

# WE DOVE Program Helps *any* Victim of Crime

White Earth DOVE sponsored a community forum on August 25, 2010 “Looking Beyond the Obvious” at the Shooting Star Event Center. This forum was free and open to the community and offered an opportunity to learn more about Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and stalking in their communities as well as a chance for discussion and questions with a panel of area service providers. DOVE staff would like to thank the people who took the time to attend. It only takes one person to make a difference and each of you showed your support for ending domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking just by attending and learning more.

During the community forum there were some questions about the services DOVE offers. One misconception is that DOVE only helps native women. The DOVE program helps any victim of crime that lives on or near the Reservation whether they are men, women or children.

Our services include help for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, elder abuse, and general crimes as well as safe visitation and exchange.

What does an advocate do for a victim? Crisis Intervention: Our 24 hour crisis line is available for anyone to call and speak to an advocate. We can answer questions you may have about the violence, offer resources to help and provide assistance in finding a safe place to stay as well as emotional support. We can provide transportation for any medical or legal appointments that are related to the crime. We can assist with orders for protection and/or harassment restraining orders. Accompaniment to court or other appointments related to the crime. We also offer safehousing for a victim (this is only temporary).

Other services include: Information and referrals, legal, personal and systems advocacy. Assistance in creating a personalized safety plan and applying for reparations claims. An advocate is always available for guidance and support during evidentiary exams. DOVE also offers Support groups and/or one-on-one support for victims of crime. We also offer education to victims on recognizing the cycle of violence and how to stay safe when living with a person who is or has been abusive. DOVE participates in community events and offers chances for healthy family activities. This month DOVE will be collaborating with the White Earth Boys and Girls Club to host the “Happy Harvest” on October 13<sup>th</sup> as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities.

Anyone can be a victim of crime no matter what their age, race, sex, religion, income, or sexual orientation is. If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, would like more information or support please call White Earth DOVE at (218)935-5554 or the 24 hour crisis line at 1-877-830-DOVE (3683). You can also get information on our website [www.whiteearthdove.com](http://www.whiteearthdove.com) All services are free and confidential.