

SafePlace



FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Mary Pontarolo
Executive Director

The Phenomenon of Intimate Violence

- Partner violence is pervasive in our U.S. society.
- 68% of physically abused women also report sexual assault.
- In one study of gay, lesbian, and bisexual college students, 42% reported being forced into sexual activity.
- 2000 National Violence Against Women Survey indicates 64% of those women that reported being assaulted were victimized by current or former husband, cohabiting partner, boyfriend or date in comparison to 16.2 % of men by such a perpetrator.

Sexual and Domestic Violence

- 79% of sexually assaulted women reported repeated episodes of forced sex.
- Abuse victims who are also sexually assaulted have higher rates of severe injury and being killed than victims of physical violence alone;
- One in every five teen girls has been physically and/or sexually assaulted by a dating partner prior to graduating from high school.

Washington State Intimate Violence Fatality Statistics

- 635 people died in domestic violence-related fatalities between January 1, 1997 and June 30, 2008 in Washington State.....35 people per month.
- Domestic violence abusers or their associates killed almost all of the homicide victims (90%). Victims included domestic violence victims and their children, friends, and family members.

Washington State Intimate

Violence Fatality Statistics Cont'd

- Each year, between one-third and one half of women who are murdered in our state are killed by their current or former intimate partner.
- 30% of the abusers who killed also committed suicide.
- 42% of those killed by abusers had children living in the home, 55% of the children were present at the time of the murder.

Washington State 2008

Domestic Violence Crimes

34,148 violent domestic violent crimes including homicide, rape (275), robbery, assault (32,074) burglary, larceny (666), motor vehicle theft and arson.

1,092 domestic violent crimes in Thurston County.

Only two rapes are documented however SafePlace responds to an average of 5 rapes per month.

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Domestic violence is defined by relationship of victim to offender or by shared living space.

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence is a comprehensive term that includes not only marital rape, but all forms of sexual assault that take place within a current or former intimate relationship, whether the partners are married or not.

The stories go on...

“How could I tell anyone...for most of my friends, he was their minister”!

“He was strong and 17. The attention made me feel special. I feel so ashamed because I was 12 and should have known what he was doing and stopped him.”

And on.....

“My feeling of being numb lasted longer than my ability to think of protecting the evidence needed to convict him.”

“My friends ask me all the time...How can you go back home and see him after what he did to you? I tell them....he is still my dad.”

“She was older and I was flattered. I had no idea how ugly I would feel afterwards.”

And on.....

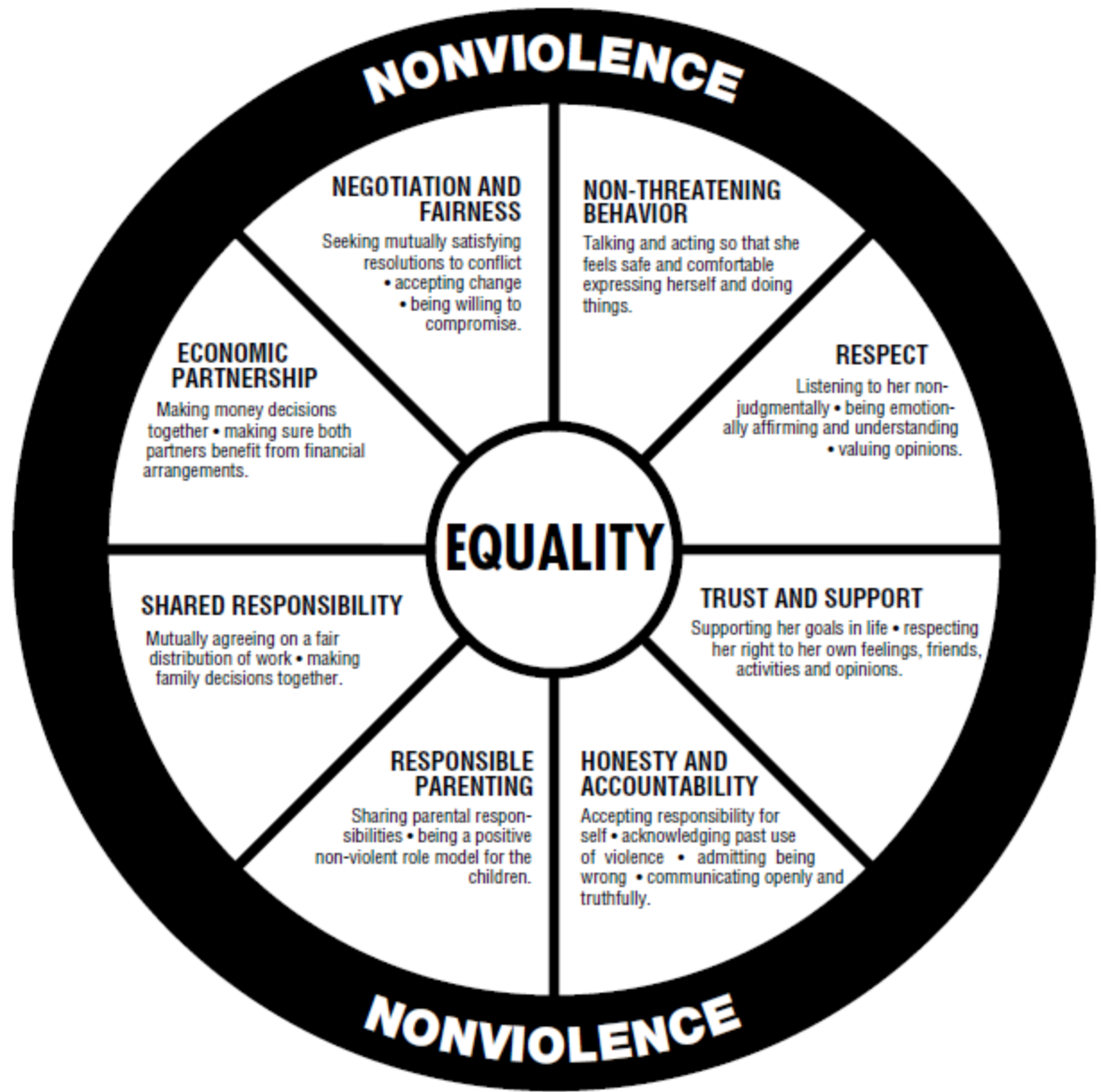
“It was my first experience with another man and I thought everyone would say I asked for the violence. I was humiliated and had no one to talk to.”

