

Director of C.C. Domestic Violence Program

McCook Will Receive Award for Her Efforts in Domestic Violence

Gail McCook, director of the Caribou County Domestic Violence Program, will receive an award from Idaho Attorney General Alan G. Lance for her efforts in assisting victims on Tuesday, June 16, at a conference in Boise.

McCook will receive the Outstanding Victim Services Practitioner award at a luncheon at "Three Days in June," the fifth annual Governor's Conference on Crime Victims' Assistance, sponsored by the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence.

The program McCook directs is the only such service to domestic violence victims in Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin and Oneida Counties--a 5,000 square mile area. McCook personally traveled the entire area and was on call 24 hours

a day, seven days a week. She transports victims to shelters from Idaho Falls to Blackfoot to Boise, along with supporting victims on crisis telephone calls, running a support group and speaking to area service groups and schools.

As a direct result of her efforts, city leaders in Preston and the county commission in Franklin County have endorsed an effort to place a fully staffed and funded shelter in Franklin County and funding is being sought.

Preston Police Chief Scott Shaw said that McCook "has led us from having no programs or direction, to a systematic program involving a united effort with the city of Preston and Franklin County.

"As a direct result of her knowledge, energy and political understanding, Preston and Franklin County are firmly on the way to reaching the goal of having a fully staffed shelter facility that will provide the much needed assistance to a serious and growing problem," he said.

Chief Shaw will be a presenter at the Boise conference, leading a workshop on homicidal sociopaths. The workshop will deal with his

experiences in the Jeralee Underwood case in Pocatello and the book he wrote about it, "Eye of the Beast."

For more information about the Caribou County Domestic Violence Program, contact Gail McCook in Soda Springs at 547-2561.