

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**  
**ywca**

YWCA Manchester  
72 Concord Street  
Manchester, NH 03101

Phone: 603-625-5785  
Fax: 603-624-4765  
[www.ywcanh.org](http://www.ywcanh.org)

Dear Community Members:

The Staff at YWCA Manchester would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of murder victims Melissa Charbonneau and Suzanne Vernet.

Domestic violence affects millions of individuals across our nation, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion or education. Every day in America, on average, three women are killed by a current or former intimate partner. According to a NH Violence Against Women survey, it is estimated that 166,131 women in NH have experienced physical assault by an intimate partner. That number is greater than the population of Manchester and Concord combined by almost 14,000.

Children are particularly vulnerable as both victims and witnesses to domestic violence. Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. Children that are exposed to violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes. In order to break the cycle of violence, we must intervene and provide services.

Domestic violence can affect all areas of a victim's life including personal safety, housing, employment, financial independence, health status, parenting effectiveness, and educational achievement. Because of the significance of domestic violence, it is a community issue which requires a coordinated response by private citizens, agencies, and businesses to end all forms of domestic violence.

You can take a stand for survivors of abuse by refusing to accept domestic violence. If you see or hear acts of violence, call the police. Commit to learning more about domestic violence; about how you can help a friend or family member who is in an abusive relationship and the services available at YWCA Manchester. You may find this information and more on our website at [www.ywcanh.org](http://www.ywcanh.org). As a community, we must work to protect each other.

We hope that you will join us at the YWCA for an Evening of Remembrance on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, where we will have a panel of community and statewide leaders available to take your questions about domestic violence, followed by a candlelight vigil.

Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

***YWCA Manchester Directors***

Monica Zulauf, Executive Director

Carrie Cooley, Crisis Service Director

Katie Schelzel, Director of Youth and Community Services

Cathy Gagne, Director of Operations and Administration

Janice Johnston, Director of Finance



*Peace, Justice, Freedom  
and Dignity For All People.*