



Chief Wetherbee's Long Reach

Many residents know that Concord police chief Len Wetherbee served the community for 33 years. He joined the force from the police academy, rising through the ranks to become chief of police in 1993. His retirement on January 29, 2010 coincided with his 55th birthday when he moved to New Hampshire to “enjoy all things outside.”

But what may not be as well known to the community is Chief Wetherbee's integral role in establishing two critical human service agencies: Domestic Violence Services Network and Communities for Restorative Justice. In an interview just before his retirement, Chief Wetherbee shared his positive experiences working with these local programs.

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Domestic Violence Prevention

In 1991, Chief Wetherbee attended an FBI academy in Phoenix, Arizona where he learned about a new type of victim advocate program where police and community advocates worked together to prevent domestic abuse. With

grants from the Community Chest and the Federal government, a domestic violence prevention program was launched in Concord. “We broke the barrier between civilian

groups and police to address domestic violence,” said Chief Wetherbee.

When Federal funds dried up, the Network for Women's Lives stepped in to help reshape the program while the Community Chest continued to provide critical funding. Today, that program is called Domestic Violence Services Network led by Jacquelin Apsler. It has grown to encompass ten surrounding

