

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

Continue to embrace the Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Program during the 2020-2022 Administration. Become aware and learn the facts about domestic violence in your community. Ask local shelters in your community what you can do to help. Your club may wish to volunteer at the shelter, raise funds for shelters or choose a project that you can work on all year. May each club be challenged to do more than ever in the 2020-2022 Administration in Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness projects.

Just a few Statistics (from <http://www.dvpiowa.org>)

- In the United States a woman is battered every 9 seconds. (American Medical Association, 1991)
- Between 20,000 and 44,000 Iowa women suffer abuse in their homes every year. Between January 1990 and April 1997, at least 66 women in Iowa were murdered by a husband or boyfriend.
- Of the 66 women that were murdered, 29 were known to have left their partner. Six were killed while leaving. Two were killed in front of a law officer and two were killed in child visitation exchanges.
- There are 7 animal shelters for every 1 domestic violence shelter in Iowa (Bureau of Animal Welfare, 1995)

Children and Domestic Violence

- Child witnesses of domestic violence are victims of child abuse at a rate 1,500% higher than the national average. (M. Strauss, R. Gelles & S. Steinmetz, eds. "Behind Closed Doors: Violence in the American Family" Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1980)
- In a 36-month study of 146 children, ages 11 to 17, from homes where wife beating was a major problem, all sons over the age of 14 attempted to protect their mothers and 62% of them were injured in the process. (Ms Magazine, September/October 1994)
- 63% of the young men between the ages of 11 and 20 who are serving time for homicide have killed their mother's abuser. (March of Dimes, 1992)