

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Judy Postmus

Dr. Judy Postmus is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Rutgers University and the Director and Founder of Rutgers University's Center on Violence Against Women and Children. The Center strives to eliminate physical, sexual, and other forms of violence against women and children and the power imbalances that permit them by facilitating a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to research, training, and education aimed at eradicating violence against women and children. Dr. Postmus' current research, funded by the Allstate Foundation, examines how an economic empowerment curriculum improves fiscal and mental health functioning of battered women.

Before joining Rutgers University, Dr. Postmus was an assistant professor of social work at the University of Kansas. She served as an executive director of a domestic violence shelter in The Florida Keys and worked for the Florida Department of Children and Families. Her teaching experience includes courses on family violence and advanced social policies on violence against women and children.

Dr. Postmus received her bachelor's degree from Florida International University, her masters of social work degree from Barry University, and her doctoral degree from SUNY, Albany.

Kalyn Risker

Kalyn Risker, a mother and domestic abuse survivor, is the Founder and Executive Director of Sisters Acquiring Financial Empowerment (SAFE) in Detroit, Michigan. She also is a human resources manager with more than ten years of experience in employee recruitment, retention, compliance, compensation, payroll, and benefits administration.

After separating from her abuser, Ms. Risker founded SAFE in May 2006 to equip survivors of domestic violence with the appropriate financial tools and resources needed to enable women to leave or recover from the economic portion of domestic violence. SAFE has an accomplished background of actively providing economic empowerment and access to community resources to survivors of domestic violence in the southeastern Michigan community. She is the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence Survivors Giving Circle's Economic Empowerment Coach for its 2009 Economic Empowerment Capacity Building Project and is the recipient of the National Network to End Domestic Violence 2009 "Spirit of Advocacy" award.

Ms. Risker received her bachelor's degree in business administration and human resource management from Davenport University. She currently is pursuing her master's degree in human resource administration at Central Michigan University.