



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY MARSHALL WOLFF

**Mary Gianakis, Jane Doe Inc. board member and Voices Against Violence program director, speaks yesterday in the Grille Restaurant at the AMC Premium Theater in Framingham.**

## Speaking out key to battling abuse

► Advocacy group kicks off campaign at Framingham theater

By Whitney Segel

DAILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Crowds flock to movie theaters in summer at the same time domestic violence rates spike, so advocates decided to press their message about stopping violence using Gov. Deval Patrick's wife, Diane, as a spokeswoman.

Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts coalition against sexual assault and domestic violence, is launching the premiere

of a public service announcement to promote the services available on domestic violence. It will be shown in 43 Massachusetts movie theatre previews from May 29 through July 3, reaching an estimated 1.5 million people.

"I have to speak out; silence is not an option," Diane Patrick said yesterday at the campaign's premiere at the AMC Premium Theater in Framingham.

"Silence can be deadly. Silence keeps the public unaware. Silence keeps perpetrators protected."

When Gov. Patrick issued a public health advisory on June 12, 2008, about the dangers of DOMESTIC ABUSE, *Page A8*

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### WEST BANK

**Obama urges Israel to stop settlement construction. See story on page A4.**



## FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# Fighting violence with words

**DOMESTIC ABUSE, From A1** 5, 2008, there had been an 300 percent increase in domestic violence related deaths and suicides in three years. Up until the health advisory was announced there had been 24 deaths in 2008. There have been 16 deaths so far this year, matching last year's numbers.

Mary Gianakis, Voices Against Violence program director and Jane Doe board member, says the main goal of this campaign is to inform people that there are services provided in every community, and the services are dedicated to saving lives.

John Auerbach, the Department of Public Health commissioner, said the more publicity the campaign attracts, the more people it will help.

"When it falls off the radar screen, people suffer," Auerbach said, "It is important to be very visible and vocal."

More is being done to train health care providers about domestic violence, as well as improve public safety and law enforcement practices to better protect victims and educate the



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**Diane Patrick talks about domestic violence as part of the Jane Doe Inc. program yesterday afternoon in the Grille Restaurant at the AMC Premium Theater in Framingham.**

community. But there is still much more work to accomplish, said Toni Troop, development director for Jane Doe.

Angelo McClain, commissioner of the state Department of Children and Families, said there is a 10 to 15 percent gap between what is needed and what the services can provide.

"Folks deserve to be safe in their home. We have made significant progress this year. Kudos to us, but we have no time

to rest," McClain said. "Enough is enough, we have to end domestic and sexual assault."

Mary Lauby, Jane Doe's executive director, said there have been significant budget cuts - 20 to 24 percent in services for sexual assault victims and 6 percent for domestic assault.

Troop said the economic downturn can make situations more dangerous for the victims.

Advocates hope the movie campaign can build on the

success of a previous television and radio public service announcement.

In the last six months, Safe-Link, a Massachusetts statewide domestic violence hotline, has reported a 50 percent increase in calls.

"The increase in statistics tells us the need for help and support is increasing," Patrick said.

*The statewide domestic violence hotline number is 1-800-593-1125.*