



Dear Community Services Commission Members,

I am writing to once again thank you for the continued support that you have shown to individuals and families coping with the devastating effects of domestic violence in our community. All of us at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) understand that these are difficult times and that you are charged with the task of making complicated choices among the needs of many worthy organizations. We hope that you will continue to prioritize funding for the life-saving services offered by victim service organizations in our community.

Though every year DAIS experiences an increase in the numbers of individuals and families reaching out to us for assistance, 2009 has been especially challenging. All of our programs are busier than ever before. To give you some concrete examples of this, below is a comparison of DAIS program service numbers for the first quarter of 2008 compared to the first quarter of 2009 and the percent increase.

#### SHELTER AND SUPPORT

Number of Persons Sheltered*	Quarter 1 2008	Quarter 1 2009	Percent Increase
Unduplicated Adults	61	80	31%
Unduplicated Children	51	81	59%
Total Persons*	112	161	44%

\* Note: this includes individuals and families we have placed in hotels when our shelter is full using CDBG monies. There have been a number of days in July where the DAIS shelter is full and we have had up to 12 families in the hotels.

#### CRISIS LINE

	Quarter 1 2008	Quarter 1 2009	Percent Increase
Unduplicated Callers	312	369	18%
Callers requesting information about shelter	42	94	<b>124%</b>

#### CRISIS RESPONSE

	Quarter 1 2008	Quarter 1 2009	Percent Increase
Unduplicated Clients	43	75	74%

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

	Quarter 1 2008	Quarter 1 2009	Percent Increase
Unduplicated Clients	64	98	53%

In addition to this increase in demand, our staff and volunteers are hearing from our clients that they are experiencing escalating violence at the hands of their abusers including more death threats. Unfortunately, these sorts of anecdotal reports become all too real to us when we hear of domestic violence homicides in our community such as that only a few weeks ago of Francie Weber.

It is also important to note that DAIS staff and volunteers have risen to the challenge of providing services to more clients than ever before even though our funding and staffing levels have remained relatively flat. However, it is unlikely that we can continue to meet any further increased demands than what we are already providing and certainly not with any decreases in funding or staffing levels.

As you face these challenging funding decisions, I encourage you to continue your support of basic services which become even more important to our community in economic times such as these. In my mind, nothing is more basic than safety. I hope that DAIS can count on you to continue the same level of support for our services in 2010 so that we can continue to do our part to insure that every individual and family in our community has a safe place to turn. It is our hope that no one in our community ever has to make a life and death decision because of lack of domestic violence services.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our City.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Barry, MSSW  
Executive Director