

# DVTF NEWSLETTER

*a quarterly publication of the Kitsap County Domestic Violence Task Force*

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## Success Of Summit 2000

The first Kitsap County DV Summit was held on October 18, 1997 at the Presidents Hall, Kitsap Co. Fairgrounds in Silverdale. With tremendous help from outside our county we managed a truly great day of community sharing and team building. We surveyed our strengths and our weaknesses. We identified our community members who were up to the task of making some necessary changes in Kitsap County. It was the opportunity we needed to get organized and get going! Every year since, the Task Force has held an annual event. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit, Children: Forgotten Victims of DV - A Partnership Approach, was held on September 26, 2000.

As a very non-profit, nearly completely volunteer organization, we struggle each year to offer a meaningful event to our community. Well, "It was a very good year", not just for the Kingston Trio in 1961, but for our Task Force in 2000! We were twice blessed with two nationally known speakers. Jackson Katz, Founder and Director of MVP Strategies (Mentors in Violence Prevention) challenged men to

stand up and be vocal about stopping the violence against women. He also brought a strong message about the media and the part it plays in fostering violence. Thanks to the United State Navy for bringing him to Kitsap County!

Our second dynamic speaker was Casey Gwinn, City Attorney for San Diego. He has received many awards for his work, including being chosen in 1993 by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges as the model prosecution unit for the nation in the handling of domestic violence cases. He spoke about his aggressive prosecution of DV cases, especially the importance of misdemeanor cases. He shared his personal experiences with child victims of DV and his belief that victims of domestic violence should play an important role in the criminal justice system's response to DV. Thanks to Commissioner Chris Endresen and Kitsap County for bringing Mr. Gwinn to the Summit! Our "partnership" theme was carried by our five opening speakers. Judge James Riehl, Kitsap County District Court, gave us a brief historical

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