



## SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Affiliated with

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A., Associated Country Women of the World  
and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

### 2006 - 2007 STATE PROJECT



#### Objectives:

1. SCFCL members will become aware of the magnitude of domestic violence in South Carolina.
2. SCFCL members will volunteer in their communities in a variety of ways to improve the situation for victims of domestic violence.
3. SCFCL members will learn survival strategies for victims of domestic violence and safety strategies to prevent becoming a victim of violence themselves.

#### Introduction:

**Ask:** Does anyone know a victim of domestic violence? Discuss recent reports of domestic violence in community.

**Say:** Domestic violence is an epidemic in the Palmetto State. South Carolina currently ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of women killed in domestic violence related incidents.

According to the Office of the S.C. Attorney General, there were more than 35,000 reported victims of domestic violence in South Carolina in 2003. Even more alarming, uncounted numbers of domestic assaults go unreported. The Attorney General's website reports on average, domestic violence victims don't report abuse the first six times it happens to them. The top ten worst counties in S.C. in 2003 for the rate of domestic violence victimization were Greenwood, Colleton, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, York, Florence, Lee, and Sumter.



According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<http://www.ncadv.org>), battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person with whom an intimate relationship is or has been shared through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Battering happens when one person believes that they are entitled to control another.

Domestic violence may include not only the intimate partner relationships of spousal, live-in partners, and dating relationships, but also familial, elder, and child abuse may be present in a violent home. Abuse generally falls into one or more of the following categories: physical battering, sexual assault, and emotional or psychological abuse, and generally escalates over a period of time.

In all cultures, batterers are most commonly male, but men may also be victims of domestic violence as perpetrated by their female partners. Children witnessing domestic violence and living in an environment where violence occurs may experience some of the same trauma as abused children.

Rural and urban women of all religious, ethnic, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds, and of varying ages, physical abilities, and lifestyles can be affected by domestic violence. There is not a typical woman who will be battered - the risk factor is being born female.

Older battered women are a nearly invisible, yet a tragically sizable population, and they are uniquely vulnerable to domestic violence. Older women are more likely to be bound by traditional and cultural ideology that prevents them from leaving an abusive spouse or from seeing themselves as a victim. Older women are very often financially dependent on their abusive spouse and do not have access to the financial resources they need to leave an abusive relationship. Many older women find themselves isolated from their family, friends, and community, due to their spouses' neglect and abuse. This is especially true because older women suffer greater rates of chronic illness, which makes them dependent upon their spouses or caregivers and thus, reluctant or unable to report abuse.

Rural battered women face lack of resources, isolation, small town politics, few if any support agencies, and poor or little transportation and communication systems in addition to the other complications of intimate partner violence that is intensified by the rural lifestyle. The act of leaving the homeplace, land, and animals that could depend on her may be emotionally wrenching leaving the battered rural woman surrounded by walls of guilt and self-abasement.

The statistics are shocking and none of us are immune to domestic violence. Yet, each of us in SCFCL can help. Dedicated to "improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities through fellowship, education, and service," the SCFCL State Project for 2006-2007 will be Volunteer Outreach to Victims of Violence (V o vv). This is an opportunity for SCFCL members to make a positive impact on victims, primarily women and children, of domestic violence in their own communities.

## Give out Handout 1: “Selected Project Ideas”

Brainstorm ideas that club can do to reach out to help victims of violence in community.

Create a club or county plan with time line to implement Volunteer Outreach to Victims of Violence State Project. Remember October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Carry out plan and report activities on Activity Report by December 31, 2006 and again on December 31, 2007.

Communicate your successes through press releases in local newspapers or television and radio spots.

**Project Motto:** I “V o vv” to make a difference in my club, community, and county.

## References and Additional Resources:

Brooks, Jeanne. (2005, May 10). Strict laws can help domestic victims. *The Greenville News*.

Family Preservation and Child Welfare website at <http://www.familypreservation.com>.

