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Spotlight On Domestic Violence

First Step Newsletter
A Program of
The Family Guidance Center

THE MISSION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER'S FIRST STEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO INCREASE THE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

Domestic Violence in the Workplace?

Three different abusive incidents with one commonality; they all happened at a place of work.

Domestic violence doesn't stay at home when women go to



work. One out of three (31%) of women say they have been physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.

Women facing

domestic violence are at higher risk of on-the-job violence, and are more likely to have productivity and performance problems. It is estimated domestic violence costs employers **\$3 to \$5 billion a year** in lost days of work and reduced productivity, and the aggregate annual cost is **8.8 billion, or \$67 billion** when pain, suffering, and lost quality of life are included. Some believe that what happens at home should stay at home. 94% of corporate security directors surveyed rank domestic violence as a high security risk at their company (National Safe Workplace Institute Survey 1995). With more women in the work field, and email, text messaging, and cell phones connecting them to their place of work, domestic violence is brought to the workplace; regardless, if one believes abuse only happens within a home.

True Stories: These three news releases illustrate how victims, employers, coworkers, or customers are being hurt or killed due to domestic violence in the workplace. In Orlando Florida, a woman, who had made more than 20 previous

domestic disturbance calls, experienced her husband walking towards her at 5pm with an assault rifle in Wal-Mart, her workplace. When it failed to fire, he fled. Officers found him later in a home. After being ordered to drop the rifle he was loading, they shot him. In another incident, dozens of customers were affected by domestic violence after witnessing a woman being brutally stabbed to death by her abusive husband. The incident took place in the middle of the day at a gas station where she worked. In Edgewater Maryland, Michael Wayne Baxter Jr. was shot and killed, and William Augustus Snow was shot and wounded by their employee's ex-boyfriend. The incident took place at a mortgage firm. The ex-girlfriend was not there, but the offender went with intentions to assault. The police reported it was domestic in nature.

Face the Facts: More women are injured by their partners than by rape, auto accidents, and muggings combined. Domestic violence is not a secret anymore. Domestic violence is not an individual problem, it is a community problem that must be addressed in our place of work. Everyday battered women go to work, which can be a sanctuary away from their batterer, until the batterer calls, stalks, and make threats, while she's at work. **How will an employee or employer react and what can they do? See what you can do to prevent or stop domestic violence at work on page 2.**

***"I wanted someone to ask me about the abuse. I couldn't ask for help. I was ashamed."
-Julie***

The Purple Ribbon Thrift Store

Summer's almost gone! School will be starting around the corner.

"The Purple Ribbon Thrift Store is getting prepared for their Back to School Sale," says Tina Light, store manager, "we always have great deals on school clothes."

All donations given to the Purple Ribbon are tax deductible and all proceeds go towards the Shelter for Battered Women. Every week the



Great prices on brand new furniture, at the Purple Ribbon Thrift Store

Donations of gently used furniture and home décor are needed

Purple Ribbon has new items.

Stop by to Shop in order to Stop Domestic Violence in our community! If you would like to make an impact in our community, volunteer at The Purple Ribbon. The Purple

Ribbon Thrift Store is located across from the Catawba Furniture Mall on 70 S.E., Hickory; 828-322-3423

Back to School

"When we would walk down the hall holding hands, I felt more like I was being handcuffed because I was worried about the guys I would talk to, the people I would meet because he would get mad about it."

-a teen dating abuse survivor

Dating abuse does not discriminate. 1 in 3 teens will experience some form of dating violence. This school year the domestic violence community educator is getting prepared to speak at different schools in Catawba County to prevent and stop teen dating violence. If you, or someone you know is interested in a *free presentation and free materials* on dating violence or domestic violence please contact Liz Jordan at the Family Guidance Center 828-322-1400 or ljordan@fgcservices.com.

HOW TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT WORK

"If someone had given me one of those little cards with the phone numbers on it, I don't know. Maybe I would have called. I was so isolated, any friendship would have given me a little strength."

-Karen, DV Survivor

Change: Speak to your employer about designing and implementing a specific domestic violence policy in the workplace. We can help.

Educate: Have managers and employees educated to recognize signs of abuse

Awareness: Invite First Step to speak to employees about warning signs. Provide free materials, such as posters and safety cards to place in private areas, i.e. the restrooms

Support: When you see unexplained behaviors and physical markings ask your coworker, if anyone is hurting them outside of work. Tell them you care.

Resource: Know your resources to refer

victims to professional help. The Family Guidance Center/First Step is ready to help!

If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse call **FIRST STEP at the Family Guidance Center 828-322-1400**

