behnke
Flo Cates
Anne Del Vecchio and John Plecher
Misty Flowers
Crystal and Kevin Green
Elise Nye Holliday and Richie Holliday
Rebecca and Roger Jansson
Shawn MacDougall
Margaret Maier
Kim McKeighen
Shannon Murello-Pyler and Conrad Pyler
Jeannie Nordstrom
Helene Robertson
Laurie Rosen Ritt
Laurence Schoenberg
J.R. Simmons
Libby Stanley
JoJo and Michael Sullivan
Dov Wills

Thank You!

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External Events Raising Money for ADWAS

**Afrodisiac Poetry Event**
Kristi Brown-Wokoma

**Block House Party**
Mary and Thomas Kelly • Jim and Casey Margard • Dr. and Mrs. Sarewitz • Carol Wallace

**LINDSAY’S RUN**
Tali and Michael Abramson • Diane Anderson • Ian Aranha • Laura Baumwall • Barbara Bernstein Fant • Mr. Steven Bogart • Robin Boland • Rechele Brooks • Jared Brown • Leesa Brown • Robert Buffington • Jennifer Carter • Jennifer Cox • Adrian Garcia-Sierra • Sophie-Shifra Gold • Thressalean Heckler • Jesse James • Brooke and Cary Johnson • Kristen Johnson • Tami Kedar • Larry Krehbiel • JoAnne Lawrence • Gina Lebedeva • Fnu Lily • Jo Fu Lin • Dr. Andrew Meltzoff • Joshua Miller • Jody and Haim Mizrahi • Erin Moe-Short • Ellen Mooney • Byron Morton • Denise Padden • Dr. Cherrie Percaccio • Krista and Dan Prasad • Estie L Provow and Allie Joiner • John Pruitt • Rajeev Raizada • Lelach Rave and Will Berkovitz • Jeremy and Gwen Rosenthal • David, Sharon and Justine Sabban • Barbara, Michael and Noah Schwanhaeusser • Eileen Shelden • Marilyn and Al Shelden • Riki Stevens • Pat and Kevin Stock • Jessica Tabakin-Manor and Nizar Manor • Kathryn Treit • Audrey Vaughan • Ken Villalpando • David and Yuki Wright

**TJ CITY ROLLER GIRLS**
Gerry Coughlin • Jet City Roller Girls Donors • Kimberly and Martin Yost

**Sorenson Communications Training**
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**BOUTIQUE**
24 Hour Fitness • Ellen Benezra • Lucas Brown • Todd Deann • Echo Greenlee • Madelyn • Jacob McCaslin • Leanna Peterson • Heaven Affordable Skin Care • Orange Box Jewelry • Massage Envy • Salon O • Target • Tutta Bella • QFC • Shalika Martin • Rose Mukhar • **Tabor Workplace Campaign**

**Back to School Program**
Amy and Brent Anderson • Judy and Dan Durfee • Tamara Frijmersum and Gerardo DiPietro • Linda Goldman and Richard Stapp • Barbara Hathaway and Karen Rosenthal • Mark and Kristy Hoshi • Patty Liang • Maple Leaf Ace Hardware, INC • Kim Nungesser and Scott Fulwiler • Claudia Foy/OHDDH • Laura Petersen and John Rce-Grant • Julia Petersen and Richard Jacobs • Courtney Russell • Paula Sebree • Ann Silver • Libby Stanley • Kathy Stephenson • Nick Stark/ZVRS
Imagine opening your apartment door to a delivery of sweet, colorful cupcakes! That is just what happened monthly at ADWAS, thanks to Wink Cupcakes, former employee Chris Eisele, and past owner Deanne Ederer Emmons. At Chris’s recommendation, Deanne and the Wink team chose ADWAS as one of several Seattle-area non-profits to receive monthly deliveries of an abundance of colorful, tasty cupcakes and baked items. Sadie Pile, Children's Advocate, and Libby Stanley, Transitional Housing Coordinator, were often the lucky staff to deliver the cupcakes to residents and their children. Knock-knock – here is a cart full of cupcakes! What joy!

