



Beacon of Hope

Crisis Center

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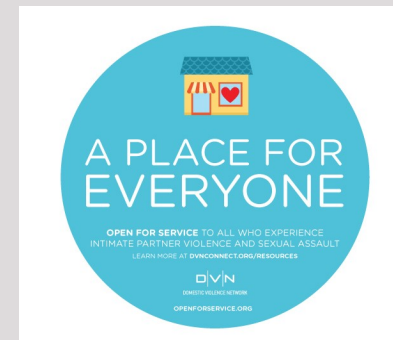
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About Us



Beacon of Hope
Crisis Center

- ▶ Mission
 - ▶ Beacon of Hope Crisis Center is a Christ-centered organization empowering victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to become self-sufficient by providing safety, education and support.
- ▶ Vision
 - ▶ Is a world in which everyone can live free from the grip of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ▶ We Serve ALL!



Services

▶ **Crisis Call Intervention Program**

- ▶ Crisis calls answered by advocates and volunteers/interns.
- ▶ Crisis intervention, safety planning, barrier reduction (transportation, rent, etc.), basic needs, advocacy, case management, employment assistance, counseling, life-skills, referrals.

▶ **Criminal Justice Program**

- ▶ Advocates reaching out to victims through law enforcement partnerships.
- ▶ Court advocacy and criminal justice support, assistance with protective order, assistance with victim compensation fund, Crisis intervention, safety planning, barrier reduction (transportation, rent, etc.), basic needs, advocacy, case management, employment assistance, counseling, life-skills, referrals.

▶ **Purple Sneakers Program**

- ▶ Educating young adults between the ages 13-26 on dating violence.

▶ **Economic Sustainability Program**

- ▶ The overarching goal of Beacon of Hope's Economic Sustainability Program is to help victims of domestic violence become self-sufficient in order to financially support themselves and their children.
- ▶ Victim advocates assist victims with all aspects toward employment, assessments, referrals to agencies for vocational/academic training, resume preparation, interview preparation, job search assistance, case management and transportation.

Services

▶ Foster Pet Program

- ▶ Collaboration between program coordinator, victims, and volunteer foster pet families.
- ▶ Temporary foster pet care for victims who are fleeing from domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- ▶ Prevention education and pet abuse awareness as well as its link to domestic violence.
- ▶ Available to all DV/SA survivors and programs serving survivors within the State.



Domestic Violence



- ▶ Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner or family member to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship or family member.
- ▶ Domestic violence and sexual assault does not discriminate against gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, etc.
- ▶ ANYONE can be a victim.
- ▶ Domestic violence is not just physical. It can be emotional, financial, psychological, spiritual, verbal, economic and social.
- ▶ Domestic Violence is more common than diabetes.
- ▶ Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.

Domestic Violence Stats

- ▶ Domestic Violence affects 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men.
 - ▶ Young women from the ages of 16-24 experience the highest rates of relationship violence.
 - ▶ The most common age when intimate partner violence is first experienced by men is ages 18-24.
- ▶ 53% either know a victim or survivor or they themselves are a victim or survivor.
- ▶ Domestic violence is most likely to take place between 6 pm and 6 am.
- ▶ 75% of domestic violence is unreported.
- ▶ Every minute, nearly 20 people are physically abused by their partner.
- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence is 15% of all violent crimes.
- ▶ When a gun is involved, risk of homicide increases to 500%
- ▶ When a victim is strangled, risk of homicide increases to 750%
- ▶ Approximately one in three teenagers are in an abusive relationship



Types of Abuse

- ▶ Domestic violence is not just physical. It can be emotional, financial, psychological, spiritual, verbal, economic and social.
- ▶ Emotional Abuse
 - ▶ Name calling, belittling, making threats to victim, gaslighting, accusing victim of cheating, blaming victim for abusers' actions/behaviors, etc.
- ▶ Financial
 - ▶ Forbidding victim to work, giving victim an allowance, stealing money from victim, refusing to give money to victim.
 - ▶ 98% of financial abuse occurs in all domestic violence cases
- ▶ Verbal
 - ▶ Threatening to harm or kill victim, pets, children, name calling, embarrassing victim, blaming victim, etc.
- ▶ Psychological
 - ▶ Humiliating the victim, convincing victim he/she are crazy, withholding information from victim, demeaning victim, etc.
- ▶ Spiritual
 - ▶ Prohibiting victim from practicing their own beliefs, forcing victim into practicing their belief, using victims religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate or shame victim, etc.
- ▶ Social
 - ▶ Isolating victim from friends and family, controlling who the victim can see or talk to, etc.



