



Supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, teen dating violence, elder abuse and human trafficking

# February Newsletter 2021

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## Wear Orange Day Tuesday, February 9



Dating violence is more common than people think, especially among teens and young adults: one in three teens in the US will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before they become adults, and nearly half (43%) of college women report experiencing violent or abusive dating behaviors.

Every February, young people and their loved ones join together across the country for a national effort to raise awareness about the issue of teen dating violence through **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month** (TDVAM). This annual, month-long push focuses on advocacy and education to stop dating abuse before it starts.

[LevelsRespect.org](http://LevelsRespect.org) is excited to announce the theme for TDVAM 2021 is **Know Your Worth**. Know Your Worth is all about learning about healthy relationships and self-empowerment! Every young person is deserving of a healthy, loving relationship.

**Jealousy** possessiveness **INSULTS** false accusations  
**over-texting** interrogations **BLAME** guilt-trips  
*...That's NOT Love. KNOW YOUR WORTH.*

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE 101

Presented by DVACK

Thursday, February, 25th at 11 am.  
Join us via Zoom.

Learn warning signs of dating violence as well as resources for supporting teens. Join us for this free presentation on February 25, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., on Zoom!

Contact Caitlyn at [caitlynb@dvack.org](mailto:caitlynb@dvack.org) or 785-827-5862 with questions.

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83663259759...>  
Meeting ID: 836 6325 9759  
Passcode: 123456

## Meet DVACK's Youth Advocate, Caitlyn Butts!



### What is DVACK's Youth Advocacy Program?

The mission of DVACK's Youth Advocacy Program is to empower youth exposed to domestic violence, teen dating violence, or sexual abuse to make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their full potential.

DVACK's Youth Advocate:

- Offers one-on-one mentoring relationships with youth to promote empowerment, resilience, and healthy relationships.
- Promotes social connectedness by providing referrals and resources that are youth-focused.
- Provides education on healthy and unhealthy dating relationships.
- Participates in activities with youth, such as art, tutoring, volunteerism, and community events.
- Provides opportunities to explore career and academic opportunities.

Hey, everyone! I am the new Youth Advocate here at DVACK, having just started in December. I've lived in Salina practically my whole life, so I'm very excited to start my first job living back here at such a fantastic organization!

I've known about DVACK for a long time, I even volunteered in high school, but since working here, I am in awe by everything that DVACK does for community members. There is truly a resource here for anyone who is a survivor or affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, elder abuse, or human trafficking. From the amazing staff who answer our 24-hour hotline calls, to advocates who deeply care, to our excellent shelter staff, to the incredible and diverse programs we offer, such as our Parent/Child Advocacy, Campus Advocacy, and our Youth Advocacy Program (which I am now heading) – there is a resource for everyone.

Within the Youth Advocacy Program, I mentor youth ages 8-18 who have been exposed to domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, or human trafficking. I am there for them as a listening ear, an advocate, and a resource and support for their interests, goals and needs. I also work with the youth and their non-abusing parent to work on and strengthen their family bond. Another part of my job is teaching on teen dating violence and its prevalence in today's society.

The main thing I want people to know is: we are here for you. We are here to assist you as a survivor, you as a resource to others, you as a family member or friend to a survivor, you as someone wanting to learn more about community resources, or you as a volunteer. The ten counties we serve are all unique, and we want to be here for all members of these communities.

We at DVACK take educating on issues very seriously and know how important it is to inform our community members. With proper education, we see an increase in knowledge and, hopefully, a decrease in abuse. If you ever want to learn more, whether you as an individual want more information, you have a club or school or church group for us to speak to, you want to bring it to coworkers, or even if you would like us to talk to your friend group, please reach out and ask! We would love to speak about any of our services, our different programs, or even just any issue our agency deals with. With COVID -19 still relevant, we would also be more than happy to offer a Zoom meeting.



VOLUNTEER  
WITH US

**Looking for volunteer or internship opportunities?**

Contact DVACK's Volunteer Coordinator, Karady Taylor at [karadyt@dvack.org](mailto:karadyt@dvack.org).