



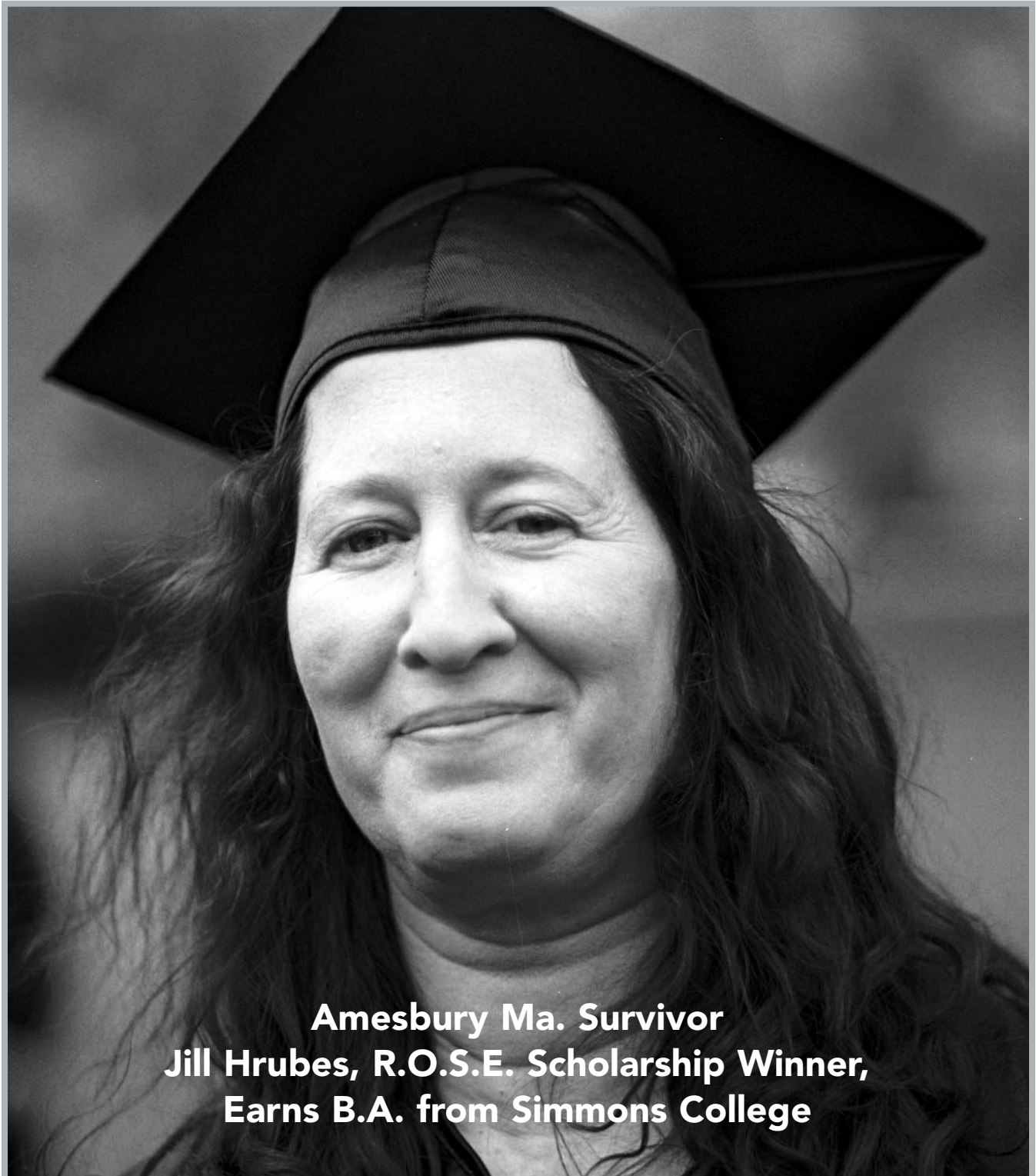
# R.O.S.E. Fund

REGAINING ONE'S SELF ESTEEM

200 Harvard Mills, 3rd Floor • Wakefield, Mass 01880 • 617.482.5400



**R.O.S.E. Fund Newsletter April, 2008**



**Amesbury Ma. Survivor  
Jill Hrubes, R.O.S.E. Scholarship Winner,  
Earns B.A. from Simmons College**

*An update on the issue:*

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NOW**

Domestic violence deaths in Massachusetts have nearly tripled since 2005, according to domestic violence organization Jane Doe Inc., with the domestic homicide rate last year the state's highest since 1992... There were 55 domestic violence related deaths in Massachusetts in 2007, up from 34 in 2006. There were 19 domestic violence deaths in 2005.

*-- Dangerous trend: Domestic violence deaths in Massachusetts triple in three years, James O'Brien Boston NOW March 5, 2008*

If you look at the injuries to victims of domestic violence, the most common are to the head, neck, and face," [more than 75 percent, according to the Massachusetts Dental Society]. *--Dr. Leslie Halpern, Assistant Professor at Harvard School for Dental Medicine, steering committee member of the American Medical Association's National Advisory Council on Violence and Abuse --to the Boston Globe, August 27, 2007*

"At least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. No country, no culture, no woman young or old is immune to this scourge. *-- Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to the Commission on the Status of Women-- New York, February 25, 2008*

## **R.O.S.E. Fund's Constant Mission**

The R.O.S.E. (Regaining One's Self Esteem) Fund is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing, assisting and empowering women who have broken the cycle of domestic violence.

The R.O.S.E. Fund empowers individual women survivors to rebuild their lives, achieve self-sufficiency and regain their self-esteem. We further provide women with inspirational role models who demonstrate the magnitude of what individual women with self esteem can achieve.

## **PROGRAMS UPDATE**

*R.O.S.E. Scholarship Program  
(inaugurated in 1998)*

**An additional seven scholarships were awarded during the first three months of 2008.**

**A sampling of the schools at which inspired survivors are studying includes: Northeastern University, Lesley University, Berklee School of Music, UMass Amherst, Suffolk Law School, Bunker Hill Community College and Berkshire Community College.**



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# Amesbury Ma. Survivor Jill Hrubes,

