

**Minnesota Center
Against Violence and Abuse**

**A Year in Review:
2005**

Contents

<i>Opening Statement</i>	3
<i>Working Together to Create Change</i>	4
Meet the Staff behind the Scenes	4
<i>Expanding Knowledge & Resources</i>	7
MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse	7
Silence Speaks Workshop Collaboration	9
Assessing Child Exposure to Domestic Violence	10
Research Project	10
Violence Against Women Online Resources	11
National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women	13
VAWnet	13
<i>Raising Awareness, Changing Attitudes</i>	15
Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)	15
Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)	15
Transgender Day of Remembrance	15

Opening Statement

It has been 12 years since the Minnesota Legislature established MINCAVA. In these dozen years our staff has worked locally, statewide, nationally and internationally to bring the latest research, learning resources and information to the broadest possible audience. Our Clearinghouse and other online resources have served ever increasing numbers of visitors looking for high quality information to help them in their personal and professional lives. We are all in awe when we realize how many people make use of our online resources every day. We are proud to share with you the following glimpse into who we are and what we have done in the past 12 months to build on our 12 years of service to so many communities.

Working Together to Create Change

“Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured
as upon the result itself.”

- Jane Addams

Meet the Staff behind the Scenes:

This past year brought MINCAVA two new faces and one returning not-so-new face, plus the returning six that continued the mission of the center in 2004. The Director, Jeff Edleson, returned from his one year sabbatical ready to for the challenges of 2005 alongside the Associate Director, Ann Kranz, who kept the center well maintained in Jeff’s absence. Truly this past year has been a collaborative effort between all staff persons working together to create positive change.

Jeffrey Edleson, PhD

Director

[Jeffrey L. Edleson](#) is a Professor in the [School of Social Work](#) at the [University of Minnesota](#) and Director of the [Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse](#). He has published over 90 articles and eight books on domestic violence, group work, and program evaluation. His most recent book, to be published in October 2006 is entitled *Parenting by Men Who Batter: New Directions in Assessment and Intervention* (with Oliver J. Williams, Oxford University Press). He has provided technical assistance to domestic violence programs and research projects across North America as well as in several other countries including Germany, Australia, Cyprus, India, Israel, Korea, and Singapore.

Kevin Bullock

Internet Systems Designer and Administrator

Kevin Bullock develops and maintains MINCAVA's Web resources ([Violence Against Women Online Resources](#) and the [MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse](#)). He joined [MINCAVA](#) after completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science at [Minnesota State University, Mankato](#) in 2004. Before graduating, Kevin worked for the [MSU Women's Center](#) as a Web developer, making their Web site easier to use and more accessible for people with disabilities. He enjoys using his technical skills to aid in the struggle against violence. Kevin uses his free time to play guitar, read, and engage in action for social justice.

Mandy Ellerton***Research Assistant***

Mandy Ellerton is a graduate assistant currently enrolled in the Master of Social Work degree program at the University of Minnesota. She holds a BA in French and Women's Studies from [St. Olaf](#) College in Northfield, MN. During her time there she studied in France and Cuba. After college, she worked in Washington, DC, assisting in efforts to ratify the [UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women](#). Mandy values her professional years spent with families living in domestic violence shelters. Their stories shape her current interests in domestic violence shelter programming, best practices, and services for child witnesses.

Sean Halloran***Research Assistant***

Sean Halloran is a graduate assistant currently enrolled in the Master of Social Work degree program at the University of Minnesota. Sean's time is split between the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse and Violence Against Women Online Resources (VAWOR) Project. Sean supports both projects with administrative support as well as developing and maintaining resources on the websites. Sean holds a BA degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Hawaii. Sean's professional interests include multicultural social work, gerontological social justice, and public policy. Previously, Sean worked on health education initiatives for the [Big Island AIDS Project](#) and was most recently a programming coordinator for the Steven J. Schochet Center for GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota. Sean is happy to have returned home to Minnesota again after spending eleven years on the island of [Saipan](#), in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Staci Kirchberg***Research Assistant***

