

Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center awarded Byrne Grant

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AMESBURY - The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been awarded a \$90,000 Byrne Grant for its efforts to fight domestic violence, state Rep. Michael A. Costello announced.

The money will be used to support Jeanne Geiger's Greater Newburyport High-Risk Case Response Team. Now in its third year, the response team consists of members from victim services, law enforcement, probation, batterer intervention and Anna Jaques Hospital. The team works collaboratively to identify the most dangerous domestic violence cases in the community and provides individualized interventions to interrupt the cycle of escalating violence.

"The \$90,000 grant will ensure stability of the high-risk-case response team," said Suzanne Dubus, director. "With everyone feeling so shaky about the economy, the recession and nonprofit finances, it's nice to know that programs that save lives can be funded. We are deeply indebted to the Executive Office of Public Safety, but mostly to Rep. Costello."

Costello, the chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, worked closely with Secretary of Public Safety Kevin Burke and the governor's office to secure the grant. Costello has long been a supporter of Jeanne Geiger, and last year, the organization named him a Changemaker, for being a champion of battered women.