

## COMMUNITY

## Annual Bikers for Bridget remembers slain Auburn woman, raises money to combat domestic violence



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AUBURN | Four years after her daughter's murder, Kelly Bell is still working to raise awareness of domestic violence.

Bridget Bell was murdered inside her home in Auburn in Nov. 2011 by Ryan Brahney, her ex-boyfriend. Brahney was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to spend [54 years to life in prison](#).

At the sentencing for Brahney in October 2012, Kelly Bell told the court that she will "refuse to be his victim. I will heal by helping others."

Nearly 50 motorcycles lining the back parking lot of the SK Post 1324 in Auburn Saturday were a testament to that effort. They were there for the fourth annual Bikers 4 Bridget, a fundraiser organized by Bell to raise money for domestic violence awareness efforts.

In 2013, Bell [raised \\$3,000](#) to give to the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency's Domestic Violence Intervention Program. The money went toward providing training to officers with the Auburn Police Department and Cayuga County Sheriff's Office for interacting with victims of domestic violence.

This year's ride involved a loop down to Moravia and back into Auburn to end at CC's Tavern, where a barbecue was held. Bell said she was hoping to raise about \$2,000 from the event.

She'd like to establish a scholarship for victims of domestic violence in the future. She said she is planning to launch a charity golf tournament to help toward that goal.

She stressed the importance of understanding that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence.

"It's not always a man who commits these acts," Bell said. "It's not just man on woman, it's people on people."

She said more awareness can help people "see through the cracks," and recognize when they need help and how to get it.

“We want to educate people, maybe you’ve been slapped around, or pushed around,” Bell said. “But the next time could be a knife.”