



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

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JANUARY IS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

STALKING
KNOW IT NAME IT STOP IT

Every year, millions of Americans experience stalking, the often dangerously silent crime of instilling fear in another by repeatedly harassing, following, monitoring, taunting, and/or threatening. Stalkers are skilled at abusing victims without leaving evidence that could be traced back to them, typically leaving a stalking victim feeling misunderstood, powerless, alone, and psychologically tormented. For example, a stalker may leave “gifts” or other items or messages in the victim’s car, house, or phone that seem harmless to outsiders but serve as a threat to the victim, communicating that they are still being stalked. This is especially alarming when a victim has moved towns or changed locks on their doors to escape the stalking.

Stalking can create severe anxiety and depression and disrupts victims’ daily living, as victims may constantly fear what might happen next or if the stalking will ever stop. Stalking behavior often escalates and can result in property damage, assault, and death. Stalking is a felony crime in Kansas, and DVACK takes stalking as serious as everyone should. In order to prevent stalking, we must be able to identify the signs of stalking and believe and compassionately respond to victims, outwitting stalkers and prioritizing victims’ safety and well-being. To learn more about stalking, visit the [Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center](#) (SPARC) or schedule a free in-person or virtual presentation with DVACK. Check out SPARC’s free [stalking awareness webinars](#) this month!



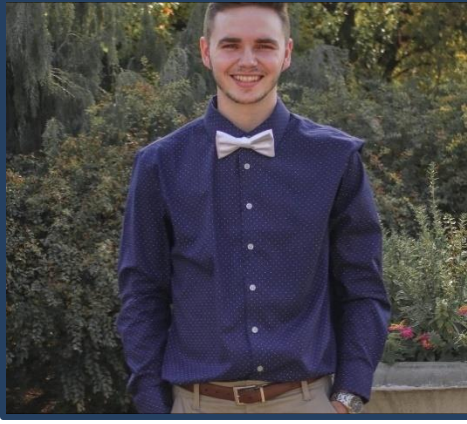
Trading sex or sexual activities for money, food, or drugs; feeling deceived about the conditions of a job and now trapped; being pressured, manipulated or forced into performing labor or sex acts by someone who seemed trustworthy—these are all examples of human trafficking. Human trafficking is the illegal act of forcing, tricking or threatening another into working against their will or engaging in commercial sex (the act of exchanging sexual activities for something of value).



Traffickers flatter, lie, isolate, monitor, threaten, financially control, and emotionally and physically abuse in order to trap people into human trafficking. Because victims of trafficking are often psychologically manipulated into believing that their traffickers care, protect, and provide for them, victims are commonly unwilling to leave and are expected to be loyal to their traffickers. Due to traffickers’ threats and physical assaults, as well as their tendency to force drug use and dependence onto victims, victims are often unable to leave and fear the consequences if they try to leave.

To learn more, schedule a free presentation with DVACK or check out webinars and resources by the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#).

Meet DVACK's Shelter Advocate, Dylan Becker!



Dylan has just celebrated his one-year anniversary with DVACK! As the Shelter Advocate, Dylan helps run the emergency safe shelter—preparing rooms for families, stocking supplies in the bathrooms and kitchen, providing supportive counseling to clients, and playing with kids. Dylan enjoys meeting new clients, hearing and talking through their stories, and helping them feel better. Since working at DVACK, Dylan has learned more about our community's resources and feels grateful to be able to share these resources with clients. He has also learned that every client and their experience is unique, and one must put themselves in the survivor's shoes to better understand what they are going through and why they might approach situations as they do. Seeing obstacles from their perspective creates understanding, empathy, and support—necessary skills to support survivors.

Before DVACK, Dylan was on a path to become a wild land firefighter. Through his training, he has learned how to effectively respond in a crisis, along with how to support those enduring loss. When a family goes through a fire, whether it's flames or domestic violence, the trauma and loss is devastating and the need for trauma-centered care and responses is vital. While Dylan is prepared for wild wind fires in Kansas, he finds his work at DVACK rewarding, stimulating, and enjoying. He appreciates the support he receives from his co-workers, in addition to his ability to problem-solve and build trust with clients. Dylan understands that trauma is difficult to talk about, but when one is ready, DVACK is here for them, eager and willing to help with open arms.

We're HIRING

Facility Coordinator:

Full-time position that provides support to shelter staff, triages crisis calls, and upkeeps office and shelter facilities.

Send resumes to Brandi at brandib@dvack.org!



Thank you to all who donated gifts and care items to support DVACK families during Christmas!



United Way of the Plains with Toys for Tots



Wedel Financial Group



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