

NEWS RELEASE



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Scholarship program aims to help survivors of domestic violence

DES MOINES, Iowa – October 29, 2014 – Twenty-three survivors of domestic violence will have the opportunity to change their futures, thanks to the fourth annual Alice Barton Scholarship Program from the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). Recipients will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be used towards tuition, books, supplies, childcare or housing beginning in 2015.

The Alice Barton Scholarship Program works to empower survivors of domestic violence through education and job training. Economic abuse is a common and effective tactic batterers use to control their victims. By enabling victims to gain new knowledge and skills, the program helps victims increase their self-confidence, find better employment and achieve economic independence.

Past scholarship recipient Jonya* felt her independence and sense of confidence grow while she attended school thanks to the Alice Barton Scholarship Program. “I feel like I can ‘hear’ myself better now. Prior to receiving the scholarship and leaving my abusive husband, I could only hear the horrible words he called me, and they rang loudly in my mind whenever I attempted to do something progressive,” said Jonya*. “Now, I feel like I hear myself saying ‘I can do this’ and not to ever give up. The Alice Barton Scholarship was a beacon of light to me in a dark time. It renewed my hope that there was someone who cared about the victims of domestic violence and understood the economic - challenge of trying to leave an abuser.”

Roxanne Conlin, a prominent Des Moines attorney and long-time ICADV supporter, founded the Alice Barton Scholarship program in 2012, in collaboration with her brother Raymond Barton, founder and Chairman of the Board of Great Clips, Inc., and her sister Rhoda Olsen, CEO for Great Clips, Inc. In partnership with ICADV, the siblings created the scholarship program to honor their mother Alice Barton, a survivor of domestic violence, and to help survivor’s access higher education.

“Abuse wreaks havoc on a survivor’s life. Receiving an education is one way to start putting the pieces back together,” says Elizabeth Albright Battles, administrator of the scholarship program for ICADV. “A survivor has an opportunity to see themselves in a new light, learn new skills, and meet new, supportive people. Through the Alice Barton Scholarship, we hope to encourage more survivors to follow their dreams.”

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“I truly consider myself a survivor of abuse and feel a sense of sincere gratitude for having escaped a situation unfortunately too many others are still in,” said Jonya*, a 2014 scholarship recipient. “It can be challenging at times to be a single parent, take difficult courses and move forward while simultaneously trying to heal from the abuse. But I feel stronger now than I did a year ago. I also feel the strength of the organization, ICADV, rooting for me via their support.”

Applications for the Alice Barton Scholarship are available on the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s website, www.icadv.org. The deadline to apply is Monday, December 1, 2015.

About the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is a state level nonprofit organization responding to the needs of battered women, men and children in Iowa. ICADV staff provides training, counseling, community outreach, program management and technical support for domestic violence programs across the state who provide direct service to victims in need. To learn more, visit www.icadv.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iowaCADV.

*For safety, survivors are identified by first name only. If you are interested in additional quotes from Jonya, please contact the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 515-244-8028 for more information.

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