Staci Kirchberg is a graduate assistant spending her time working on the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse and the Child Exposure to Domestic Violence research project. She is a student at the [University of Minnesota](#) in the [School of Social Work](#) earning her master's degree. Staci also earned her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Minnesota in [Child Psychology](#). Her prior work experiences are with formerly institutionalized children and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Staci is currently spending some of her time with a runaway youth shelter assisting as a crisis family counselor. She is interested in the intersection of youth and gender disparities, various forms of violence, and associated mental health issues. She has a passion for working with these issues on an international level.

Ann Kranz, MA***Program Director, Violence Against Women Online Resources***

Ann Kranz joined [MINCAVA](#) in 1998 to direct the expansion of [Violence Against Women Online Resources](#), a collaborative project between the U.S. Department of Justice, [Office on Violence Against Women](#) and MINCAVA. Ann holds a bachelor's degree in Corporate Communication with an emphasis in public relations from [Buena Vista University](#) and a [Master of Liberal Studies](#) degree from the [University of Minnesota](#). Since 1991, Ann has utilized her communications skills to address violence against women by developing national training and publication programs, creating and implementing public awareness campaigns, and providing technical assistance to direct service providers and web site users.

Yukiko Nakajima, MA***Research Assistant***

Yukiko Nakajima is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the [School of Social Work, University of Minnesota](#). She recently finished the MSW program at the University of Minnesota. She also completed a certificate in Psychotherapy at the [National University of Singapore](#). She is originally from Japan, but has extensive living experiences in Southeast Asia. Yukiko earned an MA in International Peace Studies from the [University of Notre Dame](#) and holds a BA in International Relations majoring in developing education from Ritsumaikan University. Her previous community service includes facilitating workshops on human rights education, feminist counseling, and leading fact finding team for sexual violence in time of war. Yukiko is interested in community education about sexual violence within oppressed communities and empowering victims/survivors of violence in general.

Xavier Schmitz, MS***Research Assistant***

Xavier Schmitz is a graduate assistant working at MINCAVA as a document development assistant. Xavier develops documents for [Violence Against Women Online Resources](#), the [National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women \(VAWnet\)](#), and the [MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse](#). Xavier is in his final year of the [Masters of Social Work](#) program at the [University of Minnesota](#). Upon completion of his MSW, Xavier would like to work as a psychotherapist focusing on serving individuals in the LGBT community. He currently holds a Masters of Science degree in Women's Studies from [Minnesota State University, Mankato](#), and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Spanish from the [University of Wisconsin - La Crosse](#). In his past professional experience, Xavier has worked in college student affairs in the areas of residential life and multicultural and international student affairs. In addition, he has held a variety of human services positions including working as a case manager for a nonprofit employment and training center and serving as a crisis interventionist at an alternative school for at-risk youth.

Jennifer Witt, MSW***Site Development and Marketing Coordinator***

Jennifer Witt is MINCAVA's Document Development Coordinator, facilitating both Violence Against Women Online Resources and [VAWnet's Applied Research Forum](#) commissioned document development. Jennifer received her Masters of Social Work from the [University of Minnesota](#) and has a BS in Sociology from the [University of Wisconsin - La Crosse](#). In her past professional experience, Jennifer has organized a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and has worked on various community organizing and public education projects within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, as well as the violence against women movement. Jennifer is particularly interested in resource development and community organizing around issues related to violence against women.