## R.O.S.E. Scholarship Winner, Earns B.A. from Simmons College

Jill Hrubes, a 49 year old mother of three boys -- ages 17, 15 and 8, suffered from low self esteem not long ago. She worked in a cafeteria and was unable to leave an abusive relationship. She had to walk into the admissions office of Northern Essex Community College three times before she got nerve enough to sign up for a course, she told the Boston Globe when she was awarded the R.O.S.E. Scholarship in 2006. But now Jill has earned THREE academic

degrees. Two are from Northern Essex Community College --in liberal arts and paralegal studies. The third is her Simmons College B.A. in women's studies and social justice. She has applied for a probation officer position and is beginning graduate school. She's also devoting herself to getting her two eldest sons into college and on good career tracks.

Jill Hrubes is on the Board of Greater Haverhill Community Action. She volunteers with **R.O.S.E. Fund** and at The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in Newburyport. She also teaches Sunday school at her church.

In Jill's words...

The turning point in my being able to leave an abusive marriage was the day my ex husband went after one of my sons. I was taking it for me: that was one thing. But I couldn't stand to see it happen to my kids.



My real living of life began after my divorce when I was able to make the decisions for myself and my family. The R.O.S.E. Fund enabled me to go to Simmons College, to learn about myself and what was important to my family and my future. It had been a dream of mine to complete a degree. It never seemed possible due to the expense. Now my purpose is to enable others to leave domestic violence situations, to help empower them to follow their dreams and set up their own futures, free of fear.

Making the changes in my life that I have made over the last nine years --up to and including graduation from college-- seems surreal at times. I have to pinch myself. I look through term papers I wrote five years ago and I compare them to papers I wrote last year. 'WOW,' I tell myself. I got smart!' I am grateful, fulfilled, as I look forward to the next chapter in my life. My eldest son is looking forward to his senior year in high school and is making choices for his future based on the guidance I have given him. I've stressed the importance of education and of not settling for less.