Additional deep gratitude goes out to the many folks who have contributed to ADWAS through thinking of us in their own external events! Lindsay Klarman ran a half marathon and raised funds on behalf of ADWAS. Ken and Jan Block hosted a houseparty featuring Billy Seago for an evening of storytelling. Shalika Martin donated a percentage of sales during the opening of her new store ~ SOUL OH SO CHIQUE BOUTIQUE. Kristi Brown-Wokoma chose ADWAS as a recipient of a portion of the ticket sales from Afrodisiac presents The Erotic Poetry Show. The Jet City Roller Girls, the derby team from Everett, generously allowed us to set up an informational table at one of their bouts, AND encouraged generous donors to support our work. Sorenson Communications donated registration fees from their interpreting workshop to us! During the holidays, Jacqueline Tabor approached co-workers from the Seattle Parks are Recreation Department and asked them to give generously…and they did. Outstanding! It is creativity like this, bringing ADWAS into your own communities, that keeps ADWAS vibrant and successful. We can not thank you enough for your efforts to sustain the work we do!
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Volunteers

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who have supported our programs, administration, and events and who staffed our 24-hour crisis line. Your time and effort are invaluable!

ADWAS opened its Transitional Housing Program in 2006, Sandy Kaplan has been volunteering weekly tutoring school-age children in our Homework Club. She comes with energy, dedication, and deep kindness, and works with children in great times of transition to give them the support they need to be successful in school.

Lynn Behar, Ken Block, Dan Brubaker, Ellen Ferguson, Leslie Leber, Richard Ladner, Elise von Koschembahr volunteer their time on the ADWAS Advisory Group. They attend meetings (or meet with Carol individually) and bring invaluable perspective and feedback to ADWAS, drawing on their own expertise in fields outside of social services. They help steer ADWAS toward success with their sharp minds and thoughtful spirits.

The commitment of these eight, and ADWAS’ over one hundred other volunteers, supports the efforts of our paid staff to make ADWAS the great success it is daily for its clients. Each day we see the smiles of volunteers walking the halls, be it before a board meeting, a volunteer advocate briefing an ADWAS staff advocate, or someone labeling newsletters and organizing files. We also have incredible folks come to help maintain our yardwork, and skilled, professional interpreters who volunteer their time to work at our events.
Auction Donors

35th Place Photography • 5.11 Tactical • 520 Bar & Grill • Aamuculate Cleaning Pro's • Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services • ADWAS Board of Directors • Aesthetica Skin Care • Emily Agerton • Alaska Airlines • Alexa's Garden Café • All The Best Pet Care • Alyssa Rose Photography • Carolyn Amos • Kay Amos • Anita's Crepes • Anonymous ($) • Aqua Verde Café • Artistry Desserts • ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery • Avalon Glassworks • Dana and Kent Bailey • JoAnna Ball • Barbara Childs Pottery • Bark Busters Home Dog Training • Lori H. Barrett • Beauty and the Bamboo • Beehive Salon • Belltown Pizza • Joseph A. Benvenuto • Barbara Bernstein • Bianca Linder Honey Do. 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Auction Fund-A-Need

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On October 9th, 2010, Glassmaker Joseph Benvenuto opened up his studio to a group of 10 ADWAS youth and a couple very lucky staff. We walked in to a room with a huge table covered with bowls of colored glass. With guidance from Joe, we learned about glass art and kilns, and thought about what it means to be artists! The kids were encouraged to be creative and come up with designs for two glass tiles – one to keep, and a second to create a glass art quilt for the ADWAS auction. Their designs were unique and brilliant, and watching the focus and commitment several youth put into their art was inspiring!

Later that same month, when the quilt went up for bid at the ADWAS auction, there were generous donors that thought the artwork should remain at ADWAS!

These thoughtful donors are:

Danielle Bodine
Donald & Suzanne Dally
Leslie & Matt Leber
Nancy Nordhoff

We offer a huge thank you to Joe for gathering the supplies, sharing his space, and for taking the time to introduce his craft to people who otherwise would not have such an opportunity! We were fortunate to work with him.
**ADWAS Programs and Services**

**Advocacy Program**
ADWAS’ advocates support people who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. Services are free of charge and available to people who are Deaf or Deaf-Blind.

Advocates:
- Offer information and options
- Help people develop a safety plan
- Help people learn about victims’ rights, and the rights of Deaf and Deaf-Blind people to have interpreters and fair access to all systems
- Provide legal advocacy
- Connect people with any other ADWAS services

**Positive Deaf Parenting Program**
The Positive Deaf Parenting Program offers parenting education and support to all members of the Deaf community. A variety of classes and workshops are available throughout the year.

We offer classes or workshops on:
- Positive Discipline
- Parenting through Play
- Parenting Teenagers
- Talking to Your Kids about Drugs and Alcohol
- Building Bridges
- Parenting Support Groups
- Special events for families throughout the year

**24/7 Volunteer Advocates**
Caring, compassionate and trained volunteer advocates provide 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault crisis support over the TTY, instant messenger, email, and in-person for Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims of abuse within King County.