Warning Signs/Red Flags of Domestic Violence

- ▶ Cruelty to animals
- ▶ Extreme jealousy
- ▶ Extremely controlling behavior
 - ▶ Controlling finances
 - ▶ Controlling what victim can and cannot wear
 - ▶ Controlling who victim can visit, text, call, etc.
 - ▶ Controlling if victim can or cannot work
- ▶ Harassment of victim at work
 - ▶ Calling victim several times throughout the day to ensure victim is at work
 - ▶ Showing up unexpectedly at victims' work
- ▶ Manipulative
- ▶ Placing blame on victim
 - ▶ Blaming victim for their own actions and behaviors

The Link to Animal Cruelty

- ▶ Research shows a connection between animal cruelty and violence against humans, including child abuse, domestic abuse, and elder abuse. Abused animals are a sign that others in the household may be in danger.
- ▶ Abusers often target pets to exert control over their partner.
 - ▶ Abusers may kill, threaten to harm or will harm pets to exert dominance and power over their victims and to show the victim what could happen to them as well.
- ▶ Animal abuse silences domestic violence and sexual abuse victims and is a significant barrier that prevents them from leaving violent relationships.
 - ▶ 25% of victims return to their partners for fear of harm to their pet(s).
- ▶ Children who are abused may exert control over a pet to gain their own sense of power.
 - ▶ Exposing children to animal cruelty may desensitize them against all forms of violence.
 - ▶ Children in homes with domestic violence are abused at rates 15 times greater than in non-violent homes.
 - ▶ 75% of pet abuse incidents occurred in the presence of the children.
 - ▶ Between 3.3 and 10 million children each year are exposed to domestic violence.

The Link to Animal Cruelty

- ▶ 41% of intimate partner violence offenders had histories of animal cruelty.
- ▶ Batterers who also abuse animals are more dangerous and use more forms of controlling and violent behaviors.
- ▶ Abusers specifically choose pets as targets because they believe the police don't care about animal cruelty and they can get away with it.
- ▶ Animal abuse can be a sentinel indicator and predictor — one of the earliest “red flag” warning signs of concurrent or future violent acts.
- ▶ In an ASPCA study, 68% of battered women stated their abuser had been violent towards pets or livestock. More than 75% of incidents took place in the presence of women and/or children to intimidate or control them.
- ▶ 35 states, Indiana being one, now allow pets to be added to Protective Orders.

Outcomes of Pet Abuse



- ▶ Victims don't leave because:
 - ▶ They can't take their pet along to a shelter
 - ▶ They don't have a safe place to take their pet while they seek shelter
- ▶ 33% of domestic violence survivors hesitate to seek shelter because of concern for their pet's welfare.
- ▶ Victim's as well as pets suffer from PTSD from pet being harmed.
- ▶ 76% of domestic violence victims whose partners had histories of pet abuse had been strangled; 26% had been forced to have sex with the suspect and 80% feared that they would be killed by the suspect. (Campbell, Thompson, Harris & Wiehe, 2018).

Domestic Violence & Children

- ▶ 5 million children witness domestic violence each year in the US.
- ▶ 90% of children eyewitness domestic violence in the home.
- ▶ 40% of victims of child abuse report other domestic violence in the home.
 - ▶ 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.
- ▶ Children in homes with domestic violence are physically abused/neglected at a rate of 1500% higher than the national average.
- ▶ Children in DV homes are 6 times more likely to commit suicide and 50% more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.
- ▶ Living with domestic violence can significantly alter a child's DNA aging them prematurely 7-10 years.
- ▶ Children of domestic violence are 3 times more likely to repeat the cycle in adulthood.