*"The R.O.S.E. Fund enabled me to go to Simmons College.. Now my purpose is to enable others to leave domestic violence situations, to help empower them to follow their dreams and set up their own futures, free of fear."*

What is my advice to others who are still in abusive relationships? Walk through your fears and get out. Find one person who will listen to

you and who will not be judgmental. Open up to that person. Having someone who listens and who doesn't judge is imperative to believing in yourself again. Get out of the abusive situation.

Be confident. Know that you will NEVER go back. If you cannot do it for yourself, do it for your future generations to break the cycle. You can make a difference in the world and it starts with closing that door behind you. I will not say it has been easy, but it was the best decision I have made in my life.

I want to continue to be a part of R.O.S.E. Fund. It's a wonderful network of people changing the world and its views on domestic violence. I'll be volunteering again at the Gala on October 14th and I hope to bring all three of my boys. I want them to see that here are people out there who want to help.

*“Walk through your fears and get out. Get out of the abusive situation. Be confident. Know that you will NEVER go back. You can make a difference in the world and it starts with closing that door behind you.”*



## **Facial Reconstructive Surgery Program (started in 2000)**

**Working with an expanding list of hospitals during the first three months of 2008, R.O.S.E. Fund has secured commitments for sixteen survivors to undergo much needed facial surgeries. Participating hospitals include Massachusetts Eye and Ear's Facial and Cosmetic Surgery Center in Boston; Cedars Sinai Medical Center's Facial, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center in Los Angeles; The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Highland Park, New Jersey and Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York City.**

## **Lynn Ma. Survivor Crusita Martinez has R.O.S.E. Fund Surgeries, attends North Shore Community College, is reunited with her son**



Saluted at the 2007 R.O.S.E. Fund Gala as an inspirational survivor and **R.O.S.E. Fund Facial Reconstructive Surgery Program** recipient, Crusita Martinez, underwent more critical facial

reconstructive help at Mass. Eye and Ear Institute in 2008. Procedures included complex nasal reconstruction, flap with rib cartilage graft, bilateral medial canthoplasty plus orbital reconstruction.

R.O.S.E. Fund also sent Crusita to the Dominican Republic for a vacation with her son this past summer. The severe disfigurement she suffered at the hands of an abusive ex boyfriend in 2002 rendered her so unrecognizable and frightening to her son, then a toddler, that he fled her touch. The ex boyfriend covered her with what Dominicans call a “cocktail of death” -- skin searing battery acids and urine. Crusita's son, now ten years of age, was delighted to be reunited with his mother. He is planning a trip to Massachusetts in the near future.

With the help of Web of Benefit in Wellesley, Mass. Crusita is taking English and computer classes at North Shore Community College. She remains an outspoken advocate for ending domestic violence. Her devoted husband, Cesar Muniz, works an endocrine medical assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital where Crusita was once a patient. He will soon finish nursing school.

## Worcester Ma. Survivor Heralda de Jesus has R.O.S.E. Fund Surgeries, throws away mask, smiles at the world.



Saluted at the 2007 R.O.S.E. Fund Gala as an inspirational survivor and **R.O.S.E. Fund Facial Reconstructive Surgery Program** recipient, Heralda also received help at Mass. Eye and Ear Institute in early 2008 including reconstructed upper lip, eyelid surgery, nasal reconstruction and skin grafts.

Several years ago, Heralda's ex husband (now serving 2 to 5 years in a state prison) threw hot cooking oil at her. She suffered facial disfigurement and second and third degree burns over 30% of her body. Until receiving help from R.O.S.E. Fund, Heralda wore a face mask whenever she left the house – including her time at work as a hotel cleaner.

Heralda has become a strong and courageous survivor especially as **R.O.S.E. Fund Facial Reconstructive Surgery Program** procedures have taken place. She threw away her mask, proudly shows her smile and faces the world. A close friendship with fellow **R.O.S.E. Fund Facial Reconstructive Surgery Program** recipient **Crusita Martinez** has increased Heralda's self confidence dramatically. Her relationship with her new and supportive boyfriend has helped immensely too.

