



Annual Report

FY 2009: October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

Together we can...

change attitudes

save lives

end abuse



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administration 207-945-5102

24-hour Hotline 800-863-9909

sprucerun.net

A Look Back at 2009...

Just like many of you, Spruce Run has done some belt tightening this past year, but always with a strong determination to continue providing high-quality services to people impacted by abuse. We've been pulling back and seeking to create efficiencies wherever we can, making sure that as much of your contribution as possible goes to the people who need it most. A few of the ways we've accomplished this:

- When our computer server had to be replaced last winter we turned to Tech Soup, an organization that provides donated software to qualified nonprofit organizations at extremely discounted prices. We were able to buy our new server software and accompanying licenses for \$715, while the value they placed on our order was up to \$17,000! The new server has made it possible for Spruce Run employees working out of the Resource Center (from shelter, for example) to log on to our network, an essential capability as we continue to make ourselves more visible throughout Penobscot County.
- Throughout the year we utilized the Good Shepherd Food Bank for our shelter grocery needs. This long standing practice is one of the reasons we are still able to provide people with food when they stay at our shelter. We are very proud of the way this partnership has resulted in quality service for the families we work with without costing the organization an arm and a leg, and we're grateful to Good Shepherd for all that they do to provide a much needed service to the community.
- Last winter we began really looking at how we as an organization consume energy, particularly at shelter and the Resource Center. We had an energy audit done, and as a result ended up insulating the basement and the attic of the Resource Center. We also put in place a new set of energy use protocols, which will help us reduce both our carbon footprint and our power bills.
- After a lot of hard work, we launched our new website at www.sprucerun.net. It's the same URL, but with a whole new look and feel. The new site, which is 60 pages and still growing, allows us to reach out to our community in a whole new way. We can post announcements and event publicity,

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get information from prospective volunteers, take orders for outreach materials, accept electronic donations, and of course provide information to those with a range of questions about abuse and the services we offer here at Spruce Run. We couldn't have made the website what it is without the help of JGroup Advertising. They partnered with us to develop the content and the look of the site—and generously donated some of their time.

- This spring we embarked upon a strategic planning process, which is helping us create efficiencies and situate ourselves in the best way possible in our rapidly shifting environment. Part of the process has resulted in a reconfiguration of our staff structure. The time for a change was ripe, considering the changing needs of our community and the departure of several staff members for other opportunities. Our Community Response and Advocacy programs look very different now; you can see those changes by referring to the staff list at the end of this report.

WE KNOW WE'RE NOT ALONE IN FEELING THE FISCAL PINCH. However, in spite of the economy, our community has remained steadfast in supporting the effort to end abuse. Here are just a few examples of the many ways in which you all made a difference in 2009:

- In the 2008 holiday season community members sponsored 72 transitional housing and shelter residents, donating enough so that the adults and kids each got multiple presents. Together with moms, we were able to fill over 65 holiday stockings. Perhaps the highlight of it all was when Santa showed up at our annual holiday party—carrying gifts for each of the more than 30 children there! It is always amazing how people open their hearts during the holidays, even when times are tough, and this year was a shining example of what a difference a community can make.
- An anonymous community donor continued to provide money for the Pay It Forward Fund, and a new donor came forward to provide a match, allowing the fund to reach even more people in FY 2009. Inspired by the idea that one good deed will instigate another, the founding donor wanted us to distribute the Pay It Forward money with the understanding that recipients would somehow pay that assistance forward, instead of having to pay it back. For example, one woman offered to use her advanced degree in accounting to provide free tax help to other people working with Spruce Run, while another helped her friend buy milk and bread. The fund has touched many lives, and continues to inspire those of us who hear the stories.
- In April, a group of students from Unity College donated three days of their alternative spring break to complete the annual deep cleaning at shelter. With help from the residents, the place was immaculate by the time the students left. They accomplished an incredible amount of work, including tearing down the old play structure in the back yard, cleaning out the basement, and painting a new mural in the living room.
- In the summer of 2009, we received \$2500 from the Agnes M. Lindsay Trust to improve the handicapped accessibility of our shelter. Lynn Gitlo, the Director of the Occupational Therapy Program at Husson University, donated her time as a consultant to help us figure out exactly what we needed. We now have a fully electronic hospital bed, a lift chair, and several other smaller modifications in the bathroom and the handicapped bedroom. We ordered the equipment from Black Bear Medical, who generously gave us a 10 percent discount. Thanks to all of those who contributed to this project, shelter is now much better prepared to serve people with a wide range of accessibility needs.

