



Partners

for Inclusive Communities

Arkansas' University Center on Disabilities

October 28, 2006

Jacquie Skog, Board CoChair
Silent Witness National Initiative
2780 Snelling Avenue North – Suite 104
St. Paul, Minnesota 55113

Dear Jacquie,

Last year in Arkansas, we lost 26 women as victims of domestic violence. One of the victims, Linda, was a woman with a disability who used a wheelchair for mobility. Our state has participated for a number of years in the awareness efforts generated by the Silent Witness Initiative. This year, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we also wanted to educate the public that women with disabilities do become victims of domestic violence and other such crimes while at the same time honoring Linda. We searched nationally for a template that could be used that reflected this. We were unable to locate one so our group decided that we would make our own. Enclosed you will find a template including some key dimensions. We wanted to provide this to you so that if others across the country are in need of it that it would be available. Please feel free to add it to your website or distribute it as appropriate. We used similar dimensions to the current silent witnesses listed on the Silent Witness Initiative website.

Our effort is help honor women with disabilities who have died from domestic violence while also helping to inform about this real concern in their lives. We are also including a picture of the silent witness that was used at one of our events here in Arkansas.

If any additional information is needed, please feel free to contact any of us. We hope you find this template useful. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Kendra Simpson, Domestic Violence Project Coordinator
Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence
SimpsonKendraK@uams.edu

Cheryl Vines, Executive Director
Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission
cvines@arspinalcord.org

Jayne Ann Kita, Executive Director
Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence
jkita@domesticpeace.com

Roberta Sick, Violence Prevention and Disabilities Collaboration Project
Partners for Inclusive Communities – UAMS
Sickrobertae@uams.edu

2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300 • North Little Rock, AR 72114
501-682-9900 (V) • 501-682-9902 (TDD) • 1-800-342-2923 (V/TDD) • 501-682-9901 (Fax)
Website: www.uams.edu/partners • Email: Partners@uams.edu
A Program of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences