



Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas

Salina Office
203 S Santa Fe Ave
Salina, KS 67401
785-827-5862

Concordia Office
336 W 5th St
Concordia, KS 66901
785-243-4349

www.DVACK.org

DVACK Newsletter December 2015-January 2016



An ol' fashioned Christmas fundraiser, DVACK's 13th annual Festival of Trees attracted 226 community members who relished in delicious food, delightful company, and dazzling auction items. Our guests were impressed by the creativity and quality of trees and silent auction items. The three highest bid items were a pair of Kansas City Royals authenticated, autographed Greg Holland and Salvador Perez baseballs, Salina Iron & Metal's "Frosty's Fabulous Furs..." antique and whimsical Christmas display, and Richard Orton's handcrafted three-story doll house, which sold for \$3,000, \$1,450, and \$1,200, respectively. This year's item-less item was a back-to-basics housing care package for DVACK's clients escaping violence and



moving into their own home to live independent, violence-free lives. The agency raised \$2,000 to purchase basic home essentials for survivors, such as kitchenware and cleaning items. DVACK is grateful and truly humbled by the support of this community to uphold our mission and appropriately address victims' needs.

Building a Fund to Serve Victims' Pets

Salina's Soggy Dog Salon & Suites donated all proceeds from its November 21st Open House to support victims and their pets in DVACK's new Sheltering TO Protect (STOP) program. Diane Erickson, C.E.O. and president of Soggy Dog and STOP program partner, reported, "The Open House was successful in that, not only did it bring in dog-loving people who had never been to Soggy Dog, but it also brought each attendee a new awareness to the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. Considering the weekend events that were happening all over Salina, we were very pleased to have 18 families come in for a photo session! Photos were taken in support of the STOP program fundraiser. Several donors commented on how nice it was to have a DVACK program such as STOP. They weren't aware of the statistics regarding animal abuse and how often it could be connected to domestic abuse."



Soggy Dog raised \$210 for the STOP fund, which is used for pets' vaccinations, food, caging, leashes, and other necessities to aid community volunteers in fostering DVACK shelter residents' pets.

The Gift of Giving

DVACK and its clients have been blessed with cheer, love, and community this holiday season. For the annual toy run, beautiful weather brought a crowd of motorcyclists eager to deliver toys for families served by Ashby House and DVACK. Both agencies' staff and residents of the Ashby House retrieved toys and served cookies and cider to our local Christmas heroes on November 22. DVACK used the toys it received from the toy run at our annual Client Christmas Party, celebrated December 2. The City Teen Center shared its space for the Christmas party, where families captured pictures with Santa, children colored, played basketball, and picked gifts for mom, and mothers "shopped" for their children's Christmas gifts. Volunteers from Southeast of Saline High School graciously wrapped gifts, served a filling dinner, and provided tremendous support during the preparation and cleanup of the Christmas party. Seventeen families attended the party and more came to our office the following days to receive gifts and a turkey and potatoes, which were provided by Salina's Emergency Aid Food Bank. Several clients commented on how meaningful the event was for them, and one client said she wouldn't have been able to give her kids Christmas gifts this year if it was not for the Client Christmas Party. Another client was fascinated by children being able to choose gifts on their own, and she is excited and intrigued to find out what gift her child chose for her. We could not have pulled off such a significant and fun event for our clients without the generous help and support from the Saline County community.



Stalking: Know it. Name it. STOP IT.

Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes. Communities that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. If more people learn to recognize stalking, we have a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime 2015

Stalking in Kansas

Under the Kansas Protection from Stalking Act, "stalking" is the "intentional harassment of another person that places the other person in reasonable fear for that person's safety" (K.S.A. 60-31a01 et seq.).

In 2013:

- **4,679** Protection From Stalking (PFS) Orders were filed in Kansas; **173** of which were filed in **Saline County**
- The largest category of victims who filed a PFS are women aged 20-29
- The largest category of stalking suspects are men aged 25-34
- **15.3%** of victims are male and **15.6%** of stalking suspects are female
- Majority of stalking offenders are current (**18.21%**) or former (**38.62%**) intimate partners to their victims

2013 Kansas Bureau of Investigation Statistics

If you are a victim of stalking:

- Take it seriously—stalking is correlated with violent physical behavior
- Keep a detailed log of all stalking behavior
- Report the stalking to your local law enforcement agency to develop an "official" record of the stalking behavior
- Consider if a Protection from Stalking Order will keep you safe
- Develop a safety plan. Prepare and store critical phone numbers, legal documents, and a packed overnight bag in case of emergency situations
- Contact DVACK and law enforcement for additional help and support

January is

**NATIONAL STALKING
AWARENESS MONTH**

StalkingAwarenessMonth.org

Stalking Statistics

- **7.5** million people were stalked in one year in the United States, and the majority of victims are stalked by someone they know
- In **1 of 5** cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for **femicide** (homicide of women) in abusive relationships
- **22%** of stalkers sexually assault their victims
- **1 in 4** stalkers use technology—such as cell phones, global positioning systems (GPS), cameras, and spyware—to monitor and track their victims
- Many stalking victims lose time from work and experience serious psychological distress and lost productivity at a much higher rate than the general population
- Many stalking victims are forced to protect themselves by relocating, changing their identities, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders
- Greater public awareness is needed about the nature, criminality, and potential lethality of stalking

Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime 2015; Bureau of Justice Statistics 2009; Baum, "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationship," American Journal of Public Health 2003

MYTH: Stalking is annoying but not illegal.

FACT: Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

MYTH: You can't be stalked by someone you are still dating.

FACT: If your current girlfriend or boyfriend tracks your every move or follows you around in a way that causes you fear, that is stalking.

MYTH: Stalking is creepy but not dangerous.

FACT: Stalking is creepy AND dangerous. 3 in 4 women who were murdered by an intimate partner had been stalked by that intimate partner.

MYTH: If you confront the stalker, they'll go away.

FACT: Stalkers can be unreasonable and unpredictable. Confronting or trying to reason with the stalker can be dangerous.

MYTH: If you ignore stalking, it will go away.

FACT: Stalkers seldom "just stop." Victims should seek help from law enforcement to stop the stalking.

Stalking Resource Center