Happy New Year!

The end of last year presented challenges for our country, businesses and non-profits alike (including ADWAS). ADWAS management and board have made decisions to streamline the organization without affecting services. This being the case, the community continues to persevere. Thank you to donors, foundations, companies and businesses who continue to support the important work we do.

ADWAS Breakfast

Last October, ADWAS hosted a fund-raising breakfast in lieu of an auction. We were thrilled to have Kerry Kennedy as our guest speaker. Kerry Kennedy is an author, human rights activist, and the daughter of late Robert F. Kennedy. Her presentation was poignant and moving, citing human rights atrocities worldwide. Her message challenged all of us to act locally against acts of violence especially targeted toward women and children. We would like to again thank event sponsors Continental Mills, Boeing, Mithun, KeyBank, and Sprint Relay. Our table sponsors included CSDVRS, Suzanne and Don Dally, Allie Joiner and Estie Provow, Richard Ladner and Ann Sauer, SignOn and Qwest Women. Pictured: Marilyn J. Smith with Kerry Kennedy and Board Chair, Elise Holliday.

National Replication Project Begins
As we reported previously, ADWAS was approached by the Department of Justice to re-instate the National Replication Project. Over the next two years, 28 additional cities will be trained using the ADWAS model including policies, programs and curriculum. The first training will begin May 17, 2009.

New Staff
We have had the great fortune of welcoming new staff during 2008. Dov Wills joined us to work as an additional therapist working with children and adults. Ingrid Tidblom has joined us from the state of Texas. She replaced Jaine Richards as a full time advocate. We would also like to welcome Sadie Pile replacing Ashley Koe who moved to Colorado. Sadie fits right in leading the Children’s Program here at ADWAS.

The Rosa Lee Show! Save the Date
Don’t miss the upcoming Deaf one-woman show featuring live performance, music, and video. It will take place at 7:00 PM on April 18, 2009 at Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus. More details to follow. Check our website www.adwas.org for updates by clicking EVENTS and then UPCOMING.

Looking Forward
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and events will be planned for that month. Please check the website www.adwas.org for information by clicking EVENTS and then CLASSES.

ADWAS’ Leader Receives Recognition
The Women’s eNEWS has recognized Marilyn J. Smith as one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century for 2009. In May, she and the other recipients will be honored at a Gala Benefit Dinner in New York City. To read her interview, go to www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/3852#Smith.