

SUN POST



SPORTS
Thriller sends Breck back to state hockey

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Vol. 67, No. 10 In the Community, With the Community, For the Community www.minnlocal.com



Kid Pak assembly line

Ida Zahn of New Hope (far left) staples bags together after they are filled by Ruth Rosendahl of Plymouth, Helen Guerre of Minnetonka and Mary Ellen Eckhoff of Maple Grove. See story on page 2. (Photo by Sue Webber • Sun Newspapers)

Robbinsdale council supports trail routes

BARBARA GORSKI • SUN NEWSPAPERS

Looking out onto snow-narrowed streets and sidewalks, and hearing predictions for even more snow, it's hard to envision clear and dry trails connecting the areas where one can walk, jog, bike, or do other fun outdoor activities that residents enjoy so much.

Those who work in city planning and recreation are thinking ahead, and to that end, the Robbinsdale City Council supported the Crystal Lake Regional Trail Plan at the regular March 1 City

Council meeting.

The trail will link with existing trails in Victory Memorial Parkway near Lowry Avenue N., with the Twin Lakes Regional Trail at the Twin Lakes boat launch area, and ultimately Elm Creek Regional Park, according to Marcia Glick, city manager, and Rick Pearson, city development coordinator.

Representatives from the Three Rivers Park District gave a presentation about the proposed trail routes and asked for council

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Family sheds light on domestic abuse

BY ANNA WOODWICK • SUN NEWSPAPERS

For Nikki Petersen of New Hope and her father Mark Beckstrom of Robbinsdale, being SafeJourney advocates is much more than a volunteer opportunity.

It's about educating and informing people about domestic abuse.

SafeJourney, based at North Memorial, is a hospital-based domestic abuse advocacy program offering a compassionate and informed response team of trained medical personnel and volunteer advocates.

Petersen got started volunteering five years ago after her college friend was stabbed in the liver by an abusive boyfriend. For her father, it's been a more recent road.

"I did marketing for SafeJourney for three years," Beckstrom said. "They needed more male advocates and I've been volunteering for a little over a year."

Though men are less common to call SafeJourney, there were 35 helped in 2010.

"I had a man whose wife's family jumped him and he thought they were going to kill him," Beckstrom said.

Advocates of SafeJourney volunteer for 24-hour shifts several days a month. Petersen volunteers her time during the overnight shift, while Beckstrom does his shift during the day.

"On my first day as an advocate between 8-8:05 a.m., I had two calls," Beckstrom said. "These women were too badly hurt from the weekend to talk to an advocate, so they had to wait until they were stable. The talk is mostly of embarrassment and demoralization. The shame they hold, it's unbearable."

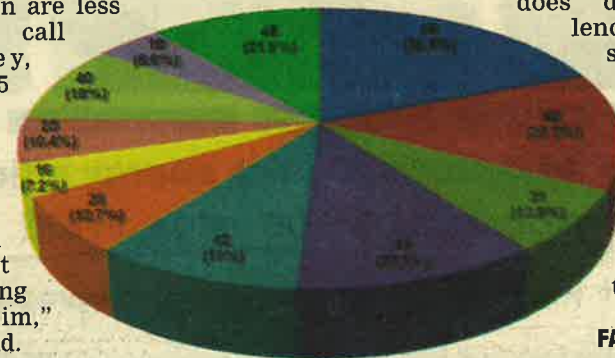
There are three shifts at SafeJourney every day. Depending on the shift, advocates might receive 20-30 emergency phone calls.

"On the weekend, I see a lot of bar fights," Petersen said. "Saturday night I see women whose boyfriend got drunk and decided to beat her up. Chemicals play a big part."

Chemicals not only play a part, but the economy does as well.

"As the economy worsens, so does domestic violence," Petersen said.

Beckstrom says that domestic violence has a lot to do with social norms. With the economy the way it is,



2010 SafeJourney First Follow-up Outcomes
222 Clients

Secure safe housing	Discuss safe housing	Access services for children
Help children to be safe	Leave partner/separation	Leaving in process
Financial plan/decision steps	Obtain OHP	Additional police calls/arrests
Legal resources given	Attend support group	

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'HI, SOCIETY' Jennie Olson's blog about life in the Twin Cities is at:

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