

USPS tries to stamp out domestic violence

By AMY L. ZITKA

Middletown Press Staff

MIDDLETOWN — During March there had been two murders, two suicides and one critically injured child in Connecticut stemming from domestic violence, said New Horizons Program Manager Michele Waldner. In just Middletown, there was “a brutal beating” as a result of domestic violence.

MIDDLETOWN

New Horizons
Domestic Violence

Services, a service of the city-based Community Health Center Inc., offers supportive services including a safe haven for battered women and their children within Middlesex County. New Horizons has teamed up with the Middletown Post Office to promote awareness about domestic violence and where help can be found.

During a presentation Wednesday in the Silver Street postal facility, Postal Officer in Charge Joe Camporeale, on behalf of the U.S. Postal Service, presented Waldner and other New Horizons representatives with a plaque commemorating the “Stop Family Violence” postage stamp to bring more publicity to the problem during Domestic Violence Awareness Week.

The post office also has information posted involving domestic violence statistics and what services are available in the state and from New Horizons, which will be on display for the next few weeks, Camporeale said “so (people) will know where to go.” The stamp, featuring a child’s artwork or a girl with her hands up, tears on her cheeks and a frown, sells for 45 cents, eight cents of which goes toward funding services nationally.

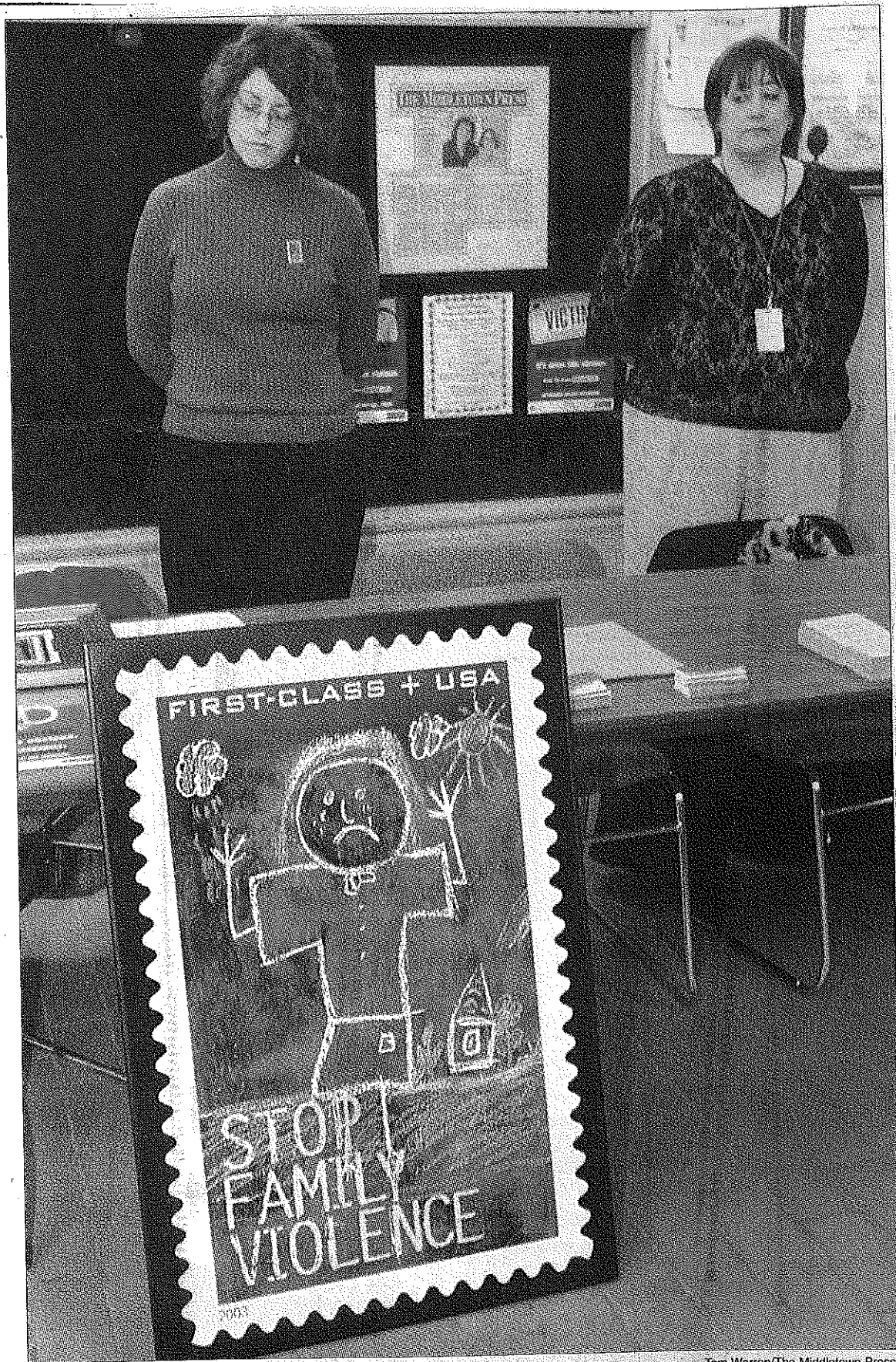
Statistics displayed at the post office provided by New Horizons show that 41 percent of the people arrested for family violence in Middletown were arrested for defending themselves against their attackers.

Waldner said she thinks the stamp will bring more attention to the matter.

New Horizons shelter, available to Middlesex County residents and others if needed, houses up to 10 women and children. Women and families can stay within the shelter for 60 days.

Victims can call a statewide 24-hour staffed domestic violence hotline, which “rolls over” to the closest battered women’s shelter.

There are support groups for those living within the shelter, as well as community support groups in Middletown and Westbrook for those not using the shelter. New Horizons can be reached at (860)344-9599 or through the Community Health Center at (860)347-6971. The statewide hotline is 1-888-774-2900.



Tom Warren/The Middletown Press

Michele Waldner and Debra Kniffin, representing the New Horizons Shelter, listen as Joe Camporeale, representing the Middletown Post Office, recites domestic violence statistics during a presentation in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Week at the Middletown Post Office on Wednesday regarding a stamp that has been in circulation since last October. Proceeds from sales of a stamp, in circulation since October of last year, supports domestic violence programs.