

February Newsletter

TDVAM - Know Your Worth

Special Dates

- **Feb 9- 3:30**
Volunteer mtg.
—Zoom
- **Feb 1-28** -
Teen Dating
Violence
Awareness
Month

Here we are in February already—the month of candy, roses, love... and teen dating violence awareness. One of the reasons that we recognize February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, (TDVAM), is because we know that 26% of women who have been in an abusive relationship first experience that violence between the ages of 11 and 17. And statistics say that one in eleven female teens and one in fifteen male teens experience physical violence in dating relationships. So if we can reach young people early enough, our hope is to be able to prevent some of these abusive relationships.



Current Needs

- Laundry baskets
- Liquid hand soap
- Furniture polish
- Paper towels

Teen dating abuse includes similar elements to adult intimate partner violence: the ultimate goal is to exert power and control over the other partner. Unhealthy relationships can involve **physical violence**, which may include hitting, slapping, shoving, or using some other method of physical force; **sexual violence**, which involves coercing a partner into nonconsensual sexual acts or touch; **stalking behaviors**, which includes unwanted attention or contact intended to create fear in the victim; or **emotional manipulation**, where an abuser uses non-physical methods of demeaning their partner or creating fear.

Anyone who has been in a romantic relationship knows just how complicated it can be; so imagine, (or remember), what a huge undertaking a teen relationship is when the parties do not have the emotional maturity or experience to navigate all of the complexities. And add into that today's use of social media and technology to create a confusing, complex environment in which our teens are exploring romantic relationships.

Let's look at some red flags of abusive relationships, which might help us to identify harmful situations, allowing us to be supportive of the young people in our lives.

- ◆ Someone constantly checking their dating partner's phone or computer with or without their permission.
- ◆ Isolating their partner from family or friends.
- ◆ Insulting or shaming their partner in front of others or on social media.
- ◆ Vandalizing or ruining their partner's belongings.
- ◆ Displaying an explosive temper.
- ◆ Threatening to hurt themselves when jealous or faced with a breakup.
- ◆ A teen with unexplained bruises.
- ◆ Loss of interest in formerly enjoyable activities.

If you are interested in learning more about teen dating violence, please check out loveisrespect.org or teendvmonth.org. These two websites are dedicated to preventing teen dating violence and are full of excellent resources.

Survivor Story

Kimberly Segovia



Kim Segovia is one of the lucky ones. At least now that she is in a loving, committed relationship at the age of 32, she feels lucky. But her story of abuse and control started when she was just 13 years old. Unfortunately her story is so similar to that of many other young people.

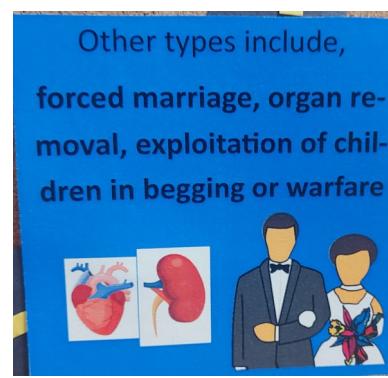
Segovia's story began when she fell in love with her 17 year old boyfriend. Their relationship followed the same path that many abusive adult relationships do; the abuse started out as verbal abuse, when her boyfriend would demean her and accuse her of dressing like a slut. Things escalated quickly into physical violence when he smacked her in the face after finding her wearing a strapless dress. At the height of the violence she woke up one night to find a gun pointed at her head; her boyfriend pulled the trigger, but fortunately the gun wasn't loaded. During this time he often told her that if she left him he'd kill her and her family, causing Segovia to feel stuck in the relationship.

Eventually she got the courage to leave and ran away from her home in order to try to keep her family safe. Since there were few resources for teenage survivors of intimate partner violence at that time, she ended up missing school and was sent to a juvenile detention center.

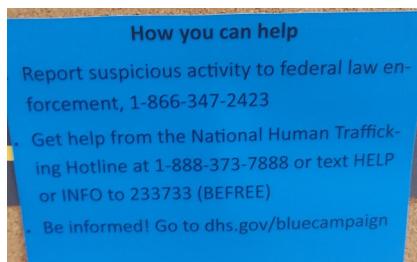
Segovia's experience has made her a passionate advocate for safe places for teen survivors so that they do not end up in the judicial system like she did. She sees the need to educate parents and teachers about the warning signs of teen dating violence to provide support for those teens who may be involved in abusive relationships. A big thanks to Segovia for being such a good advocate.

Around the Shelter

Our bulletin board



As part of the recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month our informative bulletin board helped clients and staff learn more about human trafficking.



Change is good!

There certainly have been a lot of changes around here in the past few months, so we thought we'd take this opportunity to help folks put names with faces! Some of the faces are familiar, but are in new positions, and others are new to Response. Enjoy the update!



Beth Ogle
has moved into
the Executive
Director position
from the Court
Advocate program.



Sabrina Shirkey
Formerly our
Children & Youth
Services
Coordinator, she
now serves in the
new position of
Program Director.



Kylie Stottlemyer
joins our staff as
Court &
Community
Collaboration
Coordinator



Jenna Bradley
is a new face, as
she fills the Children
& Youth Services
Coordinator
position.



Sarah Hulver
is our Sexual
Assault and
Domestic
Violence
Services
Coordinator.



Stephanie Good
is our shelter
services
assistant and
takes care of all
of our office
work.



Lynn McKee
serves as our
Volunteer and
Outreach
Coordinator.



Sally Bowers
is one of our
Shelter
Supervisors who
works weekends
and some
weekdays.



Vivian Rinker
is one of our
nighttime
Shelter
Supervisors.



Barbara Copp
is also a Shelter
Supervisor who
works at night.

Continuing Education

Did you know that our staff is continually furthering our education? We each are required to get 40 hours of training per year, which used to mean traveling to Richmond or further for a full day of training several times a year. The pandemic has actually made it so much easier for us, as many trainings have moved to an online format, allowing us to learn about a diverse range of topics, even as we have had to work from home.

Check out some of the topics that our staff has been studying in the past few months:

Interpersonal Violence and Disabilities, Working with Interpreters in a Court Setting, Trauma Informed Victim Interviews, Helping Survivors Thrive in Covid-19 Times, a Key Strategy for Ending Homelessness, Beyond Cultural Competency, Coping with a Money Crunch, Protection Orders that Matter, Designing a Trauma Informed and Secure Shelter, Prevention in Rural Communities, Trauma and the Pandemic, Media and Sexual Violence Prevention, IPV and Human Trafficking, Gaslighting—a Form of Psychological Abuse, Preventing and Addressing Elder Abuse During Covid, CRM—Ask the Expert.

As you can see we have covered many topics which relate directly to our individual responsibilities - knowledge is power!