



Kentucky Domestic Violence Association

Committed to Peace in Kentucky Homes

◆ What is KDVA?

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) is a coalition of Kentucky's fifteen domestic violence programs (shelters) providing services to victims of domestic violence and their children. KDVA provides resources, training, and technical assistance to its fifteen member programs.

In FY 2008, Kentucky's domestic violence programs sheltered over 3,900 victims of domestic violence and their children for a total of 158,648 resident days; provided nonresidential services to an additional 28,568 individuals; and responded to almost 36,000 domestic violence-related crisis calls. Unfortunately, Kentucky's programs were unable to shelter over 2,300 victims and children due to lack of space.

◆ Defining Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviors that one person uses against another to gain power and control over that person. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated or dating. Domestic violence knows no boundaries; victims can be of any age, sex, race, culture, religion, education, employment or marital status. Although both men and women can be abused, most victims are women.

◆ KDVA's Mission Statement

The mission of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association is to ensure that the right to live free of any form of domestic abuse is valued, protected and defended in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

◆ What KDVA does:

- Provides a strong statewide voice on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children.
- Operates a Certification Program for all domestic violence program staff requiring 30 hours of class room instruction, required readings/viewings, and a mentoring component.
- Coordinates, in conjunction with other state organizations, an annual “Ending Violence Against Women” conference.
- Administers state and federal funds that go to Kentucky’s fifteen regional domestic violence programs.
- Provides training on various domestic violence-related issues through the KDVA Training Institute.
- Maintains a Clearinghouse on domestic violence-related issues and responds to local, state, and national inquiries.
- Supports state and federal legislative initiatives to increase protection to domestic violence victims and their dependent children, and continues to push for increased state and federal funding for domestic violence programs.
- Works with regional domestic violence programs to provide housing and economic independence opportunities, including access to Independent Development Accounts (IDAs) and the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Provides technical assistance and networking opportunities for domestic violence program directors and staff.
- Serves on a variety of statewide councils, committees, boards and task forces related to domestic violence issues.
- Promotes public awareness of domestic violence.
- Works with immigrant battered women and women incarcerated for crimes related to their victimization.

◆ KDVA History

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association was founded in 1981 by the staff of the six existing domestic violence programs (shelters) as a statewide coalition whose membership was to include all domestic violence programs in Kentucky. KDVA’s purpose was to provide programs with mutual support, information, resource sharing and technical assistance; to coordinate statewide services; and to advocate collectively on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children.

An early goal of the coalition was to work with the Cabinet for Families and Children to ensure that domestic violence services were available across the state.

Since Kentucky has such a large number of counties (120), the Commonwealth is divided into fifteen, multi-county Area Development Districts (ADDs) for planning and service provision purposes. In 1985, Kentucky reached its goal of having one domestic violence program in each ADD.

◆ Domestic Violence Program Services

There are fifteen domestic violence programs in Kentucky. The programs were opened to provide a safe haven for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children however, as understanding of the complex issues facing survivors of domestic violence grows, domestic violence programs are becoming increasingly committed to providing strong support services. In addition to providing a safe, secure environment for victims/survivors and their children, programs now offer a variety of support services to shelter residents as well as non-residents.

Services include:

- Legal/Court advocacy
- Case management
- Safety planning
- Support groups and individual counseling
- Housing assistance
- Financial Literacy classes/Access to IDAs
- Job search assistance
- Children's groups

Programs are also working with clients on resume writing, economic independence, parenting, budgeting, and drug and alcohol issues. They are also committed to preventing future domestic violence through public awareness and community education efforts.

◆ KDVA Contact Information

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