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## **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center Receives Unprecedented Funding to Prevent Domestic Violence Homicides Throughout the U.S.**

*The Center's DVHRT program and partners awarded federal funding to implement and evaluate innovative homicide prevention models*

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., March 18, 2013 – The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center (JGCC), in partnership with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), and Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing has received a Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative (DVHP Initiative) award from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

This award, the first of its kind, will replicate JGCC's Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) model and MNADV's Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in communities throughout the country. The DVHP Initiative seeks to identify the key components of homicide reduction strategies and determine how to adapt as well as reproduce those strategies nationwide. Both models are leading promising practices in homicide prevention and are based on the foundational research of Dr. Campbell's Danger Assessment.

OVW selected the partnership as national experts to provide technical assistance and implementation of the DVHP Initiative to demonstration sites. OVW also is working with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to rigorously evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the DVHP Initiative.

JGCC's CEO, Suzanne Dubus; COO, Kelly Dunne; DVHRT Program Manager, Terry Rooney along with members of the Center's Board of Directors, Paula Katkin and Peter Hoyt, were present as Vice President Joseph Biden and Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. unveiled the new DVHP Initiative. The communities that will receive the federal awards are: Contra Costa County, Calif.; Miami-Dade County, FL.; Palm Beach County, FL; Rockdale County, GA; Winnebago County, IL; Boston, MA; Brooklyn, NY; Westchester County, NY; Pitt County, NC; Cuyahoga County, OH; North Charleston, SC; and Rutland, VT.

"We are honored to have been selected for this federal award. It provides a great opportunity for us to collaborate with two nationally known organizations to provide best practices to other communities in ways that are proven to help to save lives," said Suzanne Dubus.

JGCC's DVHRT includes representatives from local victim services, law enforcement, state's attorneys' offices, and hospitals who identify domestic violence victims who are at the greatest risk of being re-assaulted or killed and develops individualized intervention plans to save victims' lives. DVHRTs have been implemented in 26 jurisdictions in Massachusetts.

“The Initiative will give us as technical assistance providers, our partner sites and eventually practitioners across the country, the best opportunity we have ever had to effectively allow high-risk victims of domestic violence to be safer, more secure, and in charge of their own lives,” said Dave Sargent, Lethality Assessment Program Coordinator, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

Nearly 1,200 domestic violence victims are murdered by their intimate partners in the U.S. each year. In Massachusetts, there were 231 domestic violence related homicides and an additional 121 domestic violence perpetrator deaths (from 2003 to 2012).

“Abused women who used domestic violence services were almost never the victim of murder or attempted murder. We know we can save lives by connecting high-risk victims with these services and holding perpetrators accountable. The Danger Assessment enables first responders to make that crucial connection when it is needed most,” stated Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

To learn more about the DVHRT model, attend our Driving Change Conference on April 10 and 11, 2013 at Boston Marriott, Copley Place. Nationally recognized subject matter experts will focus on the guiding principles and promising practices of the DVHRT model. For conference agenda and to register visit [www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org](http://www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org)

For 30 years, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been helping individuals and families at risk because of domestic violence. What began as the compassionate mission of several volunteer parishioners of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Newburyport in 1982 has grown into a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization serving victims of domestic violence from Amesbury, Merrimac, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury, and Groveland. The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is to empower community members to live free from fear, intimidation, violence or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy, and education. For more information, call 978-465-0999, visit [www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org](http://www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org) or call the 24-hour confidential crisis hotline at 978-388-1888.

For more information on the March 13, 2013 Announcement Event: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/03/13/vice-president-biden-and-attorney-general-holder-announce-grants-help-re>

For more information on the Obama Administration’s commitment to reducing domestic violence homicides: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/dv\\_homicide\\_reduction\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/dv_homicide_reduction_fact_sheet.pdf)

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