

“...The Good Fight”

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**Today, June 1st,
is “National
Doughnut Day.”
To honor this hol-
iday, enjoy a
waffle instead!**

Spotlight: Charlene Wesler

Charlene Wesler owns and operates the (delicious!) “Gaufre Gourmet” food cart in Portland (SW 9th and Alder. Check out her website: <http://www.gaufregourmet.com/>). She is a mom of three, student, volunteer, and small-business owner. Charlene is also a survivor of domestic violence. Her ex-husband is currently serving a 14 year prison sentence for brutally attacking her in their home. Charlene was gracious enough to share her feelings about her experience and how life has changed for her and her kids.



Q: Did you consider yourself a victim of domestic violence before the incident that resulted in your ex-husband’s incarceration?

A: I felt like I was experiencing mental abuse and manipulation, but didn't view myself as a victim of domestic violence. I didn't think I could relate to anyone in that situation, until I sat down to do a questionnaire about a month after the attack and realized I had been in a relationship riddled with domestic violence, or at least many of the red flags.

Q: How was your experience with the criminal justice system? What was most frustrating or rewarding?

A: My experiences were mostly rewarding. Right after my ex-husband’s attack on me, I was afraid that if I reported this people wouldn't believe me, and I would be in greater danger. My ex-husband had promised me, at gun point, that even if he had to wait in jail for 10 years, if I told anyone what had happened that night he would start by killing those important to me and end by killing me. I believed him, but still reported this in the hopes that the justice system would protect me. He is currently serving 14 years, but when his sentence is up, I will be very cautious about protecting myself.

Q: Has your experience with the criminal justice system affected the way you view it now?

A: I know that the system is there to protect people like me. But I have also met

people who feel that some women use the system falsely for their gain. I know that the criminal justice system is not perfect, but it did help me in my situation.

Q: Do you have advice for those who work with victims or who are victims of crime?

A: It is hard to be a victim of crime. Not only do you have life's normal pressures, but you have the additional stress of the event you survived. This means time is needed to heal, help is needed to resume even normal activities, and everything seems like an uphill battle. For those working with victims, just take the time to listen. An understanding ear is invaluable in the healing process for a victim. For victims, just take one day at a time and try to do something each day to better your situation. Sometimes that means just taking a day off for yourself. Sometimes that means working extra hard to

Continued on next page.

Spotlight continued: Charlene Wesler

finish a nagging project. Most of all, give yourself time and space to heal. This isn't an easy process.

Q: How do you feel about being referred to as a victim or survivor of domestic violence?

A: I think I have worked very hard to not take on the role of "victim" in all this. It was very difficult to hear myself referred to as the victim when survivor really sums up my situation much better. I worked very hard during this whole process to not view myself as a victim, and to portray my situation in a light that will be helpful to others, not paint me as the victim. The victim mentality is very trapping and I don't want to bog myself down with more than I need to!

Q: How has this experience affected your children and/or the rest of your family?

A: My children are all still in counseling to reverse the effects of my ex-husband's actions. A big issue with my children is the brainwashing that occurred from my ex before the attack; he placed my children in an environment where I was not someone who was to be listened to or respected. I have three boys, so this is proving to be very difficult to overcome as I am now their only parent. Additionally, my ex-husband routinely told my children that I cared more about my job than I did for them. For many years, I was a stay-at-home-mom, but I ultimately went back to school and tried to pursue a career. My ex-husband became

insecure about my increasing ability to support myself and tried to make me feel guilty so that I would stop working and stay at home. I know now that it was his attempt to maintain the control that he desperately needed. Unfortunately, keeping my family afloat these days requires me to be away from the house a lot. My children really miss their time with me and I with them. These messages my ex-husband communicated to the children in their early years are extraordinarily damaging. It is hard for them to understand that I am working so hard, and away from them for long hours because I love them very much and I am trying to improve our situation.

Q: Do you think about when your ex-husband is released from prison?

A: All the time. I only hope I can make my story known enough between now and then that he wouldn't dare try anything when he gets out. I will keep my passport up to date just in case I have to leave the country for my safety. I believe his words to me that night. He won't forget.

Q: How has your life changed since your ex-husband assaulted you and went to prison?