Domestic Violence and Children

- ▶ It is important to recognize the signs of children who witnessed domestic violence.
 - ▶ Fearful
 - ▶ Sad
 - ▶ Anxious
 - ▶ Isolated
 - ▶ Angry
 - ▶ Hiding
- ▶ What does witnessing domestic violence mean to a child?
 - ▶ Seeing
 - ▶ Physically see the abuse taking place.
 - ▶ Hearing
 - ▶ Listening to threats or violence occurring within the home.
 - ▶ Observing
 - ▶ The Aftermath of physical abuse: blood, bruises, broken items in home.
 - ▶ Being Aware
 - ▶ Parent fearful of abuse when he/she returns home or calls.

Why Victims Stay



- ▶ Fear/lethality risk
 - ▶ When a victim leaves, risk of homicide increases by 75%
 - ▶ Fear of retaliation from abuser and/or abuser's friends/family
 - ▶ Fear of harm to pets or loved ones
 - ▶ Fear of being outed
- ▶ Love
 - ▶ They genuinely love their abuser
- ▶ If children are involved, feel an obligation to stay with the abuser (don't want a broken home or not able to support kids solo)
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Unsupportive friends and family
 - ▶ Their family and/or friends don't want to get involved anymore, so they cannot assist with housing or financial support.
 - ▶ Their family and/or friends side with the abuser due to manipulation.
 - ▶ They are pressured from family and friends to stay in the relationship.
 - ▶ Where will I go? (no friends or family in the State)

Why Victims Stay Cont'd

- ▶ Financial
 - ▶ Lack of means to support themselves and/or their children financially.
 - ▶ Lack of access to cash, bank accounts or assets.
- ▶ Embarrassment or Shame
 - ▶ They may feel they've done something wrong by becoming involved with an abusive partner.
 - ▶ They may also worry that their friends and family will judge them.
- ▶ Mental illness, disability, substance abuse
 - ▶ Victims may present with untreated mental illness or substance abuse which makes independence difficult.
 - ▶ When someone is physically dependent on their abusive partner, they can feel that their well-being is connected to the relationship.
- ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ Lack of transportation
 - ▶ Believing Abuse is Normal
 - ▶ A person may not know what a healthy relationship looks like, perhaps from growing up in an environment where abuse was common, and they may not recognize that their relationship is unhealthy.
- ▶ Cultural/Religious Reasons
 - ▶ Traditional gender roles supported by someone's culture or religion may influence them to stay rather than end the relationship for fear of bringing shame upon their family
 - ▶ If married, they do not believe in divorce or divorce is considered "wrong, shameful, etc."

Reasons Why Victims Don't Report

- ▶ Embarrassment
- ▶ Disbelief
- ▶ Ashamed
- ▶ Self-blame or guilt
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Distrust in law enforcement
- ▶ Confusion about legal consequences
 - ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ Substance abuse
- ▶ For sexual assault victims, no or minimal recall of the assault
- ▶ Lack of Transportation
- ▶ Unsupportive family/friends
- ▶ Privacy
 - ▶ What happens in the home stays in the home
- ▶ Fear
 - ▶ Retaliation from abuser or abuser's family and friends
 - ▶ Fear they will not be believed
 - ▶ Fear that abuser will not be arrested
 - ▶ Fear that they may be arrested
- ▶ Protecting their child(ren)
 - ▶ Don't want to split up the family
 - ▶ They don't have anywhere to go with their children
- ▶ Not from that state, city
- ▶ Cultural stigma
 - ▶ Fear of getting help for honor based practices

Why Victims Delay Reporting



- ▶ Many victims do not disclose immediately about domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- ▶ For DV victims, they do not disclose due to:
 - ▶ Fear,
 - ▶ Children
 - ▶ Privacy
 - ▶ Religion
 - ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ Self-blame or guilt, etc.

Barriers for Male Victims



- ▶ Shame and emasculation
- ▶ Fear that police will assume they are the abuser when the abuser is actually female
- ▶ Same-sex relationships not noted as DV/SA
- ▶ Not self-identifying their experience as abuse
 - ▶ Men aren't supposed to be victims
 - ▶ Men don't cry
 - ▶ A woman cannot harm a man as men are stronger than women

Strangulation

- ▶ Strangling is compression of the neck that may lead to unconsciousness or death by causing an increasingly hypoxic state in the brain.
- ▶ Strangulation has only recently been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence.
 - ▶ Most strangulation incidents leave no marks or bruising on the victim
- ▶ 1 in 4 woman who experience intimate partner violence, 68% will experience near-fatal strangulation.
- ▶ 97% of victims are strangled manually (with hands)
- ▶ When victims are strangled, 38% lose consciousness.
 - ▶ Loss of consciousness can occur within 5-10 seconds and death within minutes.
- ▶ Studies have shown that most domestic violence victims are killed by the use of a firearm, but at least 50% of victims are strangled beforehand.