Who Are We?

Spruce Run is a private, independent, nonprofit organization committed to preventing domestic abuse in Penobscot County. Incorporated in 1973, Spruce Run became one of the first domestic abuse agencies in the United States and the first in the state of Maine. We have grown from an all-volunteer organization with a budget of about \$40,000 to one employing 21 people, managing a budget of over \$1 million, and owning two buildings in Bangor. Despite all of these changes, we still rely heavily on the goodwill and contributions of the people of Penobscot County and beyond, who have helped fund our work and who have served as volunteers in countless capacities since our inception.

At the core of our work is our 24-hour hotline, which is staffed in part by trained volunteers. We also offer specialized advocacy, support groups, emergency shelter, and transitional housing for people affected by domestic abuse. We provide legal advocacy and representation in Bangor, Millinocket, Lincoln, and Newport courts. However, our work does not stop there. We believe that educating the community about the issue is vital to changing attitudes, saving lives, and ending abuse. To this end, we offer policy development, consultation, and training for local schools, employers, service providers, and others. Spruce Run's role in the community has grown and changed since 1973, and it will continue to do so as we work toward a violence-free society.

What Do We Do?

IN FY 2009, SPRUCE RUN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO PENOBSCOT COUNTY:

Crisis response and advocacy to 1,347 people for a total of 6,032 hours, assisting victims with specialized issues such as navigating the legal and Child Protective systems.

Direct service contact to an average of 431 people per month, listening to and validating victims and their supporters and helping them plan for their safety.

Support, education, and activity groups for 183 people for a total of 2,917 hours, helping women and children to sort through their experiences of trauma.

Emergency shelter for 107 adults and children for a total of 3,395 bed nights, providing families with a safe, confidential place to stay when in danger or when homeless because of abuse.

Transitional housing and services for 25 women and 40 children, helping families to get back on their feet and establish long-term stability.

Community education and training for 2,950 people, including members of the business, faith, and health care communities, assisting them in taking a firm stand against abuse.

School and youth-based education and activities to 5,502 young people, educating a new generation about healthy relationships and creating a more peaceful world for the future.



FY 2009 Budget

We had nothing. Now we have everything. You gave us a place to sleep when we had nowhere to go. You gave us food when we were hungry, money to wash our clothes so we wouldn't feel dirty and humiliated. You gave me hope and direction. You allowed me to find a future.

-"Jessica"

REVENUE & OPERATING SUPPORT

Federal and State Funding	\$963,002
Donations and Fundraising	\$87,520
United Way of Eastern Maine	\$64,273
In-Kind Volunteers	\$52,185
Private Grants & Program Income	\$35,406
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,095
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$1,203,481

OPERATING EXPENSES

Personnel & Programming	\$919,129
Utilities & Maintenance	\$76,918
Program & Office Supplies	\$55,804
Professional Services	\$55,227
Travel	\$25,217
Depreciation	\$22,814
Direct Client Services	\$14,504
Insurance	\$13,869
Rental Subsidy	\$10,800
Office Rent	\$3,800
Job Advertisement	\$2,467
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,975
Fundraising	\$957
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,203,481

Donors

Thank you to everyone who donated time and money to Spruce Run in 2009.

BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

- All Maine Women Honor Society
- American Federation of Government Employees #948
- Amicus Community Life Program
- Bangor Daily News
- Bangor Federal Credit Union
- Bangor Hydro
- Bangor Steel Service, Inc.
- Bangor Theological Seminary
- Bangor Women's Golf Association
- Bar Harbor Camping Resorts
- Brewer Children's Garden
- Carmel Union Congregational Church
- Church of Universal Fellowship
- Columbia Street Baptist Church
- Congregation Beth El
- Daughters of Isabella Past Regent's Club
- Delta Kappa Gamma
- EMMC Credit Union
- Empire Beauty Schools
- Fairpoint Employees
- First Baptist Church Missions, Bangor
- First Congregational Church of Brewer
- First Congregational Church of Millinocket
- Forest Avenue Congregational Church
- Francis T. and Louise T. Nichols Foundation
- Fraternal Order of Eagles #3177
- Fraternal Order of Eagles, Ladies Auxiliary
- Gamma Sigma Sigma
- Getchell Brothers, Inc.
- Grant Trailer Sales, Inc.
- Hair Fashions by Roger
- Hammond Street Congregational Church
- Heart of Maine Chorus, Sweet Adelines International
- High Street Congregational Church
- Hodge Abstracting
- Holden Congregational Church
- JGroup Advertising
- Jackson Plumbing and Heating
- John T. Cyr & Sons
- Johnson Family Foundation
- Joyce Philbrick Family Trust
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Lois M. Gauthier Charitable Trust
- M.S. Walker, Inc.
- Maine Chapter of Thrivent Financial
- Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation
- Miller Drug
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- Neeburban Club
- New England Health Search
- Newport Women's Club
- Northeast Cardiology Associates
- Northeast Reprographics
- Order of Eastern Star
- Parker Lumber Company, Inc.
- Patawa Club
- Peapatch Press
- Penobscot Job Corps
- Pretty Woman, Inc.
- Rainmakers
- Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Shards Glass Studio
- Shelter Alliance
- Spectrum Medical Group
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. Teresa's Parish
- Temple of the Feminine Divine
- The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
- The Maine Campus
- Town of Charleston
- Town of Chester
- Town of East Millinocket
- Town of Etna
- Town of Exeter
- Town of Glenburn
- Town of Hermon
- Town of Lee
- Town of Milford
- Town of Plymouth
- Town of Stacyville
- Town of Winn
- Unicef
- Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor
- United Methodist Women, North Brewer/Eddington Methodist Church
- United Way of Eastern Maine
- University of Maine Bookstore
- University of Maine Student Women's Association
- Veazie Senior Citizen's Club
- Verizon Telecompioneers
- WABI TV
- Webber Energy Fuels
- Women in the Curriculum & Women's Resource Center
- Zonta Club of Bangor

INDIVIDUALS

- Marjorie & Bradford Adams



- Tiffany Ahmann
- Doug Allen & Ilze Petersons
- Denise & Anthony Antonition
- Julianne & Wesley Archer
- Linda & Frederick Austin
- Marion Bailey & Carole Gass
- Sharon Barker & John Hoyt
- Hasan Basheera
- Vickie Bedore
- Karen & Dan Belknap
- Kathleen Bell
- Rebecca & Peter Bell
- Katrina & Edwardo Benjamin
- Ann Benson
- Tracy Bigney
- Amy & Lance Blackstone
- Martha & Sid Block
- Phyllis Borns
- Suzanne Boutilier
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- Josephine Bright
- Alice & Mitchell Bruce
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- Meredith Bruskin
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- Corrine & William Cost
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- Jane Cushing
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- Eliot Cutler & Melanie Stewart Cutler
- Margaret Danielson
- Susan Davies
- Lee Davis & Ron Davis
- Mary Louis Davitt & Jim Davitt
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- Peggy & Lloyd Day
- Bernadette Demmons
- Dot Demyan
- Jane Dewitt
- Christina Diebold
- Ann & John Dieffenbacher Krall
- Michelle Dokka
- Jeanne Dorland
- Geraldine Dorsey
- Marcia Douglas
- Shaun Dowd, DMD, LLC
- Robert Dubay
- Jennifer Dunham
- Suzanne Duval
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- Debora Elliott Ward
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- Wendy Gray
- Ruth Gray
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- Garry Greene
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Grants Integration Coordinator:

Dorathy Martel

Groups Coordinator:

Tricia Guard

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Catherine Kurr

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Margo Batsie

Legal Advocacy Coordinator:

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Candace Sabol

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Joy Walters

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Maureen O'Malley

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Nancy Webster



