

# Grant Update

## A Summary of Grant Activity

Governor's Crime Commission

NC Criminal Justice Analysis Center

### REACH of Macon County

Domestic/intimate partner violence exists in every community. It can take the form of physical, mental or emotional abuse, battering, coercion, harassing or stalking. While metropolitan areas across the state may have a variety of agencies available to offer services to victims and to educate the public about the problem of domestic violence, many rural or remote areas have limited resources to provide shelter or services to these victims. The absence of services leaves victims with no place to go to escape the violence. Without services, victims may face the need to return to the abuser for housing and financial support.

#### *The Problem*

REACH of Macon County has assisted victims of domestic violence since 1990. Currently, REACH is the only agency in Macon County that provides support and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. Between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, REACH served 936 victims and children and also provided shelter to 58 victims. Beginning in February 2012, they also expanded to provide services for victims in Jackson County. The agency works with law enforcement, courts, probation officers, the district attorney and other agencies to provide complete support to victims. They have also implemented a batterers program to work with those who commit domestic violence to assist them in complying with court orders.

#### *The Grant*

In an effort to expand the level of services provided, REACH of Macon County applied for a grant to help fund a 24-hour shelter with a full-time shelter manager and 24-hour on-site staff. The grant will assist REACH in providing full-time specialized court advocacy services for victims and help to increase safety measures in the courthouse to ensure the comfort and security of clients during court proceedings. Funds will also be used to help fund a service director for the agency and to recruit more volunteers to assist victims. As a member of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Response Team for the area, staff members will train law enforcement and medical personnel on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, making them aware of the emotional and psychological experiences victims go through. The training will also increase their knowledge of the services available to victims and how to implement a coordinated community response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

As a result of grant funding, Andrea Anderson was hired as program supervisor and services director. Frances Overido was hired as the shelter manager. Frances, who is bilingual, ensured that all forms and informational materials were available in both English and Spanish. She also provided support to clients in the shelter and collaborated with community agencies to ensure that a full range of services were available to them. Andreina Hall serves as the court advocate for shelter clients. In



*Andreina Hall (far right) received an award from the Western North Carolina Crime Victims Coalition for her outstanding services to victims of crime. She is pictured here with (left to right) REACH Services Director Andrea Anderson and GCC Grant Managers Karen Simon and Carlotta Winstead.*

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## Grant Update: REACH Of Macon County

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addition to working as a court advocate for shelter clients, she serves on the N.C. Coalition Against Sexual Assault board and the Western North Carolina Rapid Response Team for Human Trafficking. Adreina also acts as facilitator for Domestic Violence Court Case Management and the local Sexual Assault Response Team for Macon County and serves on the Latino Outreach Task Force.

Grant funds provided to REACH also helped fund the N.C Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference to provide education and training on domestic violence issues to staff and to local collaborating agencies. Elbie Stiles, the founder of REACH and current board member, received the 'Above and Beyond Award' for her dedication to providing services to victims of domestic violence in the local community and at the state level.



*Students of Western Carolina University are among the many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to REACH. They painted the shelter and some of it's furnishings on a day of service.*

### **Community Involvement**

REACH works in collaboration with Legal Aid of Western North Carolina and Pisgah Legal Services. With a portion of the funds from their grant, the agency has formed a Latino Victim Advocacy project to provide bilingual, culturally appropriate services for Latino victims. Funds also enabled REACH to prepare outreach materials, establish a task force focused on Latino victims and provide services through bilingual staff and volunteers. The outreach program also works with victims in this group to find employment in order to become financially independent. REACH has also worked with Mountain Biz Works, Advantage West and the local small business administration office to train victims in setting up small businesses and in marketing their own products. Some clients in this program have created hand-made scarves that are sold in local stores and others have set up home-based tailoring services. The Latino Outreach Program has established a community garden that provides homegrown produce for clients and for the shelter. The garden was featured in the annual Garden Festival held by REACH.



The Town of Highlands has organized a group, 'Random Men and Women for REACH,' to help raise funds to support the program and to provide volunteers to work with clients. They provide marketing support and help staff 'Treasures Within Reach,' the retail resale store operated by REACH. Members of the group also volunteer as counselors, court advocates and fund raisers for the organization. The group hosted a cocktail party and auction as a fundraiser that succeeded in raising \$23,000 for REACH.

