



# Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas

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**DVACK Newsletter October 2015**

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, a month to acknowledge and honor survivors and to educate about the devastating rates of intimate violence in our community and around the world. In a 24-hour period on September 16, 2015, DVACK served 33 victims—15 stayed in DVACK’s emergency safe shelter, 14 called the emergency hotline, and 4 were outreach clients. Additionally, advocates provided four presentations to 60 community members. DVACK recorded its services this day for the annual Nationwide Domestic Violence Census conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Though just one day out of the year, these small numbers provide insight into the need for DVACK’s services in our community. To honor victims and spread awareness, **[join DVACK at Kansas Wesleyan University October 27, 8:00 P.M., for a candlelight vigil.](#)** The vigil is open to the public, and survivors are welcome to share their stories. Every nine seconds in the U.S. a woman is assaulted or beaten (DomesticViolenceStatistics.org, 2015). Domestic violence awareness cannot be limited to one month; we must work every day to change our culture to end domestic violence.

## **Impact the Cure for Breast Cancer**

Saturday, September 26, DVACK staff joined non-profits, runners, walkers, and breast cancer survivors at Abilene’s sixth annual Impact the Cure – Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Run and 2 Mile Fun Walk. This year’s event raised funds to provide uninsured residents in Dickinson County free mammography services. Understanding the importance of women’s health, rights, and access to affordable health care, event coordinators invited DVACK to share an informational booth. DVACK’s booth theme “He loves me; he loves me NOT” was to open conversation about domestic and sexual violence and remind participants of DVACK’s resources and existence. As breast cancer affects 1 in 8 women, domestic violence affects 1 in 4, and rape affects 1 in 6, breast cancer and abuse plague women’s health, safety, and security (WomensHealth.gov, 2015). The fight against breast cancer is a fight for women’s health, wellbeing, and violence-free living.



## **How’s Your Netiquette? Communicating Effectively & Safely Online**

Teen Dating Violence Coordinator, Sheila Beeson, and Sexual Assault Advocate, Amanda Olivier, met with Cadet, Senior, and Ambassador-level Girl Scouts on September 26 to discuss the importance of practicing a safe social media presence during a time when electronic media can be used to harass, threaten, and embarrass peers. As this electronic aggression increases among adolescents, the Center for Disease Control warns that “9% to 35% of young people report being victims of this type of violence.” To prevent electronic aggression, advocates and Girl Scouts explored topics surrounding healthy friendships and relationships online, cyberbullying, and the pertinent risks of being groomed for trafficking. Whether monitoring for the safety of one’s self or one’s peers, strong etiquette online is necessary.

## **Festival of Trees Preparations Underway!**

The Festival of Trees Fundraiser is held annually to aid DVACK in its mission to protect and keep safe the families that fall victim to domestic and sexual violence in our community. The event showcases beautifully decorated trees and wreaths as well as wonderful quilts, dinner parties, sports memorabilia and more! As DVACK’s primary fundraiser, your support is needed to continue serving victims in our community. Help make this year’s event another success by attending the event, becoming an event sponsor, contributing an auction item, decorating a Christmas tree or lit wreath, and/or advertising your business in our event program. Celebrate the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Trees November 20, 6:00 P.M., at the Salina Country Club where you can start the holiday season with Christmas music, a dinner buffet, and live and silent auctions in a fun and festive atmosphere. Tickets, \$50.00 per person, can be ordered through our website, [www.dvack.org](http://www.dvack.org), or at the Salina office. The successes of this event hinge on the support of our amazing sponsors and supporters, both past and future, and our community that stands firmly with us.

**Domestic violence** is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior used to gain and maintain dominance, power, and control over an intimate partner. It includes the use of illegal and legal behaviors and tactics that undermine the victim's sense of self, free will, and safety.

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

**Prevalence** (Silverman, 2001; Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January 2011)

- Approximately **1 in 5** female high school students reports being abused by a boyfriend.
- At least **60%** of victims of domestic violence are also victims of sexual violence.
- More than **80%** of women seeking treatment for a substance use disorder reported experiencing physical/sexual abuse during their lifetime.
- On average, **more than 4 women** are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the U.S. every day.
- **Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women** in the US between 15-44 years-of-age.
- **Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and families.**



### **What We Know**

- Domestic violence crosses all class, race, lifestyle, and religious lines. **The only clear commonality is gender.** Professionals are not immune.
- Women are at significantly greater risk of domestic violence than men (National Institute of Justice, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics).
- **1 in 4 women** (22.3%) have been the victim of severe physical violence (e.g., hit with fist or something hard, beaten, slammed against something) by an intimate partner (CDC, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2011).
- **1 in 7 men** (14%) have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey).

### **Domestic Violence in KANSAS**

(Domestic Violence, Stalking and Rape in Kansas, KBI Report 2013)

- In 2013, **23,508** incidents of domestic violence were reported to the police, resulting in **12,607** arrests
- In 2013, **30** homicides were domestic violence related, making up **25%** of total homicides in the state
- About **1 in 4 murders are domestic violence-related**
  - **16%** occurred in rural communities
- In 2012, domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement—**24,343**—were the highest Kansas has seen in 20 years
- In only about **54%** of reported incidents is the offender arrested
- **1** domestic violence murder occurred every **12.17 days**
- **1** domestic violence incident occurred every **22 minutes, 24 seconds**
- **1** domestic violence arrest was made every **39 minutes, 48 seconds**

### **Domestic Violence in OUR Community**

*In the last year...*

- Number of victims served by DVACK **increased 13%**
- Number of victims who received safe shelter **increased 53%**
- Crisis Hotline Calls **DOUBLED**
- DVACK provided **15,174** units of service to victims, including but not limited to: crisis intervention, counseling, safety planning, information and referral, criminal and civil court advocacy, assistance with protection orders and emergency assistance
- DVACK provided safe shelter to **196** men, women and children for a total of **4,833** nights of stay

### **The BIG Ideas from Our History**

- Abuse is not about the individual; it is a problem reinforced by cultural institutions and requires social change.
- Abuse is the use of dominance and control and is connected to other forms of oppression, including racism, classism, sexism and homophobia.
  - All are based on defining one group as less and using a variety of ways to control that group.
- The most effective work is based on peer support and self-help that encourages women to share information and make their own decisions.