A: My life is completely different. I was left with three children to support, no child support and a soon to be ex-husband who, while even in jail, wanted to use all his energy to fight any progress on my part. Unfortunately, I truly feel that he was given more consideration within the justice system as an admitted criminal than I was as a victim. Six months after



Charlene Wesler serving up her delicious waffles on the set of "Grimm"!

the attack, I lost my job and was unemployed for over a year. Financially, I have had to start completely over from scratch. I survived for part of a year by selling my family's belongings on E-bay. I am currently facing bankruptcy brought on by events surrounding this violence. I tried to work out of it, but it didn't happen. My ex-husband did everything he could to saddle me with the family's entire debt. Bankruptcy is my option to get back on an even playing field, as I have nothing left to sell. That is the bad news. The good news is that I am in school and am one year away from completing my accounting degree. I have taken the meager settlement I received in the divorce to start my own small business, a food cart, in Portland. It is a serious juggling act to be an effective mom, businesswoman, and student, but my hopes are that my efforts will pay off in the end.

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

Milton Berl

Update:

Gladstone Man Accused of Posting Fake Sex Ads to Craigslist Pleads Guilty



Jermaine Flom recently pleaded guilty to multiple crimes committed against his ex-girlfriend. He will spend four years in prison.

Earlier this year, Andre Jermaine Flom, 31, was charged in Multnomah County with 20 counts of identity theft and five counts of unlawful use of computer. Flom was alleged to have posted ads to Craigslist, posing as his ex-girlfriend, inviting men over to her house for sex. Flom was previously convicted in November of strangling his ex-girlfriend and she received a Restraining Order against

him. The ads included her phone number, address, and explicit sexual requests. The victim had reported that up to 20 men had arrived at her home for sex at all hours of the night. Flom is also alleged to have listed the contact details of the victim's mother. The investigators were able to trace the IP address use to post the ads to Flom's neighbor who was using an

unsecured wireless router.

Late last month, Flom pleaded guilty in Multnomah County Circuit Court to committing computer crime and multiple counts of identity theft. He was sentenced to four years in prison. According to the Oregonian, Flom apologized and said that he didn't want his girlfriend to get hurt.

Cases to Watch:

◆ Kyle Nonneman (Multnomah County)

Defendant is charged with twelve crimes against two women, including rape, sodomy, and assault. Trial is currently scheduled for June 19, 2012.

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2012/05/state_plans_to_argue_a_portlan.html

◆ James Speidel (Washington County)

Defendant, an executive at Nike, is indicted for attempting to kill his wife and children with a natural gas leak. Trial is currently scheduled for June 19, 2012.

http://www.oregonlive.com/north-of-26/index.ssf/2012/05/nike_executive_accused_of_cutt.html.

◆ Alberto Quiroz Martinez (Umatilla County)

Defendant was indicted on eight charges, including kidnapping, assault and menacing for taking his ex-girlfriend hostage and holding her at a cabin in Crescent Lake, Ore.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/05/14/2144465/hermiston-man-indicted-in-kidnapping.html>

Numbers Paint An Ugly Picture

Earlier this year, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released its 2012 “Homicide in Oregon Related to Intimate Partner Violence” Fact Sheet¹. The Fact Sheet summarized OHA’s 2003-2010 Violent Death Report as it relates to Intimate Partner Violence. The statistics were sobering:

- From 2003-2010, 207 people were killed in the context of intimate partner violence.
- Overall, IPV accounted for 1 in 4 of all homicides in Oregon during 2003-2010.
- In 2010, IPV homicides accounted for 1 in 3 of all homicides.
- IPV homicides accounted for 45% of all homicides among females in Oregon.
- 42% of IPV homicides were followed by a suicide or suicide attempt.
- IPV is related to 3 of 4 homicide-suicide events in Oregon.
- 61% of IPV deaths were due to gunshot wounds.

