



Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services

# Newsletter

Spring 2015



## WIN THIS BIKE!!!

Helmet, bike bar adapter and toolkit included!

Here's how to win:

1) Come to the play on Friday or Saturday (see details below)

- 2) Sign up for the free raffle at the ADWAS booth  
3) ADWAS will email you if you have won!



## ADWAS Presents Annual SAAM Play This Friday & Saturday

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). ADWAS will present a one act play, *Where We are*, about six college/ graduate school students with different personal experiences of sexual violence. This play is directed by Dawn Stoyanoff. It was written and produced by Anna Bracilano, Outreach and Education Coordinator. ADWAS' Sexual Assault Awareness Month annual production is used to spread awareness and educate the Deaf Community about sexual violence. Both performances will be in American Sign Language. Saturday's performance will be English voiceover. This play is free to the public.

**Dates:** Friday, April 3rd and Saturday, April 4th

**Time:** 7 PM

**Doors open at 6:30 PM**

**Location:** M.L.K. Fame Center

3201 E Republican St

Seattle, WA 98112

Sponsored by the Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA):  
Grant #13-31110-101 to educate Deaf Community about Sexual Violence.  
Parental discretion is advised.

## Congratulations to Melissa "echo" Greenlee

2015 Award recipient for the Marilyn J. Smith Inspirational Award

This year, ADWAS awarded the Marilyn J. Smith Inspirational Award to Melissa "echo" Greenlee at the fundraising breakfast on March 19, 2015 at Bell Harbor. Echo first launched deafreview in order to support and give the Deaf community visibility and inspiration.

From her speech, she emphasized that deaffriendly.com would not happen without the reviewers. The reviewers make the transformative change happen. She shared her journey of developing "deaf-friendly" which began when she would mention her experiences at businesses with others in the Deaf community. Echo discovered the frustration of others as well and thus a need for "deaf-friendly" or "deaf-challenged" business reviews arose. She decided it was enough and refused to accept this as a daily hindrance.

Echo shared her vision where "the Deaf world and hearing world work together and it's smooth and easy. Communication barriers are no big deal. The world becomes deaf-friendly." She reminded the audience that to achieve this vision, it takes time and patience to bring awareness to the businesses through interaction, onsite education, corrective feedback, and social media. Echo looks forward to seeing the progress of the Deaf community's journey toward a life without struggles.

The breakfast fundraising event was a success, raising \$19,000 from sponsors and donors to help support ADWAS. Thank you!



From left: Marilyn J. Smith (Founder), Melissa "echo" Greenlee (Award Recipient), Tiffany S. Williams (Executive Director), & Liz Gibson (Board Chair).

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## ADWAS Celebrates Its 29th Birthday

From a humble beginning in the basement of Marilyn Smith to a supportive housing building, it all began on March 25, 1986. ADWAS was created to support and empower Deaf and DeafBlind survivors of domestic/ sexual violence. Since services began, there have been over 2,200 cases and more than 2,800 clients. Over 43,000 people have received education and training. Here's to more years working together with the community, local agencies, and supporters to end violence and to build healthy communities.

## Featured Program: ADVOCACY

Our advocates are here to assist people who are victims of domestic/sexual violence and who need help. Our services are free of charge and available to people who are Deaf, DeafBlind or hard of hearing and are residents of King, Pierce or Snohomish County.

Advocates can:

- offer information and options
- help you decide your safety plan
- help you deal with people involved in your situation such as:
  - o lawyers
  - o hospitals
  - o CPS
  - o counselors and housing systems
- help you learn about victims rights, and the rights of Deaf people to have interpreters and fair access
- connect you with the ADWAS therapist
- provide legal advocacy

ADWAS will help victims whether the police are involved or not, no matter if they want to leave the abuser or not. no matter what. ADWAS will work with victims as long as they want, until they feel 100% safe.

ADWAS' goal is to communicate to Deaf and DeafBlind survivors and their children that they can take control of their lives. People have choices and the information and assistance they need for empowerment (and in some cases, survival) is available to them.

## Summer Camp

We are planning another Summer Camp! We could sure use some volunteers that are able to help out in August for two week-long camp.

Please contact Nancy Edney at [childrensadvocate@adwas.org](mailto:childrensadvocate@adwas.org) if you would like to donate materials or volunteer your time and have fun with the kids this summer.



## Workshops available for parents of Deaf children

ADWAS recently received a grant from Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP) to host two workshops for parents of Deaf Children on child sexual assault prevention. The parents will learn how to discuss boundaries, promote healthy self-esteem in their children, learn more about bystander intervention, protect their children from sexual abuse, and teach children about healthy relationships. The workshops are open to signing parents. The workshops will be offered in April 2015.

To sign up for workshop updates, you can contact Dov at [dov@adwas.org](mailto:dov@adwas.org) or (206) 512-8528 (VP).

## SAVE THE DATE

SAAM PLAY

GIVEBIG

ADWAS Hope & Justice Auction

April 3 & 4, 2015

May 5, 2015

October 24, 2015

## ADWAS WISH LIST

*Listed below are items needed to support survivors:*

### **Supportive Housing**

- o Coffee makers (6 – 8 cups)
- o Hand mixers
- o Slotted spoons
- o Tongs (nylon)
- o Kitchen towels
- o Bath towels
- o Set of twin size bed sheets/ cases
- o Twin size and/or double size blankets/comforters
- o Pots/pans: 8" skillet, 10" skillet, 1 QT sauce pan, 3 QT sauce pan and Dutch Oven pots. (Prefer no non-stick coating on the bottom of the pan)
- o Cookie sheets
- o Mixing bowls – medium and/or large size
- o Spatulas
- o Toasters
- o Shower curtains
- o Bathroom rugs
- o Brand new pillows

### **Children's Program**

- o Cardstock scrapbook paper
- o Yarn scraps (18" or longer in any size, texture or color)
- o Aprons
- o Toys for outdoor activities (frisbees, kickballs, kites, etc)
- o DVDs geared for kids/preteens (CC required)
- o Board games
- o Canvas
- o Children's clothes (preschool – 9th grade)

## ADWAS is NOT Just for Women

Although we mostly serve women and children, our services are not limited to only women. We also provide services to Deaf and DeafBlind men who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. If you would like more information please contact ADWAS at (206) 922-7088 or [adwas@adwas.org](mailto:adwas@adwas.org).



## Did You Know...

If you shop through Amazon, you can designate 0.5% of the price of the eligible AmazonSmile purchases to ADWAS. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Here's the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/> for you to sign up!

## How your old car can bring new life!

Our vehicle donation program is made possible through our partnership with Donate For Charity. When you are ready to donate your vehicle, you may call Donate For Charity toll-free at (866) 392-4483 or donate on-line at their website: [www.donateforcharity.com](http://www.donateforcharity.com).



If you decide to donate your vehicle:

- It will be picked up free of charge
- It will be sold at auction or older vehicles can be sold for parts
- Proceeds will go to Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
- You will receive a receipt entitling you to a tax deduction

## National Domestic Violence Hotline Information

Deaf advocates available M-F, 9-5 (PST)

IM: DeafHotline

Email: [deafhelp@thehotline.org](mailto:deafhelp@thehotline.org)

VP: 1-855-812-1001

(Hearing advocates at the National Domestic Violence Hotline are on duty 24 hours:

1-800-787-3224 TTY or 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) Voice)

If you live in King County...

24-hour Local Deaf Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Line

VP: (206) 812-1001

Email: [hotline@adwas.org](mailto:hotline@adwas.org)

24-hours - 7 days a week