Fountain, Jerry. (2005) HopeLine offers a lifeline to domestic violence victims. *The Greenville News*.

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/aboutUs/communityservice/hopeLine.jsp>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. <http://www.ncadv.org>.

Sistercare, Inc., United Way member agency serving abused women and their children in Columbia and surrounding counties, <http://www.sistercare.com>

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General. <http://www.scattorneygeneral.com>.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Victim Advocate Association. Linda McLeod, President; Lee County Sheriff’s Dept. P.O. Box 89, Bishopville, S.C. 29010; [lmcleod@leecountysc.org](mailto:lmcleod@leecountysc.org); (803) 484-5353.

*Graphic designed by Ken Cothran, Clemson University.*

*Project developed by Nancy M. Porter, Ph.D., Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service and Cindy Porter, Victim Advocate, Central Police Department, South Carolina.*





## SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Affiliated with

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A., Associated Country Women of the World  
and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

### Handout 1

## Suggested Project Ideas

1. Contact a State of South Carolina Victim Advocate in your county (See attached list). Ask them to speak at a Spring or Fall Council meeting on the following topics: 1) survival strategies for victims of domestic violence, 2) safety strategies for SCFCL members to prevent becoming a victim of violence, and 3) ideas on how SCFCL clubs can help victims in the community.
2. Collect money and purchase pre-paid calling cards. Give to S.C. Victim Advocate for use with victims of domestic violence who may not have any means to call family or friends to notify them when victims are at the hospital or police station.
3. Collect samples or hotel gift size shampoo, lotion, and toothpaste. Add a toothbrush and a comb to create attractive "care bags" or "new lease on life bags." Give them to S.C. Victim Advocate in community for victims who may have had to leave home suddenly or for new arrivals at safe houses.
4. Collect and replenish clothing for police station or hospital "closets" for rape victims who may have to leave clothing behind because it is considered evidence. Suggestions: sweatpants, tee shirts, and other loose clothing that will fit a variety of sizes.
5. Collect money or restaurant coupons so victims and their children can have food to eat while waiting for paperwork to be completed at police station.
6. Search the Family Preservation and Child Welfare website at <http://www.familypreservation.com>. Click on family violence and find a S.C. Family Violence Intervention Agency in your community. Contact the agency and volunteer time or donate supplies as needed by the agency.



7. Participate in the Verizon Wireless HopeLine program. This cell phone recycling program will mark its 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2005. Verizon collects cell phones and accessories that are no longer in use, pays to refurbish them, and then redistributes the phones to women who are in danger, through partner shelters and advocacy agencies, providing an essential communications tool—free wireless contact to police, shelters, and friends in critical times. You can collect and drop off any kind of cell phone (even if it is used or damaged) at any Verizon Wireless retail store throughout the state. Each phone can provide a lifeline. To learn more about this program, go to <http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/aboutUs/communityservice/hopeLine.jsp>
8. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In S.C., October 2005 will feature joint efforts of SCETV, Verizon Wireless, and the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) with advertising and mass media releases to heighten awareness of this issue.
9. Sistercare, Inc. is a United Way member agency serving abused women and their children in Columbia and surrounding counties. Visit the Sistercare, Inc. website at <http://www.sistercare.com> to find information on becoming a volunteer and to review their “Wish List 2005.” Collect and donate items for women and children of all ages, races, and sizes. Directions for a drop-off site can be obtained by calling (803) 926-0505.
10. Collect or sew age appropriate toys or security blankets for children who are victims of domestic violence.
11. Develop a unique approach to meet the specific needs of victims in your community. Communicate your ideas to other clubs and counties in the state.

*Graphic designed by Ken Cothran, Clemson University.*

*Project developed by Nancy M. Porter, Ph.D., Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service and Cindy Porter, Victim Advocate, Central Police Department, South Carolina.*

**CLEMSON**  
EXTENSION



South Carolina Family and Community Leaders