



# Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas

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**DVACK Newsletter July 2016**

## Shelter Seeks Fun Activities!



Between the summer heat and a boredom streak, DVACK's shelter residents yearn for fun. The phrase of the month has been children repeating, "I'm bored." DVACK would love to hear your ideas and receive donations for youth and adult activities. Mary Kay consultant, Lori Trow, hosted a makeup party and DVACK's Outreach Advocate, Karen Larsen, handcrafted sandals with residents. If you have a special skill—cooking, sewing, painting, crafting, yoga, etc.—contact our agency to share your talents!



## Domestic & Sexual Violence Training for Faith Leaders

Faith leaders—pastors, clergy, youth administrators, and others passionate about using their faith as a resource for victims—are invited to a discussion and training hosted by DVACK and the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence on **July 11, 2-5 P.M., at Salina Regional Health Center**, conference room East & West. This training is to aid in better identifying the importance of the faith community to domestic and sexual violence work, understanding dynamics and prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, identifying community resources for victims, and understanding the steps in community collaboration and partnerships. Contact Courtney Train for more information, 785-827-5862.

## Clean a Paw, Save a Life! Dog Wash Fundraiser for **STOP**

DVACK and Soggy Dog Salon & Suites joined forces last year to better serve pet-owning victims of domestic violence. According to the American Humane Association, in partnership with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 71% of pet-owning women entering safe shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims. Batterers' abuse toward animals occurs in front of women and children, and 25%-40% of battered women feel they are unable to escape because they worry about what would happen to their pets or livestock. Abusers kill, harm, or threaten children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse. These disturbed children may then kill or harm animals or take their aggressions out on another victim. Sheltering to Protect, or STOP, began as a means to alleviate this stress by fostering pets of victims fleeing abuse and entering DVACK's emergency safe shelter. Additionally, STOP was created to generate funds to purchase necessary vaccinations, food, caging, leashes, collars, litter, and bowls for animals in the program. To maintain the STOP fund, DVACK and Soggy Dog are hosting a dog wash fundraiser **July 17, 1-6pm, at Soggy Dog Salon & Suites** (640 N Santa Fe Ave). Dogs of all sizes and physical abilities can experience Soggy Dog's Canine Cove and professional pedicure for suggested donations of \$10 and \$5, respectively. In addition to Soggy Dog's climate controlled, air conditioned, indoor facility, you and your pooch will receive a complimentary bag of delicious Soggy Dog treats! No appointment necessary. Bring your dogs for a fun, meaningful, worthwhile experience!



# ELDER ABUSE

Plaguing our society at alarming rates, elder abuse is a silent injustice affecting an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10, older Americans every year, according to the U.S. Administration on Aging. In the state of Kansas, Adult Protective Services reported 6,612 allegations of elder abuse in 2015. Older adults are vital, contributing members of American society, and their abuse or neglect diminishes all of us. For too long, our society has looked away from the issue of elder abuse. Elder abuse can be financial, emotional, physical and sexual. It also includes people who are neglected—the failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection—and those who neglect themselves (self-neglect). The consequences of elder abuse are grave. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, older adults who are abused are twice as likely to be hospitalized, four times as likely to go into nursing homes and three times as likely to die. The Administration for Community Living estimates elders throughout the

**ELDER ABUSE is a violation of human rights and a significant cause of illness, injury, loss of productivity, isolation and despair.**

~ World Health Organization

United States lose an estimated \$2.6 billion or more annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. Abuse can happen in any setting: in the older adult's own home,

nursing homes, or assisted living facilities. Abusers of older adults are both women and men, and may be family members, friends, caregivers, professionals, or "trusted others." According to national statistics, elder abuse is grossly under-reported because vulnerable and older adults who are being abused find it very difficult to disclose due to shame and fear. We all have a responsibility to support the safety, welfare, and dignity of vulnerable and older adults. To spread awareness on this horrific injustice, DVACK presented Elder Abuse Awareness Month proclamations to all 10 counties the agency serves, provided elder abuse information at DCF's Resource Fair, presented on the dynamics and signs of elder abuse, and on June 15, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, DVACK staff wore purple in honor of victims of elder abuse.

## Neglect

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to bed is left without care
- Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, having fire and safety hazards, or without adequate facilities
- Untreated pressure "bed" sores (pressure ulcers)

## Financial Abuse/Exploitation

- Lack of amenities victim could afford
- "Voluntarily" giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for needed care and companionship
- Caregiver has control of elder's money but is failing to provide for elder's needs
- Signed property transfers but is unable to comprehend transaction

## Psychological/Emotional Abuse

- Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, other
- Caregiver isolates elder (doesn't let anyone into the home or speak to the elder)
- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring



DVACK's Bargain Basket window decorated for Elder Abuse Awareness Month.



Parent/Child Advocate, Rakayla Wicks, sharing resources at DCF's Resource Fair.



## Know the Signs of Elder Abuse!

National Center on Elder Abuse

## Physical/Sexual Abuse

- Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores or burns
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases