



In Honor of Ellen Pence, Founding Director of Praxis International

We are profoundly sad that we lost our founding director, Ellen Pence, who passed from this earth on January 6, 2012. There are few words to describe the love and admiration we feel for her. The impact she had on all of our lives was tremendous, and we are so grateful for the time we had with her. It is just not possible to believe that such indomitable spirit, relentless energy, and astonishing mind could be gone from us.

It is redundant to say Ellen was brave, dedicated, and everything we only aspire to be in our lives. She was witty, funny, generous, and loving. But more than anything else, she was an agent of change. She transformed individuals who came in touch with her. She changed institutions, systems, and society. She changed people and organizations that she came in contact with directly and those that were far away in other places. Ellen was an unparalleled teacher and a profound thinker who shaped not only the field of anti-domestic violence work but also the people who entered the field.

This amazing spirit, Ellen Pence, left us but has left behind a body of work and a love for justice and social equity that is sure to outlive all of us. To this incredible friend, mentor, and activist, we say thank you, and until we meet again!

The board and staff of Praxis

Awards and Recognition for Ellen

- Feb 5, 2010 City of Duluth: Mayoral proclamation of Ellen Pence Day
- 2010 Manavi 25th Anniversary Gala Award for her dedicated service and community commitment to ending violence against women
- 2010 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: Recognition resolution of lifetime achievements
- 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award; National Family Justice Center
- 2009 Sheila Wellstone Gold Watch Award; in recognition of leadership and commitment to addressing the laws and institutions affecting battered women and their children, and to holding those systems accountable for making the safety of women and children their highest priority
- 2009 Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence: Recognition for continued contributions to the discourse of domestic violence in Michigan and throughout the nation
- 2008 Dorothy E. Smith Scholar Activist Award; Society for the Study of Social Problems Institutional Ethnography Division; for significant contributions in a career of activist research
- 2008 North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Recognition of over 30 years of working to end violence against women
- 2007 Legacy Award; Institute on Domestic Violence In the African American Community