



ILLINOIS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## *What We Provide and How It Helps Victims Of Domestic Violence and Their Children...*

While emergency shelter is an important service that we offer communities, only about 14% of the victims of domestic violence and their children received emergency shelter last year. The remaining 86% of people we served last year received nonresidential services offered by domestic violence service providers in their communities. Services available at domestic violence agencies are described here.

- ✓ Emergency Shelter provides safe respite for survivors of domestic violence for themselves and their children, a place to go where they can feel safer from abuse suffered at home, where they can begin to plan their futures and become hopeful about achieving a life without abuse.
- ✓ Counseling, therapy and support groups help survivors and their children better understand the dynamics of domestic violence and the effects it has had on their lives. Counseling, therapy and support groups provide them emotional support to help them heal after experiencing the trauma of domestic violence. Through counseling victims learn ways to keep themselves and their children safer and learn about other resources available to them in their pursuit of a safer life, helping them feel more hopeful about their futures.
- ✓ Legal advocacy helps provide survivors a better understanding of their rights under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, ways to increase safety by seeking orders of protection, and support during criminal cases against their batterers. We help survivors understand that domestic violence is a crime, that they have legal rights and how to exercise those rights.
- ✓ Other supportive services we provide include helping survivors rebuild their relationships with their children because of the damage caused by domestic violence, providing a means of transportation and safe child care that helps survivors attend court hearings, job interviews, school, and other appointments. By helping survivors obtain job skills, education, housing, and increasing financial literacy skills, we are helping survivors increase economic sufficiency which is needed to successfully leave an abusive relationship and better support herself and her children.

2014

## Outcomes of Domestic Violence Services

*Last Year, We Served...*

**43,201**

Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence

and

**8,234**

Child Witnesses

## *Of survivors asked in 2014...*

- **95% stated they knew more about community resources.**
- **97% stated they knew more ways to plan for their safety.**
- **97% stated they have a better understanding of their legal rights.**
- **96% stated they feel better able to support themselves and their children.**
- **98% stated they knew they could report violations of their order of protection.**

## *Of child witnesses asked in 2014...*

- **94% stated they know two things to do when they don't feel safe.**
- **88% stated they know the abuse in their family is not their fault.**

## **REMEMBER... 8760.**

**Domestic violence agencies are there...**  
responding and saving lives,  
much like the police and fire department,  
**8760 hours per year.**

One Mission, One Voice

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