

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND THE COMMUNITY

Domestic abuse affects everyone:

- Companies lose \$3-\$5 billion annually because of domestic abuse (The Bureau of National Affairs, 1990).
- Domestic abuse cost \$67 billion annually in medical bills, property damage police and fire services, victim services, mental-health care, and lost worker productivity (U.S. Department of Justice).
- Domestic abuse accounts for 15% of total crime costs.
- Domestic abuse costs \$1.4 billion in medical bill and \$900 million in mental health treatment costs annually (National Public Services Research Institute).

What you can do to end domestic abuse in Tucson:

- Donate to Emerge!
- Call the police when you see or hear someone being assaulted. You can be saving someone's life.
- Call your local domestic abuse agency and offer to volunteer (in shelters, on hotlines, in court, or with children's programs, on committees, fundraising and outreach) or make a donation.
- Educate yourself about violence against women as a human rights issue. Understand violence from a broader, socio-political perspective, and its connection to other forms of oppression such as racism, heterosexism, and classicism.
- Invite a speaker from Emerge! to speak to your class, civic group, workplace or faith community.
- Dedicate two hours each month to writing letters to the editor, political officials, police chiefs, prosecutors, judges, and public defenders about violence issues.
- Encourage your local school to teach gender equity and violence prevention.
- Supervise what your children watch on TV and at the movies.
- Purge your speech of violence images (I'm going to kill you).
- Don't participate in sexist jokes.
- Don't blame the victim. Ask why he/she batters, not why she stays.
- During political campaigns, ask the candidate what specific actions they will take to end violence against women.
- Offer support to victims of domestic abuse by telling them: No one deserves to be abused. Stress positive attributes and strengths.
- Take domestic abuse seriously.

