

History of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed, and that same year the first national toll-free hotline began.

Family Service of the Piedmont annually observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month by educating the community on the issue of domestic violence and the services it provides for victims and perpetrators. In recent years, activities have included events that rally community support for victims of domestic violence.

The Purple Ribbon

Across the country, families and friends of victims of domestic violence have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor their loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted.

Shelters and local battered women's programs use the purple ribbon to raise awareness about the crime of domestic violence in their communities. In addition to the demonstration of support for victims and advocates, the community's display of purple ribbons conveys a powerful message that there is no place for domestic violence in the homes, neighborhoods, workplaces or schools of its citizens.

Resources for Battered Victims

Emergency Law Enforcement
or Ambulance **911**

Services Offered by Family Service of the Piedmont

- 24-hour crisis line
Greensboro **(336) 273-7273**
High Point **(336) 889-7273**
- Free and confidential crisis counseling
- Shelter
- Information and referrals
- Court and police advocacy
- Information on relocating

Other resources

National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline
(800) 799-SAFE (7233)

NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
(882) 232-9124
www.nccadv.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund
Information and statistics at
www.endabuse.org

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

~ October ~

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is physical and/or emotional attacks directed at one's partner. It is a power-based reaction to a perceived loss of control, particularly of oneself or one's life, which results in attempts to control others, particularly intimate partners, as a way of alleviating the fear and accompanying anxiety. The means of control include physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse, as well as threats and isolation.



Did You Know?...

National Statistics

- It is estimated that **1 out of every 4 women** will be abused by a partner in her lifetime. [www.nccadv.org]
- Every day, **4 women are murdered** by their husbands or boyfriends. [www.letswrap.com]
- More women aged 15-44 are injured due to domestic violence than due to **muggings, rapes and car accidents combined**. [www.nccadv.org]

- **Every 9 seconds** in the United States a woman is assaulted and beaten. [www.letswrap.com]
- It is estimated there are approximately **500,000 gay male victims** and a similar number of lesbian victims of domestic violence annually. [www.nccadv.org]
- In **30 to 60 percent** of households experiencing domestic violence, there is also some form of child abuse - physical or sexual. [www.preventchildabuse.org]

North Carolina Statistics

- There were **82 domestic violence-related murders** in NC in 2004. [www.nccadv.org]
- From 2002 to 2003 about **45,000 people**, 88% of them women, sought help for domestic violence in NC. [www.nccadv.org]

Guilford County Statistics

- In fiscal year 04-05, nearly **500 women and children** sought a safe haven from domestic violence at Family Service of the Piedmont's shelters: Carpenter House (High Point) and Clara House (Greensboro).



Domestic Violence Indicators

Domestic violence can happen to anyone. Can you answer yes to any of the following questions? If so, please contact Family Service of the Piedmont for help.

- Are you frightened by your partner's temper?
- Are you afraid to disagree?
- Are you constantly apologizing for your partner's behavior, especially when your partner has treated you badly?
- Do you have to justify everything you do, every place you go, or every person you see, just to avoid your partner's anger?
- Does your partner's behavior get blamed on you, stress, drugs, alcohol or your partner's temper?
- Has your partner hit or hurt the children?
- Has your partner been cruel to an animal?
- Does your partner put you down, then tell you that he/she loves you?
- Have you ever been threatened, shoved, hit, kicked, or had things thrown at you?
- Have you been forced into having sex when you didn't want to?
- Do you not see friends or family because of your partner's jealousy?
- Are you afraid to break up because your partner has threatened to hurt you or to commit suicide if you do?