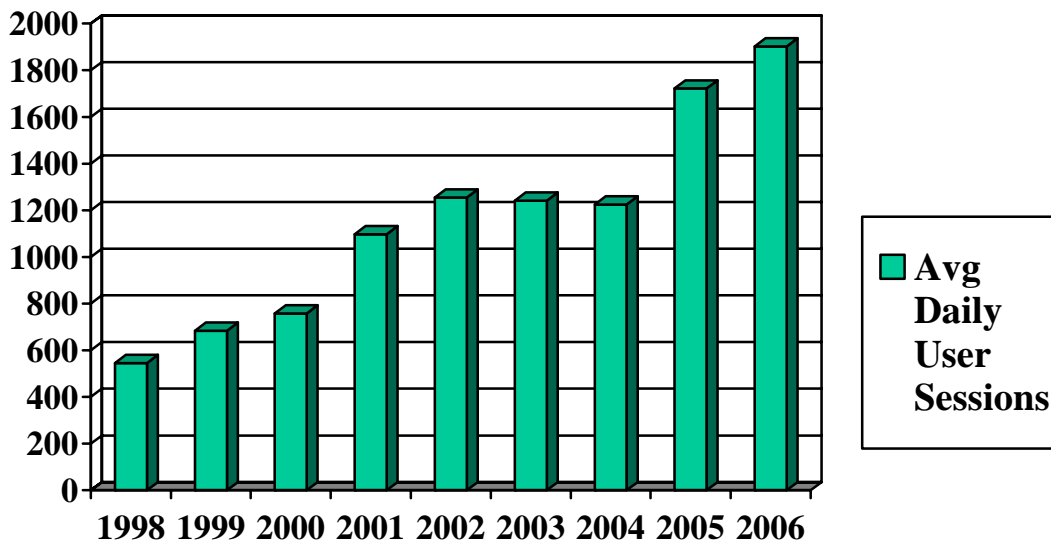
Expanding Knowledge & Resources

The MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse

The Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse *Electronic Clearinghouse* provides an extensive collection of educational resources about all types of violence, including: higher education syllabi, published research, funding sources, upcoming training events, individuals and organizations, and searchable databases with training manuals, videos and other educational resources.

Usage Statistics

Over the course of 2005, the *Electronic Clearinghouse* averaged 17,365 hits daily, over 1,900 of which were unique hits, and over 468,659 total hits monthly with over 700,000 unique hits annually. Average daily visits to the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse have increased every year and visits to the site have tripled in the last eight years.



Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (Jan-April)
Average Daily User Sessions	545	684	758	1097	1255	1241	1225	1727	1902

The most requested search string was domestic violence with 13,383 requests from amongst some of the top search engines, Google, Yahoo and MSN, referring users to this site for resources. Persons requesting resources did so for personal, advocacy, academic, and political purposes.

Approximately three-quarters of user visits originate in the United States but people in many other countries use the Clearinghouse. In April 2006 users “hits” from the top 21 other countries ranged from 4,792 from Australia to 214 from Romania. Other countries included (in descending order) Canada, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, New Zealand (Aotearoa), the US Government and Military, Israel, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Singapore, Turkey, Germany, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Japan, the Russian Federation, India, and Ukraine.

Additions to the Electronic Clearinghouse

This past year over 200 articles were added to the *Electronic Clearinghouse* for public access. New content is consistently being added to areas of the Clearinghouse addressing various types of violence; some topics remain more developed than others. Over the course of 2005, efforts were made to locate reliable information to further expand the underdeveloped topical areas.

The year 2005 brought the *Electronic Clearinghouse* numerous articles on parenting children during and following domestic violence episodes in the home were added. In addition, articles on human trafficking across the lifespan as well as the political and economic struggles associated with serious forms of violence were added.

With regards to one of the *Electronic Clearinghouse*'s most developed sections, Child Abuse, a bulk of the newly added articles focused on childhood sexual abuse as well as whether or not child exposure to domestic violence should be considered child maltreatment. This fascinating debate continues to bring us new information and research.

To keep current with new content added within the past 90 days, visit MINCAVA's *What's New* page at <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/library/whatsnew>.

MINCAVA in the News

The *Electronic Clearinghouse* made the media and news throughout the past year. Below are a few of the notable mentions.