## The R.O.S.E. Fund's Food, Nutrition and Cooking Program

Between fall of 2007 and Spring of 2008, thirty survivors regaining self esteem attended The R.O.S.E. Fund Cooking and Nutrition Workshop Series. Topics addressed included healthy cooking, economic shopping, simple recipes, and healthy eating. Childcare was made available, and each session concluded with a prepared meal for the mothers and children.

R.O.S.E. Fund Cooking and Nutrition Workshops in Newton and Salem: Well Done But Just Right R.O.S.E. Fund's Food, Nutrition and Cooking classes were held on February 6th and 20th at one of the Newton, Mass. living centers of The Second Step. The Second Step helps single mom survivors and their kids transition into new, empowered lives. Second Step Program Director Carole Thompson said those attending the workshops felt presenter Tara Hatala, Nutrition Director from Greater Boston Food Bank "made them feel comfortable and respected. Since Tara's classes," she continued, "most of the women... have been much more careful when buying food for the family. They are more apt to look at the fat, salt and sugar content on the labels, and several of them report that they have lost weight because they are eating much healthier."

Equally successful workshops were run at HWAC (Helping Women and Abused Children) in Salem, Mass. "Our women are still raving about it," HWAC Director Caiomhe O'Hara told R.O.S.E. Fund. "We can't thank you enough!"

**An update on the R.O.S.E. Fund Board, staff and friendly confines.**

## Welcome aboard, Advancing, New Roost

### Welcome new Board members

**Bob Panessiti** is a Vice President of Wealth Management at Smith Barney. Bob is graduate of U Mass and Suffolk, has extensive financial experience, and serves on many boards, including The Kennedy Donovan Center and the Town of Truro Finance Committee was. Bob also served on last year's Dinner Committee.

**Steve Garten** is a managing partner of The Stowe Group, an information technology services company located in Wakefield. Prior to the Stowe Group, Steve was the President and COO at Darwin Suzsoft, and the EVP of Operations of its predecessor, Darwin Partners. Steve is a graduate of Fitchburg State College. Steve has also served on the Dinner Committee in 2006 and 2007.

**Neal Balkowitsch** is a co-owner of Max Ultimate Food a full service catering company in Boston and served on last year's dinner committee.

**Donald Nelson** is a stylist/owner at Roffi's Salon and Day Spa on Newbury Street in Boston.

### Advancing Board members

**Lisa Sherman, Carol Kee, Joan Cutter** and **Dana Gerson Unger** become Honorary Trustees, but will remain as active as ever.

### Welcome new staff member

**John Brisbin**, Development Officer started work March 24. John is a two time graduate of Syracuse University with a fundraising PR and library management background. He has revitalized libraries in Manchester, New Hampshire; Amsterdam, New York; and Chicago. He began (and sustained funding for) initiatives in domestic violence response, services to newly arrived refugees and adult new readers. John is bilingual in Spanish.

### Welcome to our new friendly confines

In a cost saving and efficiency-making move, The R.O.S.E. Fund left its 175 Federal Street Boston location for 200 Harvard Mills, 3rd Floor, Wakefield, Mass 01880 where it has become the corporate godchild of The Stowe Group in the same office complex. Stowe Group is an IT solutions company.

## Help R.O.S.E. Fund supercharge survivors' efforts to regain self esteem

- Donate online at [www.rosefund.org](http://www.rosefund.org)
- Donate via US Mail at R.O.S.E. Fund 200 Harvard Mills, 3rd Floor, Wakefield, Mass 01880 617 482 5400
- Email us your contact information --and the contact info of sympathetic others-- at [info@rosefund.org](mailto:info@rosefund.org)
- Email us names of surgeons, dentists and/or therapists with whom we can talk about The R.O.S.E. Fund at [info@rosefund.org](mailto:info@rosefund.org)
- Call and 617 482 5400 and introduce yourself to R.O.S.E. Fund Development Officer John Brisbin



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