**Independent Living Skills Instruction**
Assistance in learning communication, budgeting, banking, cooking and transportation skills for a more successful transition to permanent housing in the community.

**Counseling Program**
The Counseling Program offers victims of domestic violence or sexual assault the following services:
- Short-term crisis counseling
- On-going individual/family therapy related to domestic violence and sexual assault
- Group counseling related to childhood sexual assault and domestic violence
- Client advocacy and referrals

**Children’s Program**
The Children’s Program provides the following services to children whose lives have been affected by domestic violence or sexual assault:
- Therapy
- Support Groups
- Advocacy
- Structured educational and recreational activities

**Transitional Housing Program**
ADWAS provides transitional housing apartments for women and their children escaping violence. There are 19-units with support programs located in the same building. Women and their children may stay for up to 2 years (but it is not required).

**Education and Consultation Services**
ADWAS provides a vast array of education and consultation services. All trainings and workshops are specifically designed to meet the needs of each group, school or agency. Developed by ADWAS, Deaf appropriate material is used during training. Deaf staff provide all training in American Sign Language. Voice interpreters for hearing agencies/individuals are provided as needed.

**National Domestic Violence Deaf Hotline**
The National Domestic Violence Deaf Hotline (NDVH) is available to Deaf and Deaf-Blind people across the nation. The hotline is in operation 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. ADWAS operates the National Hotline for Deaf Callers from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Pacific Standard Time) Monday-Friday. At all other times, the National Hotline is answered by staff at the NDVH headquarters in Texas.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Volunteer Advocate Program**
- Help answer/staff the 24-hour crisis line

**Client Services**
- Co-lead children’s groups including tutoring, domestic violence support groups or therapeutic art groups
- Provide on-site children’s activities for support group participants or while a parent is in a workshop

**Fundraising**
- Assist in special events
- Work with the database
- Help with fundraising mailings

**Office Volunteer**
- Assist with general mailings
- File
- Copy documents
- Provide various support to staff as needed

**Specific Skills Volunteers**
- Computer Technology
- Public Relations
- Photography
- Social Media
- Web Design
Her 25-year career of service to Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims of domestic and sexual violence began in 1986 after a Deaf woman who needed help to escape her violent relationship was later murdered by her partner. The victim had nowhere to turn and existing services for hearing women did not fit her cultural and linguistic needs.

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) began in the basement of Marilyn's home. Now, 25 years later, ADWAS' programs and services lead the country in providing advocacy (legal and medical), Positive Parenting Education, therapy (for adults and children), children's advocacy, community outreach, education and consultation, The National Domestic Violence Deaf Hotline, and the 24-hour volunteer crisis line. ADWAS also has the only Transitional Housing Program in the U.S. for Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Often called the “Mother of the Domestic/Sexual Violence Prevention Movement” within the Deaf community, Marilyn’s passionate leadership has been a powerful force in shaping the current services provided both locally and nationally. Over the past two decades, ADWAS has received funding from the Department of Justice in order to provide training for replicating the ADWAS model in 39 cities nationwide.

To recognize Marilyn's outstanding contributions to the Deaf and Deaf-Blind communities and the movement against domestic violence, the ADWAS Board is conducting a three year drive to establish an endowment fund.

Contributions to the Marilyn J. Smith ADWAS Social Justice Endowment Fund will establish a permanent endowment with the intended purpose of helping ADWAS operate and maintain Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services including support for new program initiatives.

All gifts to the endowment are tax deductible. You can make a one-time gift or a three year pledge to be paid over time. You may contribute in some of the following ways:

- Check or cash
- Electronic funds transfer
- Gifts of stock
- Pledge

Our goal is to raise $250,000 in the next three years. During the first year our goal is $100,000.

We will use the annual earnings of this endowment to help the continuing mission of Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services. ADWAS is committed to empowering Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, and stalking, and to eliminating violence. We provide victim/survivor services, community education, prevention information, and training for professionals. ADWAS promotes equitable and fair treatment for Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims, and works to change attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and social institutions, which foster and perpetuate violence.

We ask that your special endowment gift be made separately from your annual contribution.

If you’d like to donate to the Marilyn J. Smith Social Justice Endowment Fund please contact Carol Brown, Donor Development Coordinator for Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services / ADWAS 8623 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Office: 206.726.0093 Email: carol@adwas.org
Donors Since March 2011
The total thus far toward our first year $100,000 goal is $58,022

Healing
$10,000 to $24,999
Nancy Nordhoff

Vision
$2,500 to $9,999
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