



Dear Jasmine,

Happy Spring!

Team RESPOND here with our quarterly update including info, accomplishments, needs and ways to get involved. If you would like more information, we are happy to provide it. Contact [Jessica](#), [Jasmine](#), [Darcie](#) or [Amanda](#) at 617-625-5996.

THANK YOU!

We are honored to work in a community dedicated to ending domestic violence, partnering with amazing local leaders and organizations to carry out our mission. First, a message of gratitude from a survivor, then special shoutouts...

FROM TINA:



"All three of my kids are back in school. It has been a long journey." With the support of a RESPOND Certified Domestic Violence Counselor, Tina worked on transferring schools, securing counselors for her children and getting supplies and clothing for them. "We're back to a normal, safe life. Even so, I know to prepare. I made a safety plan with my two oldest so they are prepared if they ever feel threatened or scared. They have phones and emergency numbers including RESPOND's hotline."

Like Tina, many survivors move on but will always look over their shoulder. Recently, Maggie came back to RESPOND for emotional support and housing resources. She was looking to move because a relative of her abuser reached out to warn her that he knew what city she had relocated to. This came after they had been separated for over a year.

Did You Know?

At least 22 children lost a parent to domestic violence related homicide in MA last year?

[Click here to support RESPOND's work to eliminate these losses.](#)

1 in 3 adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.

[Click here for more info on Teen Dating Violence.](#)

Certified Domestic Violence Counselors are available 24/7 at 617-623-5900.

Mark Your Calendar:

Breaking Monetary Chains of Financial Abuse

[Listen to our interview with WGBH's "Under the Radar"](#)

5/6/2017 at 4PM
[Down & Derby Boston](#)

Check it out...

[Current Wish List](#)

[Contact RESPOND](#)

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Maggie believes that he will always seek her out and her life will never be the same. However, she also knows that because RESPOND is on her side, she will be able to move forward. One of our Certified DV Counselors is working on next steps for Maggie's move and safety planning for the interim.

THANK YOU for helping survivors move forward to lead safe, independent lives!

www.respondinc.org

 Join Our Mailing List

Events

CHILI COOK-OFF:



What a turnout! It was a pleasure to spend the evening with friends, neighbors and partners at the Holiday Inn for our [3rd annual Chili Cook-Off](#).

Congratulations to the winning chefs:

- Best Classic Chili: Tufts University
- Best Vegetarian Chili: Chef Patrick Lord
- Most Creative Chili: River Bar
- Crowd Favorite Chili: Casa B

Special thanks to our Guest Judges: Dr. Christopher Muller, Pebbles, Emily Cassel, and Max Mayer.

We also want to express gratitude to Just Add Cooking for featuring Casa B's Crowd Favorite recipe in their boxes, and donating \$1 from every box sold to RESPOND.

DOWN & DERBY BOSTON



Down & Derby

MAY 6, 2017 / 4-MIDNIGHT / SERAFINA / BOSTON

ENTERTAINMENT BY LOUIE BELLO

This amazing benefit for RESPOND is guaranteed to sell out! The Kentucky Derby combines: exuberant fashion, sporting tradition, indulgent food, abundant libations, lively music, and carousing. It's the ultimate excuse for a good time. [Click here for details.](#)

GALA ANNOUNCEMENT



We've got exciting Gala news in the works! Same Gala celebration. Same RESPOND Mission. But something new is brewing. Announcement to come soon!

In the Community

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS

RESPOND was in schools throughout February for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teenagers all too often do not know the signs of an unhealthy relationship or normalize behaviors that do actually qualify as domestic violence or as unhealthy.

Great news: a student from one of our workshops used what she learned to help a classmate leave an abusive relationship. Bravo!

As a friend, family member or someone who may be in an unhealthy relationship, figuring out unhealthy behaviors is the first step in helping or making a decision to leave. The warning signs to look out for are unique for the teenage population. RESPOND is here to help. call our 24/7 hotline with questions: 617-623-5900.

[Click here](#) to read about our partnership with Woburn High School and the Shannon Lee Meara Foundation. Together, we will offer new education and facilitate class curriculum that supports healthy relationships. The program was founded in memory of Shannon Lee Meara, a WMHS graduate who was killed in 2008 by her abusive partner.

UNDER THE RADAR

Jessica Brayden, RESPOND's CEO, along with Adaias Souza of Allstate Insurance, and Toni Troop of Jane Doe, Inc. spoke with WGBH's "Under the Radar" about financial abuse. A common form of domestic violence, yet it is not often a topic of discussion. Did you know financial abuse occurs in 99% of all cases of domestic violence? It's an invisible weapon that keeps victims trapped in abusive relationships.

[Click here](#) to listen.

SOMERVILLE SUPPORT



We are humbled to have support from across Somerville and beyond- from law offices to student groups, Gracie's Ice Cream and recently, Crossfit Somerville! JT Scott and Crossfit Somerville members dedicated five weeks of fitness challenges and \$500 dollars to RESPOND.

Thanks to The Somerville Theater and Somervillen, Jennifer Dorsen, for hosting a special showing of Academy Award winning "Gaslight" to raise awareness and funds for our life-saving work.

Way to go! Together we will end domestic violence.

Interested in hosting your own event to benefit RESPOND?

[Click here](#) for details.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

It is thanks to an army of dedicated supporters, volunteers, staff and partners that we are able to save and change lives 24/7/365. On International Women's Day, we recognized 24 women who have impacted RESPOND, beginning with our Founding Mothers.

We were honored to receive IWD love from you all! Special shout out to the Brass Union team who donated a portion of tips to RESPOND. What a kind and thoughtful contribution.

[Click here](#) to see photos.

SAN BERNARDINO

[The LA Times headline](#) reads: He was a Pastor and a Gentleman: 'She thought she had a wonderful husband.'

This is not uncommon. Many survivors will say their abusive partner is two different people. In public they may be charismatic, well respected in the community, seen as a doting partner, involved parent. At home they are explosive, physically and emotionally abusive and controlling, the exact opposite of their public persona.

Karen Smith had taken the steps to leave the abusive relationship and pursue a divorce. Tragically, this move most likely triggered her abusive husband to kill her. Abusers need to be in control and when their victim leaves they lose that control.

RESPOND's Domestic Violence High Risk Specialist, Victoria, shared: *"It can be a real catch 22. They're not safe staying and they're not safe leaving. Which decision puts them at greater risk? This was a horrible tragedy, an incident of domestic violence that impacted an entire city and that garnered national attention. I believe Karen Smith made the best decision she could for herself."*

If you know someone who may be in need of help please give them the RESPOND hotline: 617-623-5900. Certified Domestic Violence Counselors are on staff 24/7.

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Have questions for us? Need our help? You can reach
RESPOND 24/7 at 617-623-5900.

Sincerely,
Jessica Brayden
Chief Executive Officer
RESPOND, Inc.

RESPOND, Inc., P.O. Box 555, Somerville, MA 02143

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