REACH also holds an annual Garden Festival to raise funds for the organization. The tour travels to several farms and gardens in the area featuring locally grown produce and flowers and demonstrating a variety of activities, such as sheep shearing and gardening. During the tour, flowers, herbs and vegetables are available for sale. At one of the stops, local artists display their works and local musicians play music for the enjoyment of the guests. One of the farms on the tour, Meadowlark Farm, is now owned by REACH and furnishes much of the produce used to feed the shelter's clients. It also provides a place for clients to walk around the grounds of the farm and to work in the gardens.

REACH relies on volunteers in the community to provide many services to clients. One of the volunteers is a semi-retired attorney who works with the agency's court advocate and volunteers on other cases involving domestic violence. The work

she does supplements the work that Legal Services is able to provide. Volunteers from Western Carolina University assisted on a day of service project, conducting maintenance work, updating rooms and other projects at the emergency shelter. Habitat for Humanity provided paint, tools and equipment to complete the project. Together, they were able to make the shelter a safer and more welcoming place for victims and their children.



### ***Accomplishments***

During the 2010-2011 grant cycle, REACH of Macon County provided services to 754 victims and their families. They enlisted 78 volunteers who provided 2,260 hours of services to the agency, including 1,685 client service hours. The emergency shelter was used by 84 adults and children. More than 500 calls were received on the hot line. Court advocacy services were made available 1,090 times and included assistance with criminal and civil procedures, as well as victim's compensation. Thanks to the work of Andreina "Andy" Hall, the court advocate, REACH is able to effectively assist and support victims of domestic violence through the legal process.



*The annual Farm and Garden Tour is one of REACH's major fundraising activities. Here participants take part in the activities and look over some of the handmade items for sale.*

### ***Summary***

REACH of Macon County has effectively used both funding and community resources to provide a broad range of services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. When the program in adjoining Jackson County was closed down, they were able to step in and extend their services to that area, ensuring that victims in Jackson County would have access to shelter and services. Professional volunteers form a strong part of the REACH team and offer their time and skills to help victims. The services they offer range from legal assistance, counseling and fund raising to staffing the retail store. The outreach program set up for Latino victims reaches those having specific barriers in escaping domestic violence. REACH has also been able to provide services to victims from other cultural backgrounds, including Hindu, Russian and Asian populations.



While Macon County is one of the smaller, more remote parts of the state with an estimated population of less than 40,000\*, they are able to literally reach out and provide needed services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in their area. Through the effective leverage of funds, fund raising activities and a strong volunteer network, REACH of Macon County is able to assist and support victims in both Macon and Jackson counties that otherwise would have no way to escape domestic violence.

\* N.C. Office of State Budget and Management, Log Into North Carolina (NC LINC). Retrieved May 1, 2012 from [http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn\\_linc\\_main.show](http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_main.show)

# REACH of Macon County

## GRANT SUMMARY

Area Served: Macon County

Implementing Agency: REACH of Macon County

Project Director: Andrea Anderson, Service Director

Funding: Total: \$78,125 (Federal: \$62,500, Match: \$15,625)

Overview: REACH of Macon County provides expanded services to victims of domestic violence in Macon County. Shelter services have been expanded to ensure staff are available 24-hours a day. Victims are assisted with specialized court advocacy services by a full-time staff member. Staff also provide training to law enforcement and medical personnel on the dynamics of domestic violence and services available to victims to implement a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

Objectives: Increase the number of victims accessing court advocacy services, including civil and criminal court advocacy, as well as victim's compensation.

Increase the safety and security of domestic violence victims in court by providing a victim privacy room.

Provide 24-hour on-site staff to improve the safety of victims and their children.

Work to increase the number of volunteers that are recruited and trained in both services and activities. REACH has recruited professional level volunteers to provide specialized services to victims and their families.

Accomplishments: Services were provided to 754 victims and their families.

A total of 78 volunteers were recruited who provided 2,260 hours of service to REACH, including 1,685 client service hours.

The emergency shelter housed 84 adults and children.

The hot line received over 500 calls for services and assistance.

Court advocacy services were used 1,090 times to support victims in civil and criminal court cases, as well as assisting with victim's compensation.

Professional volunteers recruited included attorneys and counselors.