PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

ANGELA DAVIS/ News Anchor, KSTP-TV, St. Paul, MN
- Domestic Violence affects all of us, in some way...
- Over 3 Million children in the U.S. witness domestic violence in their homes...

OLIVER WILLIAMS, Ph.D./Executive Director, IDVAAC, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
- “People in this field often work in isolation…”
- “…Awards give us a chance to recognize the work that people are doing…”

FOCUSING ON GOOD WORK IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH AWARDS RECOGNIZING:
- Research
- Practice
- Compassion

WE HONOR THOSE WHO FOCUS ON GOOD WORKS:
- Addressing INTERSECTING issues...
- Serving UNDERSERVED communities...
- Dealing with COMPLEXITY...
- Fostering COOPERATION and COLLABORATION...
- INSPIRING and EMPOWERING...

THE RECIPIENTS
- John Jeffries
- Laurie Crowder
- Kelly Mitchell-Clark
- Carol Spigner
- Bobby Smith
- Margaret Avery
- Sam Meyers
- National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- Dr. Glenda Rooney
- Jody Anderson

2003 RECIPIENT OF THE SHEILA AND PAUL WELLSTONE HUMANITARIAN AWARD:
- Radhia Jaaber
  — On the Wings of Effort and Grace: “I’ve always tried to have COMMON SENSE guide my work...and it’s a spiritual work.”

PRAISE FOR PAUL AND SHEILA WELLSTONE
- “People loved them...and Paul and Sheila loved everybody. With them, you felt like you belonged.”

A LETTER FROM MARK AND DAVID WELLSTONE...
- “Our thoughts are with you as you examine the impact of violence on our children...We are committed to continuing the work that marked the careers of our parents...Their spirit can continue to guide those whose lives are ravaged by violence...Thank you for all the work that you do.”

A VIDEO...IN MEMORIAM...
- “Politics is not about MONEY! It’s about improving people’s lives, advancing peace and justice, and doing well by people.”—Paul Wellstone
MARGARET AVERY, MSW/Domestic Violence Activist/Academy Award nominated actress, Los Angeles, CA

THREE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS A PERSON CAN HEAR FROM ANOTHER

• "I love you."
• "I need you."
• "I'm sorry."

ABOUT ME...BY MARGARET AVERY

• "I had to look at my own patterns and attractions."
• "You can't just tell people to be aware of violence and abuse."
  — People know what they grew up with, which often includes violence.
  — People have to come to a personal understanding of their relationships and attachments.
• What does LOVE look like? What do HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS look like?
• Don't get bogged down with "I Can't."
• Where do you need to be?

THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

• A very special THANKS to Samuel
• Jose Williams for the picture that
• became the logo...and THANKS to
• Sonia Davila Williams for raising such
• a wonderful kid!

SAMUEL JOSE WILLIAMS/ Youth Advocate against Domestic Violence, St. Paul, MN

• "Violent men are fighters...but not the good kind."
• "Violent men get away clean...while the women are left with the mess."
• "Children are afraid if their parents stay together—or if they don't."
• "Kids want their parents to listen to them."

"THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN" - A VIDEO

• Drawings by children at the Interim Shelter for battered women and their children.

"SISTER, I'M SORRY"

• Documentary about healing, reconciliation and redemption.
• Women's stories of abuse and violence...
• Men's apologies for violence and abuse toward women...
All I ever wanted was a family...

I abused... small animals... I abused my cousins...

...and then...

I was filled with...

RAGE!

I carried the secret... Nobody noticed what was happening to me...

I didn't tell... because I knew that I would be killed and I didn't want the boy or my family...

The abuse went on for two years...

I didn't want to be enslaved by men again...

I made a...

CHANGE!

I asked: "Who is Shirley?" What does she want?

What does she need?

I help women and young girls...

I'm on my THIRD LIFE...

The first was a life of darkness and fear...

The second was a life of healing...