We are only five months through 2012, and already this year has seen 22 Domestic Violence/IPV-related deaths. In May alone, there were eleven deaths in four (4) Oregon counties:

January: (Multnomah County) Man stabs/kills his domestic partner (1 death)

January: (Clackamas County) Man shoots/kills his wife and himself (2)

March: (Jackson County) Man shoot/kills his ex-girlfriend and himself (2)

March: (Jackson County) Man shoots/kills wife (child in home when he killed woman) (1)

April: (Multnomah County) Woman stabs/kills boyfriend (1)

April: (Lane County) Elderly man shoots/kills wife/himself (2)

April: (Multnomah County) Man kills himself by jumping off bridge (man was suspect in DV-related shooting where he shot at his girlfriend and threatened his own father) (1)

April: (Multnomah County) Man shoots/kills himself after taking woman, with whom he was living, and her three kids hostage (1)

May: (Clatsop Co) Ex-husband kills ex-wife (w/ whom he was living) and her male friend w/ baseball bat (2)

May: (Wallowa County) Ex-husband kills ex-wife’s ex-boyfriend by stabbing him to death (1)

May: (Washington County) Man kills live-in girlfriend with blunt-force trauma (1)

May: (Washington County) Ex-husband shoots/kills ex-wife and himself (children in home when he killed woman)(2)

May: (Marion County) Husband shoots/kills wife, two children, strangles a third child and then shoots/kills himself (5)

While DV in its worst form results in death, we know that there are many other “costs” associated with Domestic Violence—social and fiscal. For these reasons, the OHA has recently identified Family Violence Prevention as one of its eleven priority areas over the next five years.

For more information, see OHA’s website: http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Pages/about_us.aspx

¹ OHA’s definition of IPV is different than that used by many in the criminal justice system. For OHA purposes, IPV is “actual or threatened physical aggression, sexual assault, and psychological/emotional abuse directed toward a spouse, ex-spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend, or former dates.”

Trainings and Resources

Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.

~Samuel Johnson

Upcoming Trainings and Available Resources:

- ◆ Criminal Justice in Indian Country (6/6/12 webinar): http://www.niwrc.org/content/ai1ec_event/webinar-criminal-jurisdiction-in-indian-country?instance_id=23
- ◆ LGBTQ Sexual Violence 101 (6/12/12 webinar): http://www.svfreenyc.org/event_1541.html
- ◆ Serving Survivors with Disabilities and Deaf Survivors (6/12/12 webinar): <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/445210398>
- ◆ Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Crime Victims (6/20/12 web forum): <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/asp/calendar.asp#upcoming>
- ◆ National Center on Full Faith and Credit (6/27/12 teleconference): http://www.bwjp.org/ncffc_home.aspx
- ◆ AEQUITAS: A Prosecutor's Resource (Available anytime) <http://www.aequitasresource.org/>

Webinar recordings that are available anytime, include:

- ◆ Battered Women charged with crimes
- ◆ Law Enforcement Officers as DV Victims and Offenders
- ◆ Safety and Accountability in Stalking Post-Conviction Supervision
- ◆ The History of Evidence-based Prosecution of Domestic Violence



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There is no job more interesting than the one we do. And, as they say, truth is stronger than fiction. So, if you have a funny or disturbing anecdote, send it my way!

They Did What?!?

Woman who took gunshot victim to hospital arrested.

MEDFORD—A Rogue River woman who drove a gunshot victim to a hospital was arrested and accused of lying about the incident.

Police say three people were involved in an illegal transaction involving stolen guns when one of the weapons accidentally fired. It injured 22-year-old Derek Scheller of Grants Pass.

Thirty-two year old Carrie Bartlett called 911 to report that she was taking a gunshot victim to the hospital. Bartlett was arrested on suspicion of theft, tampering with a witness, hindering prosecution, and methamphetamine possession.

Upcoming Events: Have Fun! Do Good!

♦ **Saving Grace**

"Strictly Organic" coffee announces new "Saving Grace" blend. <http://www.saving-grace.org/Homepage-Event/370806.aspx>

♦ **Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Center**

World Beat Festival: Join us in June at the Riverfront Park in Salem. World Beat Festival is a two-day non-stop program of international music, dance, folklore, hands-on crafts, games, demonstrations and fun for all ages. Children and adults can create and decorate buttons with diversity messages at our booth.

If you are interested in volunteering for either event, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at (503) 378-1572 or email volunteer@mwwcs.com. [Welcome Page](#)

♦ **Raphael House Donation Day Drop Off**

<http://raphaelhouse.com/events/raphael-house-special-events/donation-drop-off-day/>

♦ **St. Andrew Legal Clinic's "Race For Justice"** (June 16, 2012)

5k run/walk, kids' fun run. Register at: www.salcgroup.org

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

~George Washington Carver