- “*U of M Receives Nearly a Half Million Dollars to Address Violence Against Women Through Unique On-Line Tool*” (2004)
School of Social Work Press Release

http://ssw.che.umn.edu/News/PressReleases/MINCAVA_Grant.html

- “*Day of remembrance honors victims of anti-transgender violence*”
The Minnesota Daily
<http://www.mndaily.com/articles/2004/11/18/11336>

- “MINCAVA goes to Washington”
School of Social Work – News and Events
http://ssw.che.umn.edu/News/ArchiveNews/Mar_05_news.html
- “Creating Social Change in Cyberspace: 10 Years Strong”
Office of the Vice President for Research, Gateway to Research and Inventions
<http://www.ospa.umn.edu/communications/publications/gateway/mincava.html>

Our Publications

Over the course of the past year numerous publications were accepted for print.

MINCAVA Director, Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, and Dr. Oliver J. Williams, Director of the Institute for Domestic Violence in the African American Community, readied their new book for publication. The book, entitled “*Parenting by men who batter women: New directions for assessment and intervention*,” contains research and evidence that addresses the difficulties of intervening with men who batter intimate adult partners regarding their parenting behaviors. This book was made possible with a multi-year grant from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation to develop new information regarding parenting by men who batter. The book is now in production and will be available through Oxford University Press in October 2006.

Additional publications from this past year include:

- “*Domestic Violence in One State’s Child Protective Caseload: A Study of Differential Case Dispositions and Outcomes*”
English, D.J., Edleson, J.L. & Herrick, M.E. (2005)
- “*Domestic Violence and Pathways Into Child Welfare Services: Findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being*”
Kohl, P.L., Edleson, J.L., English, D.J. & Bath, R.P. (2005)
- “*Adult Domestic Violence in Cases of International Parental Child Abduction*”
Shetty, S. & Edleson, J.L. (2005)
- *Journal of Children & Youth Services Review* “*Special Issue on Domestic Violence and Child Welfare*”
Kelleher, K., Barth, R.J. & Edleson, J.L. (2005)

Silence Speaks Workshop Collaboration

In October, the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP), Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) and the Center for Digital Storytelling’s *Silence Speaks* project collaborated to create digital stories about co-parenting in the context of domestic violence. Two workshops were held at the University of Minnesota, one with survivors of violence and one with men who used to batter. These workshops were made possible by a grant from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.

Participants attended a three and one-half day digital storytelling workshop, where they shared their experiences in the context of a story circle, recorded their own voiceover narrations, and learned to construct their stories using Adobe PhotoShop and Adobe Premiere. Each participant

created a short (3-5) minute digital story on parenting in the context of domestic violence. The workshop concluded with a screening of the stories and time for the storytellers to celebrate their accomplishments.

The creation of these digital stories provided survivors and men who used to batter with a vehicle to tell their personal stories to promote individual healing. These stories also facilitated community healing by creating social change through community education, awareness, and public policy action. These products are maintained and disseminated nationally through the MINCAVA *Electronic Clearinghouse*.

Online Learning Module – Parenting by Fathers who Batter

MINCAVA is developing a series of online learning modules that are available for public access at <http://www.globalvp.umn.edu>. The David & Lucile Packard Foundation supported the development of this three-part online module focused on parenting by men who batter. The module takes the online user through a step-by-step case and asks the user to respond to a number of questions. Depending on the user's answer a screen is displayed with correct information and links to online resources that elaboration on the learning goals. The first module is online and the two other modules are in their final stages of editing and being programmed for online use.

Assessing Child Exposure to Domestic Violence Research Project

The Child Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale (CEDV) is being developed with the intention of creating an assessment tool that practitioners and researchers can use to determine a child's perception of the level of domestic violence experienced within his or her home. The assessment tool addresses the types of domestic violence to which the child has been exposed, how the child was exposed, whether and how the child intervened, as well as other risk and protective factors. This 46-item child self-report scale has been reviewed by an international panel of experts and pilot-tested with a group of children ages 10 to 16. Currently, we are collecting data from a sample of approximately 125 children to study the test-retest reliability and external validity of the measure. We are working closely with local domestic violence service organizations to accomplish this goal.

