

## INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- **A Review of the FVPF's *National Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence: Health Consequences Over the Lifespan***

The Family Violence Prevention Fund's *National Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence: Health Consequences Over the Lifespan* was held on October 22-23, 2004 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA with Pre-Conference Sessions on October 21, 2004. Over 900 participants attended one of the largest gatherings of health professionals interested in enhancing and advancing healthcare's response to domestic violence. The opening plenary entitled *Exposure to Family Violence: Health Consequences Over the Lifespan* set the tone for the conference by highlighting the results of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study that demonstrates a clear link between childhood exposure to abuse and multiple risk factors for several of the leading causes of death and illness in adults.

Other plenary sessions included *Professional Health Education on Family Violence and Abuse: Finding Academic Homes for Orphans, Improving Care for Victims of Abuse with Co-Occurring Health Issues, Strengthening Global Responses: Promoting National Responsibilities Toward Violence Prevention, Reducing the Impact of Family Violence: Promoting Resiliency and Prevention*, and the closing session *Shaping the Direction of Family Violence Research*. Additionally, the conference offered eighty workshop sessions, fifty posters and thirteen pre-conference courses offering information on a wide array of topics over the three-day event.

Among other highlights of the national conference was a tribute to the late Susan Schechter, a pioneer and a leader in ending violence against women and children. A luncheon session focused on the need for prevention and involving men in the efforts to stop family violence. In an awards reception, the Family Violence Prevention Fund honored the California Dental Association Foundation with an Organization Award, Cheryl Neskahi-Coan, CSW and Emily Pitt, LICSW with Advocate Awards, Elaine Alpert, MD, MPH with a Health Educator Award, Carmen Del Rosario, MSW with a Public Health Award and Senator Edward M. Kennedy with a Health Policy Award.