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Mary Byron Project announces Celebrating Solutions Award winners
Agencies in four states recognized for domestic violence prevention efforts

Louisville, Ky. — The Mary Byron Project, a non-profit public charity, has selected organizations in Texas, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Alaska to receive the prestigious Celebrating Solutions Award. The annual award was created to showcase local innovations that show promise in breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Project leaders select programs they believe serve as models for the nation.

This year's honorees are the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Inc. in Bowie, Md.; Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project in Cambridge, Mass.; Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska; and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid from Weslaco, Texas. Each agency received \$10,000 cash awards in recognition for their efforts.

The Maryland agency's Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) offers a screening tool that identifies victims of domestic violence who are at risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners. The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project is New England's only gay, bi-sexual, transgender domestic violence service agency offering education, advocacy, and direct services. Southcentral Foundation is designed by and for Alaska natives providing education and support. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid offers comprehensive legal services for victims of domestic violence in south, central, and west Texas.

"We are thrilled to recognize these four organizations for the tireless work they do to protect people from this horrible crime," said Marcia Roth, executive director of the Mary Byron Project. "Our national review team received nearly 300 applications from across the United States and felt these four show promise toward finding positive solutions to domestic violence."

Since 2003, the Mary Byron Project has given \$320,000 to 32 agencies across the country. Details on all of these programs are available at www.marybyronproject.org in Portable Document Format.

"The beauty of Celebrating Solutions," Roth said, "is that we find innovative programs that are making a difference, then we share them with others who may be working to solve a similar problem in their community."

"We must look beyond crisis communication to determine the cause and cure for domestic violence before it reaches the next generation," said Roth. "Society's attitude that violence is someone else's problem has to change."

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