Violence Against Women Online Resources

Transition and Current Status

VAWOR is a cooperative project between the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse and the Office on Violence Against Women, United States Department of Justice. The project was developed in 1997 to ensure that VAWA funded products are widely available via the World Wide Web and thereby accessible to OVW grantees, sub-grantees, and the general public.

Historically, VAWOR's primary role has been that of a resource library. As of May 2005, VAWOR's online library offered over 275 full-text documents related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking from national and international organizations. The content on the site included reports, research summaries, curricula, presentations, manuals, and multi-media training tools. The site integrated these stratified resources into one comprehensive, user-friendly site -- www.vaw.umn.edu.

The site was offline from June 2005 until approximately mid-August. During this time, OVW staff, in collaboration with our staff, reevaluated all site content and only reposted content that had been developed by OVW Technical Assistance Providers and approved by OVW. At the time of this report, the VAWOR library has posted twenty-seven documents on the site. Many of the documents that were originally published on VAWOR but were removed with the restructuring have been subsequently posted at the MINCAVA *Electronic Clearinghouse* (www.mincava.umn.edu). To date, over 200 documents that were formerly housed on the VAWOR site have been placed on the *Electronic Clearinghouse*.

Violence Against Women Online Resources strives to maintain its position as one of the foremost online resources about domestic violence, violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the coming year, VAWOR will continue to expand its document library, and will begin new areas of development including an expanded site marketing campaign, the development of an online learning module to train criminal justice professionals on issues related to culturally competent practice in the African American community, and the development of an online directory of OVW Technical Assistance Providers and an online events calendar showcasing OWA TA events.

Online Learning Module – Cultural Competency in the African American Community

Domestic violence is a serious issue in the African American community. Historically, mainstream providers have been ineffective in responding to the needs of African American victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. This is due, in part, to their failure to tailor intervention strategies to the unique needs and social realities of members of the African American community. This lack of cultural competence has exacerbated the issue of domestic violence in the African American community.

In June of 2005 the Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse (MINCAVA) and the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) collaborated to address this issue and began developing an online learning module. This module serves as an introduction to cultural competency regarding domestic violence in the African American

community and is an introductory level synthesis of the work practitioners in the field have ascertained. This module is estimated to be complete and ready for online use by mid-2006.

Commissioned Documents – Published

VAWOR published five new commissioned documents. These are short, user-friendly, unique research documents that were developed on topics where a lack of information related to violence against women was found to exist. These documents are resources to those working in the criminal justice and violence against women fields. Below is a listing of the documents that were completed and can be found on the MINCAVA *Electronic Clearinghouse* website.

- “*Understanding Women’s Experiences Parenting in the Context of Domestic Violence: Implications for Community and Court-Related Service Providers*”

By Peter Jaffe and Claire Crooks

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/parentingindv/parentingindv.html>

- “*Relationship Violence in Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer (LGBTQ) Communities: Moving Beyond a Gender-Based Framework*”

By Janice Ristock in consultation with Norma Timbang

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/lgbtqviolence/lgbtqviolence.html>

- “*The Probation Response to Supervision of Women Who Are Abused*”

By Sherry Frohman and Connie Neal

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/probationanddv/probationanddv.html>

- “*The Use of Expert Witnesses in Cases Involving Sexual Assault*”

By Kim Lonsway

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/svandexpertwitnesses/svandexpertwitnesses.html>

- “*A High-Tech Twist on Abuse: Technology, Intimate Partner Stalking, and Advocacy*”

By Cindy Southworth

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/stalkingandtech/stalkingandtech.html>

Online Technical Assistance Provider Calendar and Directory

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) are collaboratively developing two new tools to aid both OVW technical assistance providers and OVW grantees in their work.

