FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

For 30 years your generous contributions have allowed the New York City Anti-Violence Project to provide vital, free services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) victims and survivors of violence throughout the city, state and nation. With your support, AVP remains steadfastly focused on our mission to provide quality compassionate counseling and support to victims and survivors of violence and to educate and organize our communities to fight the root causes of violence. AVP works to reform law enforcement and legal systems and mount local and national initiatives that promote the safety and equality of LGBTQH people. Your commitment to our work continues to ensure that no member of the LGBTQH communities will be forced to suffer through the pain of hate violence, sexual violence or domestic violence alone. As you will be able to see in the report that follows, even amidst economic recession and financial hard times, in fiscal year 2010 AVP was able to expand our programming in substantial ways to the great benefit of our clients and communities, directly serving more clients and adding three new support groups and a legal clinic for LGBTQH survivors of domestic violence. We increased our work around policy advocacy on the city, state and national level, working to support the passage of such key pieces of legislation as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Law. Finally, we were a strong voice against violence and raised our profile and visibility within the community, reaching more people in need of AVP’s direct services, education and advocacy. Your support made this possible. Thank you. Together we are making a world that is safe for all of us.

With deep gratitude,

Sharon Stapel
Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The New York City Anti-Violence Project is dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected communities through counseling, advocacy, organizing, and public education.
AVP FY 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
In June of 2010, the AVP Board of Directors won the Allan Morrow Prize for Excellence in Board Leadership, bestowed by the Stonewall Foundation.

FISCAL YEAR 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SAFEGUARDING AND EXPANDING LGBTQ RIGHTS
In October 2009, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs became a program of AVP and advocated for the successful passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Law, the first federal law that recognizes gender identity and protected victims of anti-LGBTQ violence.

Through AVP’s New York State LGBTQ Domestic Violence Network and other coalition partners, we achieved the restoration of critical domestic violence funding in New York State in the spring of 2010. Throughout the year, AVP increased our participation in local and statewide advocacy efforts, including being named to the recently re-constituted New York Police Department’s LGBT Advisory Committee.

“[The New York City Anti-Violence Project is an acknowledged leader in the effort to provide services to and advocate for LGBT victims of hate crimes, sexual assault, domestic violence, and police misconduct. As the Paul Rapoport Foundation’s focus is on LGBT communities of color—communities that are disproportionately affected by all nature of violence—we are particularly grateful for the services AVP is able to provide to our community.]” — Jane Schwartz, Paul Rapoport Foundation

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES
In FY 2010, AVP provided services to nearly 1,000 clients in-house and received 2,306 calls on our 24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline.

We attended 106 outreach events and reached more than 22,600 people with information, education, and materials with which to stay safe.

We conducted more than 110 trainings reaching more than 2,700 participants through our Education and Training Institute on topics such as Same Sex Domestic Violence, anti-LGBTQ Hate Violence, Rape and Sexual Assault, the Anti-Violence Project’s services.

AVP launched a new Hate Violence Support Group for anyone who feels or has felt harassed or discriminated against or targeted because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

We piloted a Sexual Violence Support Group, which we have made an ongoing part of our programming, along with an increased targeted focus on outreach and services to victims of sexual assault.

We started a Domestic Violence Support Group for LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence, which will also be an ongoing part of the programming we have to offer our communities.

We launched and began operating a free and confidential Legal Clinic for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence, a collaborative service between AVP, the New York Legal Assistance Group, Sanctuary for Families and the Urban Justice Center and offers free legal consultations to LGBTQ victims and survivors of domestic violence.

And we developed a secure on-line violent incident reporting form so that individuals who have witnessed or experienced violence can easily report it to AVP online.

AVP’s Community Organizing and Public Advocacy department reached over 20,000 people this year with information about anti-LGBTQ violence, more people than fit inside Madison Square Garden!

EMPOWERING OUR LGBTQ COMMUNITIES
This year AVP launched a Speakers Bureau where former clients can share their stories to educate school and community groups and service providers about how to prevent violence, and what to do if they or someone they love is affected by anti-LGBTQ violence.

AVP also produced and published a Community Rapid Incident Response Manual, which compiles 30 years of knowledge about how community members can get involved in responding to anti-LGBTQ violence when it occurs. It includes five easy steps that anyone can follow to rapidly and effectively address the issue of anti-LGBTQ hate violence within their neighborhoods, raise public awareness levels, and make our homes and streets safer for LGBTQ people.

“AVP reassured me that I do not have to be ashamed of who I am and that I…that we should not be victimized for who we are.” — Jessie Estrella, Former AVP Client and Speakers’ Bureau graduate

RAISING VISIBILITY AND CREATING PUBLIC AWARENESS
In FY 2010, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a program of AVP, authored and released two annual reports on LGBTQ Domestic Violence and LGBTQ Hate Violence.

NCAVP also authored a groundbreaking report with the National Center for Victims of Crime called “Why It Matters: Rethinking Victim Assistance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Victims of Hate Violence and Intimate Partner Violence” which has received the attention of the White House, the Department of Justice and the Health and Human Services Department.

AVP carried out the successful “I’m anti violence” photo campaign, a fun and interactive way to bring attention to our work.

AVP brings attention to the issues of violence facing the LGBTQ communities and keeps our communities informed when incidents of violence, bias and intimidation occur through rapid response and frequent community alerts. In FY 2010, we sent more than 100,000 e-communications such as community alerts, e-newsletters and Facebook postings.

And we created three new campaigns raising awareness and providing support for victims and survivors of LGBT-focused hate violence, sexual violence and domestic violence.