



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

DVACK Newsletter June 2015

www.dvack.org

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Another Hole-in-One Golf Tournament!

With 22 sponsors and 24 teams, this year's Charity Golf Classic was a hole-in-one! Tournament players enjoyed a variety of snacks and beverages, along with a delicious Mexican buffet. Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors, Salina Regional Health Center and Money Automotive Center, in addition to all who supported and played in the tournament! You make it possible for us to provide essential services to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

Summertime! Not BUMMERTIME

School's out, summer's here, and DVACK children have no fear! While children in DVACK's safe shelter embrace the excitement of summer break, fun-in-the-sun brings new challenges to the DVACK community. With a small toy room, no outside play area, and 17 children in DVACK's shelter, boredom and stress run as high as summer's heat! We are always looking for new activities to keep clients' children active, engaged, and learning. **Whether you can teach a pottery class, lead a yoga session, or volunteer for child care, DVACK welcomes your creativity, time, and support.** Our current community partners include the Free Summer Meal Program, Salina Area United Way Summer Reading Program, and Salina YMCA Teen Advocacy Council. The YMCA Teen Advocacy Council begins June 4 and includes an hour support group followed by an hour activity session with positive community peers and advocates. Contact DVACK to provide community support and fun this summer!

Families at DVACK have sparse opportunities and means for recreational activities. To the right is the only designated space DVACK's safe shelter can offer for play.



Lakewood Middle School Teen Dating Violence Prevention Campaign

On May 19th, 2015, Expect Respect Youth Leadership Program participants from Lakewood Middle School held a presentation for the school body during each lunch session. Lakewood instructor Ms. Ash introduced the group and played two short films the students created about Teen Dating Violence and Bullying. The films included facts about teen violence and offered live examples of how to help others who appear to be in abusive situations. This is the second year for DVACK's Expect Respect program at Lakewood Middle School.



DVACK Client Needs

- Volunteers wanted to watch children for parents to attend DVACK Support Groups:
- **Tuesdays 2-3pm**, Survivors with Disabilities
 - **Tuesdays 6-7:30pm**, Domestic Violence Support Group
 - **Wednesdays 5:30-7pm**, Women Empowered (Sexual Assault)
 - **Thursdays 6-7pm**, Economic Support Group
- Donation Requests: Baby Wipes, Pull Ups, Diapers, Toilet Paper, Towels, Wash Cloths, Shampoo, Conditioner, Dishes, Pots, Pans, Silverware, Feminine Products

Prevalence

- More than **90%** of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual violence (National Network to End Domestic Violence 2014)
- Over **50%** of homeless women report domestic violence as their immediate cause of homelessness (NNEDV 2014)
- **38%** of all victims of domestic violence experience homelessness ("Domestic Violence and Housing Problems," Baker 2003)
- Over **80%** of survivors entering shelters identified "finding housing I can afford" as a need, second only to "safety for myself" (**85%**) ("Meeting Survivors' Needs," Lyon 2009)
- On average, a woman will leave an abusive relationship **7 times** before finally escaping the violence, therefore, experiencing multiple periods of homelessness (DomesticViolenceAbuseShelter.org)

Many victims face homelessness when they flee abusive homes. Their experiences are confounded by economic instability, often perpetuated by abusers. Policy makers must work to ensure that safe, affordable housing is available to victims and must reduce the barriers victims face in securing and maintaining housing.

-National Network to End Domestic Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HOMELESSNESS

No Exit, No Safety: Replacing Domestic Violence with Systemic Violence

As the leading cause of homelessness for women and their children, domestic abuse denies victims the opportunity to escape intimate and systemic violence. Throughout abusive relationships, abusers typically destroy victims' economic stability by sabotaging job opportunities, tanking finances and credit scores, and controlling victims' access to money. Outside of the relationship, survivors face even more economic barriers—lack of living-wage jobs, transportation, social safety nets, and affordable housing and childcare (National Network to End Domestic Violence 2014).

Even if a survivor finds a new home, she may soon be evicted or denied that housing. Congress, in 2005, detected almost 100 persons were "denied housing because of their status as victims of domestic violence," and of the documented eviction cases, there were nearly 150 where the "tenant was evicted because of the domestic violence crimes **committed against her**" (Violence Against Women Act and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-162, Stat. 2960).

In addition to housing discrimination, only 30 rental units are readily available and affordable for every 100 extremely low-income renter households (National Low-Income Housing Coalition 2012). Thus, victims turn to emergency shelters, which are frequently full and forced to turn families away. Domestic violence shelters were unable to meet 172,000 requests for shelter in 2010 due to lack of capacity, a number that has steadily increased since 2007 (Department of Health and

Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Grantees Data Report 2010). DVACK's emergency shelter has been at (and past) its capacity since January 2015, re-victimizing and denying safe shelter to survivors in our own community.

To provide survivors affordable and safe housing, the National Network to End Domestic Violence insists on better avenues for economic stability (i.e. fair pay, job protections, benefits, tax credits, childcare), confidentiality protections for survivors using homelessness/housing services and supports, more funding for affordable housing and safe shelters, and strong protections against discrimination in housing (National Network to End Domestic Violence 2014).

Ending domestic violence and its frequent result in homelessness requires deep socio-political change and solidarity. We are the problem, solution, and vehicle for change. Fighting for the safety and protection of those who have survived domestic violence is our responsibility to victims, children, and the betterment of our world.

Piecing it Together:

Domestic Violence and Homelessness



@HyacinthisPlace