The **online events calendar** will offer technical assistance providers the ability to easily view events of other technical assistance providers online, as well as major holidays, to see potential scheduling conflicts. This calendar will be completely searchable, allowing OVW grantees to easily find information regarding which conferences are available and appropriate for them.

The **online technical assistance provider directory** will be a current list of all OVW technical assistance providers. This fully searchable directory will feature organizational profiles, contact information, and a description of the OVW technical assistance project. The directory will include a description of what type of technical assistance and to whom technical assistance is offered.

National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women (VAWnet)

VAWnet is an online resource (<http://www.vawnet.org>) for advocates working to end domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violence in the lives of women and their children. MINCAVA staff facilitates the Domestic Violence-Applied Research Forum of VAWnet. The AR Forum provides users with concise analyses and interpretations of current research topics. Researchers and advocate/consultants are commissioned to develop practitioner-friendly research documents. This year, the VAWnet Applied Research Forum has published the following online learning module and research documents:

- *“Are Heterosexual Men Also Victims of Intimate Partner Abuse?”*
By Joanne Belknap and Heather Melton
http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_MaleVictims.pdf
- *“Confronting the Sexual Abuse of Women with Disabilities”*
By R. Amy Elman
http://www.vawnet.org/SexualViolence/Research/VAWnetDocuments/AR_SVDisability.pdf
- *“Irene’s Journey: Examining the Issues of Domestic Violence in Later Life”*
By Cari Michaels
<http://www.globalvp.umn.edu/cgi-bin/client.pl?TopicID=7>
- *“Teen Dating Violence: A Review of Risk Factors and Prevention Efforts”*
By Maura O’Keefe
http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_TeenDatingViolence.pdf
- *“Violence Against Women and the Role of Religion”*
By Rev. Dr. Marie Fortune and Rabbi Cindy G. Enger
http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_VAWReligion.pdf

The following VAWnet Applied Research documents are currently in development:

- *“Assessment for Lifetime Exposure to Violence as a Pathway to Prevention”*
By Linda Chamberlain
- *“Critique of the ‘Battered Woman Syndrome’ Model-Revised Document”*
By Mary Ann Dutton
- *“Factoids that Challenge Efforts to Curb Violence Against Women”*
By Walter S. DeKeseredy
- *“Marital Rape: New Research and Directions”*

By Raquel Kennedy Bergen

- *“Problems Associated with Children’s Witnessing of Domestic Violence-Revised Document”*

By Jeffrey Edleson

- *“Violence Against Women Prevention Theory”*

By Donna Garske

Raising Awareness, Changing Attitudes

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April), MINCAVA developed a display board featuring pictures and stories from *Faces of Rape and Sexual Abuse Survivors*, an online and traveling project depicting the inner strengths of rape and sexual abuse survivors.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, MINCAVA hosted the following activities in September and October 2005:

- **Bake Sale for Survivors of Hurricane Katrina and Its Aftermath**

In conjunction with SWAct, MINCAVA held a bake sale to support survivors of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. We raised \$332.90! All proceeds were donated to the Louisiana Rape Relief to provide services to sexual assault victims and support other sexual violence intervention and prevention work in the area.

- **Clothesline Project Decoration**

In its interpretation of the Clothesline Project, MINCAVA created mock T-shirts which contained the names and stories of each person murdered as a result of domestic violence in Minnesota in 2005 and invited the community to decorate a shirt. These shirts were later strung together and placed on display commemoration.



- **Screening of Silence Speaks**

Together with the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) and the Center for Digital Storytelling, MINCAVA held a public screening of *Silence Speaks - Digital Stories*. The stories were created by local community members and showed the ways they were affected by domestic violence and how it has affected their parenting.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

MINCAVA developed a memorial wall honoring the names and stories of over 500 people from around the world who have been killed since 1972 due to violence based on gender identity/expression. This wall remained on display for the month of November 2005. MINCAVA also hosted a showing of “TransGeneration”, a documentary series that captures a year in the life of four transgender college students juggling the pressures of college life, academia, and family expectations with their own life-changing transitions.