

Deaf women establishing service for deaf victims of abuse

June 1, 1998

Sharon Gutshall Haynes, SVP'76; Vicki Hurwitz, '93; Beth Ann Metlay, SVP'75, '80; Shirley Martina Moore-Reid, SVP'83; and Sharon Staehle are planning a new service, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims (ASADV) of Monroe County, New York. They participated in a week-long intensive training that was provided by Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) in Seattle, Washington, in March.

Marilyn J. Smith, executive director and founder of ADWAS, received a one-year grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, to share the ADWAS model with five other cities in the United States. Rochester, New York, was chosen along with Austin, Texas; Boston, Massachusetts; St. Paul, Minnesota; and San Francisco, California. The March training covered issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, community organizing, and the logistics of setting up a program similar to ADWAS.

Volunteers are now being recruited to work with ASADV. Interested people with fluent ASL and Deaf cultural backgrounds and who live in Monroe County may request applications by writing to ASADV, care of Deaf Women of Rochester, Deaf Women of Rochester, P.O. Box 92455, Rochester, NY 14692-0455; ASADV@juno.com (e-mail).