What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is violence that occurs between people who know each other: husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, same sex partners, adult relatives, and parents and their children. The violence can be physical injury, but also may be in the form of threats and intimidation, isolation, economic control, emotional abuse, or sexual abuse.

Domestic Violence is an equal opportunity destroyer. It knows no boundaries. It occurs in all age groups, all nationalities, all religions, all education levels, and all economic groups.

Domestic Violence not only happens to the victim, it affects all members of the household and the broader community.

Domestic Violence leaves its horrible footprints on children, mothers, fathers, other relatives and friends. Domestic Violence erodes hop and destroys lives. It instills fear and a feeling of powerlessness. Left unchecked, it spreads to the next generation, and the cycle starts over again.

Warning Signs of Domestic Violence

- Jealousy
- Controlling behavior
- Quick tempered
- Quick involvement in relation "Swept you off your feet"
- Unfair expectations
- Isolation
- Blames others for Problems
- Overly Sensitive
- Forces or Demands sex
- Verbal abuse
- History of Violence
- Threats of Violence

If you can say "That sounds like my partner," you should be concerned

Things you should know about Domestic Violence Abusers

- They cannot be detected by the way they look, act or dress
- They are not usually violent outside of the home
- Generic counseling or couples counseling generally does not help
- Lectures, threats and warnings will not stop the violence
- Their behavior is not caused by drugs or alcohol
- Their behavior is not caused by poor anger control. It is caused by a need to dominate and control
- Often apologizes for their behavior and promises never to do it again

Things to say to a victim of Domestic Violence

- You do not deserve to be abused
- I am afraid for you safety
- I am afraid for the safety of your children
- It will only get worse
- You have the right to live in safety and peace in your own home
- There is help available

Domestic Violence Project Provides the following services:

- Victim Advocacy
- Referrals for Legal Advocacy
- Referrals for counseling
- Information and referral to community resources
- Information and referral to support groups
- Emergency over-night shelter
- Safety planning

Domestic Violence ... Make it Stop Kelley's Rainbow, a non-profit home, is close enough to provide you and your children shelter from this horrendous act. Contact any of our staff for information about the services available to you by this program.

Kelley's Rainbow A Safe Haven Restoring light and color to life after the storms of domestic violence

What Domestic Violence looks like?

It is the young woman in the nice suit you saw in the restaurant yesterday? How about the sad looking older woman you saw this morning while you were at the grocery store, or maybe the nicely dressed man who was looking so slowly at each melon?

Do you think it could be the woman you saw at the school playground with her two small children? You remember thinking to yourself when you saw them how tired and stressed she looked and how very dirty the children looked. Could it be your doctor, dentist, pastor or their partners?

STOP reading for a minute and look around. Who do you see?

Anyone you see could be a victim of Domestic Violence.

Domestic Violence can happen to anyone.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

For more information, contact one of the following numbers

Department of Human Resources Marshall County 256.582.7100 DeKalb County 256.844.2700 Cherokee County 256.927.1440

Legal Services 1.888.741.7129

Kelley's Rainbow <u>Crisis Line</u> 256-891-0019 or Toll Free 1.800.650.6522

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Domestic Violence Affects Us All

Kelley's Rainbow Domestic Violence Shelter Crisis Line 256-891-0019 Alabama Crisis Line 1.800.650.6522

Administrative Office 256.891.9864 Fax 256.891.9865 P. O. Box 874 Albertville, Alabama 35950