“When you are raped by a stranger you live with a frightening memory. When you are raped by your husband you have to live with your rapist.”

How does it happen?



Wheel of Equality!



Long Term Effects of Intimate Partner Violence

- Depression
- Eating or drinking disorders
- Inability to trust
- Loss of time and place
- Loss of interest in intimacy
- Anger
- Difficulty in maintaining a long term relationship

How can you help?

Five things to say to a domestic violence survivor

1. This is not your fault
2. I am afraid for your safety
3. I am here to believe and support you
4. You deserve happiness. You don't deserve to be physically, sexually, emotionally or verbally abused.
5. There are places to call for help.

5 Things You Can Do to Prevent Sexual Assault

Be a myth-buster.

Most sexual assaults are perpetrated by a family member or acquaintance, not a stranger.

Roles-schmoles.

Question assigned gender roles.

Rape isn't funny.

Challenge sexist jokes and comments when you hear them.

Analyze this.

Think critically about the portrayal of violence in the media.

Believing is supporting.

Believe someone when they say they have been assaulted.

★ SafePlace History ★



SafePlace was formed on October 9, 1981, by the merger of Rape Relief and the Women's Shelter, two programs operated by the YWCA since 1973 and 1976, respectively.

SafePlace is the only advocacy agency and confidential shelter for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Thurston County.

We are a private non-profit organization.

Our sexual assault program is one of the oldest in the nation. A board of directors, a paid staff, and over 90 trained volunteers operate the agency.

SafePlace Services

- ★ Website - <http://www.safeplaceolympia.org/>
- ★ 24 hour help line and MySpace (www.myspace.com/safeplaceolympia)
- ★ 24 sexual assault advocate response
- ★ Emergency shelter
- ★ Weekly Asian victims of sexual and domestic violence support group
- ★ Weekly Domestic Violence victims support groups in Spanish and English

Safe
Place
Services
Cont'd

- Weekly Sexual Assault victim support group
- Children's support services
- Legal, medical and housing advocacy
- Drop in services Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Client services including emergency food and transportation
- Community prevention and education presentations

SafePlace - 6th Morning Ascent

Charity Breakfast Event!

We are honored to be joined at the event by elected officials:

- Thurston County Commissioners:
Cathy Wolfe, Sandra Romero and Karen Valenzuela
- Sherriff Dan Kimball
- Prosecutor Ed Holm
- Thurston County Superior Court Judge Chris Wickham
- Tumwater Police Chief John Stines
- City Councilmember Ed Stanley

Other invited and possible attendee's include:

- Senator Karen Fraser
- Representative Brendan Williams
- Representative Sam Hunt



It Takes
a
Village!

6th Morning Ascent

Charity Breakfast Event Details!

Who: SafePlace
What: Morning Ascent Breakfast
When: Fri, Oct 2nd at 7:30 a.m.
Where: Indian Summer Golf Course

For More Information Or To Register for the Event:

Contact: Darla Mann

Email: DarlaM1@yahoo.com

Phone: (360) 705-9907

Program Highlights Include: Speaker Elyse Umemoto Miss Washington and survivor of domestic violence.

All event proceeds will go to support services such as our 24-hour crisis line, support groups and twice-monthly legal clinics.



GET INVOLVED!!!

SafePlace Partners



- Thurston County Criminal Justice Victim Safety and Offender Accountability Audit: www.co.thurston.wa.us/pao/
- Washington State Coalition against Domestic Violence: www.wscadv.org
- Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs: www.wcsap.org

Resource Information



Contact Information:

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SafePlace is a member of the **Washington State Combined Fund Drive** .
Our agency number is 0316-227.