

## **HAWC awarded \$10,000 Grant for Domestic Violence Outreach in LGBTQ Community**

**Salem** – HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change) was awarded a \$10,000 to support domestic violence assistance for victims from the North Shore’s LGBTQ community. “Victims of domestic violence are typically isolated by their abuser and separated from friends and family”, said Candace Waldron, HAWC’s Executive Director. “LGBTQ victims are further isolated as they have more limited options for services and may be facing issues of homophobia or transphobia at their work place or with their family.” Last year HAWC changed its name and logo, overhauled its training for staff and volunteers, and undertook a systematic approach to learning about and implementing how the organization can better serve LGBTQ victims of domestic violence.

HAWC’s services for all victims of domestic violence, with or without children, include emergency housing, clothing, food, medication/medical support and /or transportation, one-on-one advocacy, and mental health counseling. To serve LGBTQ youth who are victims of dating/intimate partner violence, HAWC is in the schools presenting information about signs of abuse for any type of relationship as well as how homophobia and transphobia perpetuates violence and bullying. HAWC’s youth program has had a profound impact on those who participate. “This couldn’t have happened at a better time”, noted one youth participant, “I have a friend in a situation like this.”

Verizon Foundation provided \$165,000 in grants to 15 agencies throughout Massachusetts to help address the continuing problem of domestic violence throughout the Commonwealth. Stan Usovicz, *title*, presented a check to Candace Waldron and Patrick Donovan, Youth Violence Outreach Program Coordinator. “Verizon is pleased to support the important work HAWC is undertaking as a community leader in providing services for victims of domestic/intimate partner violence, and as a local resource for schools facing issues of dating violence and bullying,” said Usovicz.