The third life is my DESTINY...

TRANSFORMING...

RAGE... to... CHANGE...

...to DESTINY...

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Nobody asked me why I was acting the way I was...

As a mother, I dedicated my daughter "What is Going On?"

My soul has finally sat down... and I'm smiling...

I'm not silent anymore...

I love myself so much I'm gonna NARCI... myself!

Oppression is embarrassing...

"I was never treated like a child..."

"I was raped by a colleague of my parents..."

"I became a drug addict..."

"I became one of those street teenagers who no one wanted to talk to..."

"There was no safe place..."

"Silence was a way of surviving..."

No one asked me why I was acting the way I was..."
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS/Domestic Violence Advocate, Dominion Family Services, Southfield, MI

"We're in for SOMETHING SPECIAL!"
- "I carried the secret."
- "Nobody noticed what was happening to me."
- "All I ever wanted was a family."
- "The abuse went on for two years."
- "I didn't tell because I knew that he would be killed and I didn't want the blood on my hands."
- "I abused small animals...I abused my cousins."
- "I didn't ever want to be enslaved by men again."

...and then....

I MADE A CHANGE!
- I asked, "Who is Shirley?"
- "What does she want?"
- "What does she need?"
- "I help women and young girls."

DESTINY!
- I'm on my THIRD LIFE...
- The first was a life of darkness and pain...
- The second was a life of healing...
- The third life is my DESTINY....

TRANSFORMING RAGE TO CHANGE TO DESTINY...
- "Thanks to my angel GREGORY...He listened.....and he listened."
Bobby Smith

"Jason's Lyric"

I took a road trip to L.A., and that's how "Jason's Lyric" was born.

I had just been dumped... and I was thinking: How could I be dumped?

I tracked the words and the thought.

"Muscle of Jason's Lyric" is autobiographical.

I grew up in Texas... in a large family... and I took to pen and paper to work through my childhood.

Raising children is a gift... and writing down what I saw is a gift.

My aunt got beaten by her husband again and again... and she went bad, again and again.

It didn't make sense to me, but it made sense to her...

AFTER MY FATHER SHOT MY MOTHER AND KILLED HIMSELF...

I was angry... I didn't want to know... but I learned to forgive...

... and my mother, brothers, and I have gone on to create loving, fulfilling lives.

Anthony Taylor

I wanted to grow up so I could make the white people...

"I was a psychoanalyst... I wanted to be parrot so I could make my father smaller..."

For my mother and my brothers, I was always the protector...

Reflecting on a childhood of domestic violence...

"We had two kinds of survival: with my father and without him..."

Thank you to my mother... for my healing... for being my angel...
BOBBY SMITH/Screenwriter, Los Angeles, CA

"JASON'S LYRIC"

- "I grew up in Texas...in a large family...and I took to pen and paper to work through my childhood."
- "I took a road trip to LA...and that's how 'Jason's Lyric' was born..."
  - "I had just been dumped...and I was thinking, 'How could I be dumped?'"
- "I trusted the words and the thoughts...and caught the attention of Oprah Winfrey!"
- "Much of 'Jason's Lyric' is autobiographical."
- Raising children is a gift...and writing down what I saw is a gift...
  - "My aunt got beaten by her husband again and again..."
  - "...and she went back, again and again."
  - "It didn't make sense to me, but it made sense to her."

Everyone has a gift to share, and every one of us has the power to improve a child's life.

ANTHONY TAYLOR/Founder and motivational speaker for Aromaat, LLC, St. Paul, MN

REFLECTING ON A CHILDHOOD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...

- "I wanted to grow up so I could make the violence stop."
- "For my mother and my brothers, I was always the protector."
- "I was a perfectionist...I wanted to be bigger so I could make my father smaller."
- "I became adept at walking into a room and immediately sensing the dynamics in the room."
- "We had two kinds of normal: with my father and without him."

