Open Letter Upon My Retirement

Thirty-Two years ago I started my career as a Domestic Violence Advocate. My first advocate position was with the Aroostook County domestic violence program. I worked their nine years. During those years I was a support group facilitator, volunteer hotline trainer, community educator, court advocate, and child advocate. In 1998 the Houlton Band of Maliseet applied for funding to develop a domestic violence response program through the STOP Violence Against Indian Women Grant at the Department of Justice. Upon receiving the award, the Tribe hired me. The nine years of advocate experience I started with helped me to start a program from a blank slate. I was the Director of Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center for over sixteen years. The funding for programs was very limited in the beginning but increased over the years so

that we went from a one-person staff in a cubbyhole office to three staff. The funding increase allowed us to open an emergency shelter, as well as add transitional housing assistance, and legal assistance. A piece of my heart will always belong to my HBMI family.

In 2013 Nancy Soctomah, Julia Miller, Dolly Barnes, Tonia Dana and I became the

Letter From Jane Root Continued...

founding Board of Directors for the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC). We received our first funding through the Office on Violence Against Women Grants to Tribal Coalition in 2014 at which time I was hired as the Executive Director. The first three years of growing the Coalition I was again a one-person staff. Nearly four years ago I had the good fortune to work on a project with Donna Brown who accepted the position of Outreach Coordinator for the WWC. I announced to the WWC Board that I would be retiring on July 31, 2021 over a year ago so we could have a smooth transition. On August 1, 2021 Donna Brown will step into the Executive Director position.

My heart is full of gratitude for the privilege I've had the past twenty-three years working first as the Director and Advocate for the Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center and then as a trainer and technical assistance provider to the advocates at each of the five Wabanaki Advocacy Centers as Executive Director for the Wabanaki Women's Coalition.

Every survivor I worked with and every Advocate I assisted has left their mark on me. I am the woman I am today because of them. There are so many I would like to thank for enriching my life but in fear of leaving someone out I will just mention one, Joan Dana. Joan Dana lead the healing/talking circle for our Survivors Retreats each year starting in 1999. Her impact on the survivors and the advocates can't be overstated.

In closing I'll say what my mother always told me; this is not goodbye it is.. so long.

Woliwon, Jane Root

Serving Our Partners

Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
Office: 207-532-3000	Office: 207-796-6106	Office: 207-817-7446	Office: 207-853-0092/0093	Office: 207-760-0570
24 Hour Hotline:	24 Hour Hotline:	24 Hour Hotline:	24 Hour Toll Free Hotline:	24 Hour Hotline:
207-532-6401	**207-214-1917**	**207-631-4886**	**1-877-853-2613**	**207-551-3639**

With Gratitude and Appreciation for Your Service

The WWC staff would like to thank former Board Members, Nancy Soctomah, Jessica Huff (Treasurer) and Julia Miller (Chair) for the years that they dedicated and served on the Wabanaki Women's Coalition Board of Directors.

Your knowledge, insight, passion and dedication greatly supported the Mission of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition to "increase the capacity of tribal communities to respond to domestic and sexual violence, and influence tribal, national and regional systems to increase awareness, safety, justice, and healing for all our relations." As you reflect on your time with us as former Board Members, please know that our achievements would not have been possible without your leadership.

You have generously given your time which is truly appreciated by the WWC staff and the Advocates from our 5 Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers. On both a personal and professional level, we are grateful for the time that we spent together…

Woliwon! ~ Jane and Donna ~

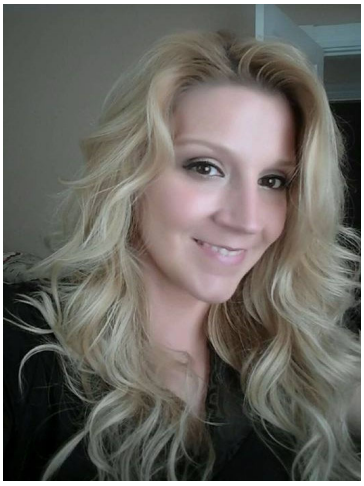
Julia Miller
Chair
2013 - 2021

Jessica Huff
Treasurer
2016 - 2021

Nancy Soctomah
Board Member
2013 - 2021

WWC Welcomes New Officers

DESIREE TYRRELL - CHAIR
Director
Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center



ANGEL ROBBINS - SECRETARY
Director
Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

RHONDA LONDON - TREASURER
Business Manager
Penobscot Nation Social Services

WWC Welcomes New Board Members

TANYA RAYMOND - BOARD MEMBER
Director
Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence
Advocacy Center

MATTHEW DANA II - BOARD MEMBER
Chief of Police
Indian Township Police Department

WWC Announces New Executive Director

DONNA BROWN, MSW
Executive Director
Wabanaki Women's Coalition

Reflecting on Fond Memories of All that We Have Shared…

While Being Present and Looking Forward to the Future...

Thank You to Prevention, Action, Change

Thank you to the staff at Prevention, Action, Change for delivering such a valuable, informative and interactive class on Empowerment Self Defense!

Photo: WWC and Wabanaki Advocacy Center Staff, and Facilitators.
WWC Board/Staff Retreat.
New England Outdoor Center.
July 2021.

We would also like to thank Ana Rapp and Gal Frey for their presentations on Self-Care Strategies!

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Wabanaki Women's Coalition

Jane Root, Executive Director

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PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE