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

DOMESTIC ABUSE, Page A8

WEST BANK
Obama urges Israel to stop settlement construction. See story on page A4.
DOMESTIC ABUSE, From Al
5, 2008, there had been an 300
percent increase in domestic vi-
ence related deaths and sui-
cides 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 Gianakos, 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 com-
unity, and the services are
dedicated to saving lives.

John Auerbach, the Depart-
ment of Public Health com-
misioner, said the more publicity
the campaign attracts, the more
people it will help.

“When it falls off the radar
screen, people suffer,” Auer-
bach said, “It is important to be
very visible and vocal.”

More is being done to train
health care providers about do-
mestic violence, as well as im-
prove public safety and law en-
forcement practices to better
protect victims and educate the

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

Angelo McClain, commissi-
der 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 sig-
nificant progress this year.
Kudos to us, but we have no time
to rest,” McClain said. “Enough
is enough, we have to end do-
mestic and sexual assault.”

Mary Zaubig, Jane Doe’s exec-
utive director, said there have
been significant budget cuts - 20
to 24 percent in services for sex-
ual 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 televi-
sion 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 vi-
ence hotline number is 1-800-
593-1125.