AFTER MY FATHER SHOT MY MOTHER AND KILLED HIMSELF...

- I was angry...
- I didn't want to mourn...
- ...but I learned to forgive...
- ...and my mother, brothers, and I have gone on to create loving, fulfilling lives...

THANKS TO MY MOTHER...

- ...for my healing
- ...for being my angel...
SHIRLEY BAUGHER, Ph.D/Dean, College of Human Ecology University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

- A CHILD'S CRY is a cry for HUMANITY!
- "The College of Human Ecology is HOME to the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community!"
- Congratulations to Oliver Williams for being promoted to the rank of FULL PROFESSOR!

ROBERT HAMPTON, Ph.D/ Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD.

- "We need to look at INTRA-RACE ISSUES, not just INTER-RACE ISSUES!"
  - Because a body of research and knowledge just deals with black people doesn't mean it's not valuable!
- We need to name trauma in order to understand its impact.
- We're part of the problem...but we are also part of the solution!
- What will happen with the returning men and women from Iraq? Are we prepared for the collateral damage?

Honorable DAVID B. MITCHELL/Executive Director, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, NV

- "Welcome! On behalf of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges!"
- Is the community prepared to hear children about the violence they witness and experience?
- The voices of survivors provided a voice to the regression analyses we have done...
  - LISTEN to ME!
African American Children in the Child Welfare System

Dorothy Roberts, Ph.D.

The Child Welfare System: Helping...but according to elitist and racist standards?

A system designed to monitor and punish poor black families?

Child Welfare: "Care" in prison?

African American Children are more likely to enter the Child Welfare System and be placed out of their homes...

There is a disparity in the treatment of African American children in the Child Welfare System.

Child Welfare or modern day slavery? "Neo-Scientific Slavery"?

Disparity in out-of-home placement

Lack of resources

Punishment of Parents

Pathology

Other Therapeutic Models

It's a political choice to exercise state control over African American families...

...Not a rational course of action in response to social reality...

State control over African American families damages the integrity and self-determination of the African American community...

There needs to be an awareness and action campaign to address the disparities.

Foster Care...raising children with their families of origin earlier?

Wouldn't it make better sense and better use of resources to rethink out-of-home care?

In some communities and faith-based organizations have had to provide daycare because the government institutions have not served us well...

It's not only more ethical, fair social policy...it's better financial sense!

...and a philosophy...
African American Children and the Child Welfare System

Dorothy Roberts, Ph.D/Professor, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, IL

The Child Welfare System
- A system designed to monitor and punish black families?
- Helping ... but according to elitist and racist standards?
- Pathology
- Disparity in out-of-home placement
- Therapeutic models
- Lack of resources
- Punishment of parents

“Child Welfare”
- ... Or modern day slavery...
- Neo-scientific slavery

There is a Disparity in the Treatment of African American Children in the Child Welfare System!

Foster Care
- Reuniting children with their families of origin earlier?

A Link to the Reparations Movement?
- Welfare
- Child welfare
- Control Care/Prison

It’s a Political Choice – And a Philosophy – To Exercise State Control Over African American Families!
- ... Not a rational course of action in response to social reality

There Needs to Be an Awareness and Action Campaign to Address the Disparities!
- Finding where we need to go from here...
- Listening to people’s stories...
- Transforming the way we think and the way we feel...

State Control Over African American Families Damages Integrity and Self-Determination of the African American Community
- Our communities and faith-based organizations have had to provide assistance because the government institutions have not served us well.

Wouldn’t It Make Better Sense and Better Use of Resources to Re-Think Out-Of-Home Care?
- It’s not only more ethical, fair social policy—it’s better financial sense!
INTERSECTION OF CHILD WELFARE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Jeffrey Edleson, Ph.D.

"The issue of how we treat poor communities and communities of color is an issue for all of us!"

- Jeff Edleson

Minnesota State Policy Change...

We get together as a community to expect this policy change...