Strangulation



- ▶ 50% of victims have visible injuries and only 15% can be photographed.
- ▶ Non-fatal strangulation has been reported in nearly 45% of attempted homicidal Domestic Violence situations against women.
- ▶ When a victim is strangled, risk of homicide increases to 750%.
- ▶ In a survey of battered women, 68% experienced strangulation as a method of violence.

Working With Law Enforcement

- ▶ BOHCC is partnered with 6 law enforcement agencies; 4 in Marion County and 2 in Johnson County.
 - ▶ Bargsville, Beech Grove, Greenwood, Lawrence, Southport and Speedway
- ▶ All domestic violence and sexual assault Incident Reports are sent directly to our agency for our Criminal Justice Advocates to follow-up with the victim's.
 - ▶ Timeliness of incident reports
 - ▶ Incident reports for DV/SA victims
 - ▶ Not limited too but includes all reports for stalking, harassment, property damage, violation of PO, teen dating violence, isolation, financial abuse, threats of homicide or suicide. Any unwanted assertion of power and control over another person.
- ▶ Advocates can accompany a victim to a law enforcement interview
 - ▶ The advocate can explain to the victim what this interview will entail, but cannot speak on behalf of the victim, translate for the officer or the victim.
 - ▶ Advocates can be present during the entire interview.
 - ▶ Having an advocate present helps reduce stress and anxiety a victim may feel while speaking with a detective.
 - ▶ Advocates can provide advocacy and support prior, during or after the interview and help answer any questions that the victim may have.

Working with Law Enforcement

- ▶ Advocates can arrive on-scene to meet with the victim during our office & satellite team hours (8:30 AM to 1:00 AM), as long as:
- ▶ Our office hours as long as:
 - ▶ The abuser is not present
 - ▶ An officer remains on-scene
 - ▶ The scene is safe
- ▶ Tell victims about our services and refer victims to us for:
 - ▶ Filing a PO if they are concerned about safety
 - ▶ To answer questions if they are confused about differences between a PO and NCO and the Criminal Justice System
 - ▶ Shelter referrals
 - ▶ Foster Pet Program services
 - ▶ Remember pets can be added to a PO
 - ▶ If a victim's pet has been listed as a protected party and is still within the abuser's case, please connect with our agency to assist in temporary emergency placement until the victim is able to retrieve their pet safely
 - ▶ Never indicate to a victim that a PO will automatically be in place



How To Help A Victim

- ▶ Believe them and let them know, you are here to help.
- ▶ Provide them resources such as referring them to Beacon of Hope Crisis Center for services.
- ▶ Understand that when a victim calls the police for help, it means that violence has escalated and they are in danger, even if they “change” their mind when police arrive.
- ▶ Assume that this isn’t the first incident of DV even if this is the first police report or first time sharing their story.
- ▶ Be alert to other types of abuse that may be going on in the home
 - ▶ Pet Abuse
 - ▶ Child Abuse and/or neglect
 - ▶ Elder Abuse

How Can You Help?

- ▶ If you know someone who is a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, refer them to Beacon of Hope Crisis Center. Refer via crisis line 317-731-6140, social media or email at info@beaconofhopeindy.org
- ▶ Model respect and responsibility in your own life.
- ▶ Become an active bystander.
- ▶ Get involved with Beacon of Hope Crisis Center, schools and campaigns against domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ▶ Volunteer at Beacon of Hope Crisis Center.
- ▶ Donate!
- ▶ Treat all victims with respect and take them seriously.
 - ▶ Offer Support (Let them know you care)
 - ▶ Listen to the victim
 - ▶ Do not judge the victim
 - ▶ Do not place blame on victim



Contact Information

- ▶ Tiffany Wilson, Director of Victim Advocacy & Quality Assurance
tiffany@beaconofhopeindy.org
- ▶ Address: 6920 S. East Street, Suite B, Indianapolis, IN 46227
- ▶ Crisis Line for victims: 317-731-6140
- ▶ Office Line: 317-731-6131