



# Umbrella Updates

February 2009

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## Contact Us:



1222 Main St. #301  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

KCCC & Admin Staff:  
802-748-1992

The Family Room  
802-748-5880

The Advocacy Program:  
802-748-8645 (24 hrs) St. J  
802-748-0148 (24 hrs)  
Newport

[www.umbrellanek.org](http://www.umbrellanek.org)

[info@umbrellanek.org](mailto:info@umbrellanek.org)

**Raise Money for Umbrella every time you search the internet! It's legit and works great –**

## Rally in St. J March 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Demand New Revenue to Support Key Programs

**What:** The Vermont Workers' Center and dozens of other organizations, part of the Save Our State (SOS) Coalition are holding rallies in cities and towns across Vermont opposing State Budget Cuts proposed by Governor Douglas. The Workers' Center is pushing for a "People's Plan" which includes several pending pieces of legislation that would raise revenue from those who can afford it and single-payer universal healthcare (more below). **We are looking for speakers who would be willing to share the impact that cuts have or would have on them, and for people who believe we should be sharing in the sacrifice with tax increases for those who can afford them.**

**When:** Monday, March 30 5:30-6:30pm

**Where:** St. Johnsbury, In front of Athenaeum

**Why:** The State of Vermont has a budget shortfall and Governor Douglas says it should be done without raising new revenue but through program cuts that will primarily affect children, the elderly and low income Vermonters. The Vermont Workers' Center is pushing for an alternative "People's Plan", a plan centered on human rights and needs, which has three main thrusts:

- Maintaining and expanding programs in areas of fundamental need, including human services, housing, education and employment;
- Instituting equitable revenue policies that increase the contribution of the wealthy and unearned income at no less than the same rate as other income;
- Establishing a system of universal healthcare that is equitable, is accountable to the people and eliminates all barriers to the enjoyment of the human right to health.

Bills that currently constitute the People's Plan include H.100/S.88 (healthcare), H.177 (revenue), H.257 (public services). More information: [www.workerscenter.org/peoplesplan](http://www.workerscenter.org/peoplesplan), <http://www.vt.blogspot.com/> or Contact Michelle Fay at [michelle@umbrellanek.org](mailto:michelle@umbrellanek.org)

## Mother's Day Fun Run Slated for May 10<sup>th</sup>

Spring is (technically) here, which means Umbrella's annual fundraising event is just around the corner. Leave the buffet behind and head to Burke Mountain for the 3rd Annual Mother's Day Fun Run. Choose from a leisurely 5k walk, or run in the 5k or 10k races. Kids also get in on the action with a 1/2 mile fun run that everybody wins.

**click below for more information:**

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

This year's event will be held at the Burke Mountain Ski Area base lodge, and as in the past, will feature a gourmet barbeque, kids' activities and child care so Moms can run. Multiply the fun by putting together a Challenge Team with your club, business, church or organization? We'll have special prizes for team participants.

Preregistration for adult runners is \$25, which includes a t-shirt and the bbq. All the details are at Umbrella's website: <http://www.umbrellanek.org/mothersdayrun.htm>

See you at the Mountain!

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## Nominations Sought for Statewide Crime Victim Service Awards

As the discipline of crime victim services has grown over the years, so has the number of remarkable individuals and organizations who significantly contribute to its success. Today, the field includes countless people and programs who have, through vision, action and leadership, improved the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime.

Crime Victim Service awards recognize victim activists who have inspired us through their acts of courage and compassion, programs or individuals whose work has been particularly innovative and pioneering, and those who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes many of Vermont's victim service providers, some of whom are themselves victims of crime. The award winners will be honored at a special ceremony held on Wednesday, April 29, at 1:00 p.m. at the Vermont State Capitol during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 26 – May 2, 2009. This ceremony is free and open to the public, and all are welcome.

### Categories for Crime Victim Service Awards

1. Survivor/Activist
2. Community-Based Victim Advocate
3. System-Based Victim Advocate
4. Youth Activist
5. Ally Award
6. Lifetime Achievement/Patrisi Award

### Who may be nominated?

- Individual
- Program
- Coalition, task force or collaborative

### What are the qualifications for nominees?

- Victims of crime; professionals or volunteers in either direct victim services or allied professions; community members.
- Demonstration of innovation, excellence and/or commitment in service.

**For a complete nomination form, call Barbara Whitchurch, Public Education Coordinator, Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, at:**

(802) 241-1250, ext. 112 direct

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## Housing Discrimination Law Project Seeks Fair Housing Testers

Vermont Legal Aid's Housing Discrimination Project is seeking fair housing testers. Testers are volunteers who can convincingly assume the role of someone seeking housing, and then be neutral, objective and thorough reporters of what they observe during the process.

We particularly need testers who are in a protected class, but anyone 18 or older can be a tester. Protected classes under federal law are race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability.

Testing is a great way to contribute to your community and make the dream of equal housing a reality for everyone. To become a tester you must complete a two-hour training session and a test. You will receive a cash stipend and mileage for each completed test.

For more information please contact Rebecca at: (800) 747-5022

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## New Women's Support Group "Healing from the Effects of Abuse" Begins April 2

This **free**, confidential support group is designed to help women build skills and techniques for the care of themselves in the aftermath of violence and abuse. The 24 week program will begin on April 2 and meet each Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:30. **Child care will be provided.**

Call 748-8645 for more information. All calls are confidential.

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## Celebrate Week of the Young Child April 19-25

Week of the Young Child, held April 19-25, is a time to recognize the needs of young children and thank the adults involved in their education and care. Parents, teachers, caregivers, and other adults play important roles in the lives of young children, and Week of the Young Child celebrates their efforts.

We can show our support for early learning in our community by promoting early literacy programs, thanking our educators and caregivers, and working to ensure that our public policies support early learning for all young children. To stay informed about current public initiatives in Vermont, check out the following resources:

<http://www.kidsarepriorityone.org/>

<http://www.voicesforvtkids.org/>



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## Remember...

### ***GoodSearch & GoodShop***

Your internet searches and shopping can benefit Umbrella without costing you anything. Visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to sign up and learn more about it.

### ***Cell Phone Recycling Program***

Umbrella continues to recycle used cell phones, which we either give to program participants to make emergency 911 calls, or send to a recycling vendor that pays us for the parts. We raised nearly \$100 last year, and kept a lot of old phones out of the waste stream. Cell phones can be dropped at the Umbrella office at 1222 Main Street (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) during normal business hours.