CHILD WITNESSING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE = CHILD NEGLECT?

Some Statistics...

- 3.3 million children annually witness domestic violence.
- About 1/3 of children will witness domestic violence in their lifetime.
- High rates of overlap between child welfare and domestic violence.

Impact of Violence...

Severity, Frequency, Chronicity, Response to Violence.

Not all children experience violence in the same way!

So, we shouldn't address the needs of child witnesses in the same way!

Higher numbers of reported cases... some are more likely to be classified as "intermediate" and "high" risk...

Higher substantiated abuse/neglect against the non-abusive parent for "disregard for safety"... more investigations, but no additional services...

Some thoughts on "exposure."

Tolerating violence or exposing children to violence is not okay...

... But how do we justify our punishment of battered women for "disregard for safety" when, as a community, we disregard:

- VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES
- SECONDHAND SMOKE
- MEDIA VIOLENCE
INTERSECTION OF CHILD WELFARE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JEFFREY EDLESON, Ph.D/Executive Director, Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse, School of Social Work University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

"The issue of how we treat poor communities and communities of color is an issue for all of us!"

SOME STATISTICS...
- 3.3 million children annually witness domestic violence
- About 1/3 of children will witness domestic violence in their lifetime
- High rates of overlap between child welfare and domestic violence

IMPACT OF VIOLENCE
Not all children experience violence in the same way so we shouldn’t address the needs of child witnesses in the same way!
- Impact of Violence depends on the ...
  - Type of Violence
  - Severity
  - Frequency
  - Chronicity
  - Response to Violence

JULY 1999
- Child Witnessing of Domestic Violence=Child Neglect?
- Minnesota State Policy Change...
- "We got together as a DV community to protest this policy change...." 

THE IMPACT...
- Higher numbers of reported cases...
- Cases more likely to be classified as "Intermediate" and "High Risk"
- Higher substantiated abuse/neglect—against the non-abusive parent for "disregard for safety."
- More investigations, but no additional services.
- "The door on services has been shut tightly!"

SOME THOUGHTS ON "EXPOSURE"...
- Tolerating Violence or Exposing Children to Violence is not okay!
- ...but how do we justify our punishment of men who batter women, when as a community, we tolerate:
  - Violent video games
  - Second-hand smoke
  - Media violence
SHARON SAYLES BELTON, FORMER MINNEAPOLIS MAYOR/Senior Fellow University of Minnesota Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, MN
- “Is our village healthy enough to take care of our children?”
- “It’s time that we are talking about this issue and bringing it to policy discussions!”

UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM...UNDERSTANDING THE SOLUTIONS
- Creating Comprehensive Strategies
- Hope!
- Extended Family Networks
- Identifying Intersections

WHY...
- ...are African American children adopted at lower rates than white children?
- ...are African American children viewed as “hard to place”?
- ...are African American families identified as “less likely” to adopt?
- ...are the majority of adoption workers and supervisors white?

WHAT...
- ...prevention and intervention strategies do we need to explore?
- ...are WE doing to take care of OUR children?
- can we do as a community?
- ...African American families might be overlooked as potential adoptive families?

“IT’s about SAVING OUR CHILDREN...and another GENERATION!”

RUTH McROY, Ph.D/Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Center for Social Work Research, School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

SUSAN WELLS, Ph.D/Professor, School of Social Work, Gamble-Skogmo Land Grant Chair, Children and Youth Policy, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

DECISION MAKING
- It’s where the discretion occurs...
  - Report/Refer for report
  - Screen/Assess/Investigate
  - Substantiate Risk/Maltreatment
  - Provide referral for service
  - Placement
  - Reunify

WHO REPORTS?
- Professionals
- Family/Relatives

HOW ARE REPORTS SCREENED?
- Reliability of reporter
- Witnesses?
- Relationship to child...

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?
- Severity/Likelihood of abuse?
- Abuse by a caregiver