

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The White Earth DOVE Program would like to remind everyone that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence affects every community regardless of race, status, or income. It touches every service system including our schools and hospitals. It happens in my community, your community, every community, and it could even be happening in your home.

Help support our mission in ending the cycle of domestic violence by understanding what it is and speaking against it—be aware of the signs of an abusive relationship: Does your partner call you bad names? Put you down? Need to control what you do? Who you see? Where you go?

Make all the decisions? Shove or hit you?

Threaten to kill you or those you love? Destroy your property or clothes? Threaten to take away or hurt your children? Intimidate you with guns, knives or other weapons and threaten to commit suicide? Just one of these can be a sign of an abusive relationship. If you have concerns and would like to talk with an advocate, please call our office.

“Twenty women and 12 children were murdered in Minnesota in 2006 as the result of domestic violence or child abuse.” ~*Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women 2006 Femicide Report*.

“One of every three homeless women in Minnesota is homeless at least in part due to domestic violence.” ~*Wilder Research Center*

“About 25 percent of 6th and 9th graders in Minnesota reported that they had been physically abused by an adult living in the household. Similar percentages of students reported that someone in their household had been a victim of domestic violence.” ~*Minnesota Student Survey 2004*.

Domestic violence destroys lives, relationships, trust, and the human spirit—especially the spirit of a child. Witnessing domestic violence is just as damaging to our children as it would be if they were the primary victims of the abuse.

Witnessing includes hearing the slaps and cries, sensing the tension and fear, and/or seeing the abuse take place. Home is to be a place of safety, security and love for our children and ourselves.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship please contact us for more information. If you commit acts of domestic violence towards members of your family—please seek help. Remember, if it happened once, it could happen again. “Forty-four percent of women murdered by an intimate partner [have] visited an ER in the two years prior to their death.” ~*Foundation of National Progress*.

For more information and confidential services, please call the DOVE Program at 218.983.4656

In a crisis, please call our 24-hour crisis line at 1.877.830.3683