

## Ways To Make a Difference

1. Be supportive of a person in your life who has experienced or may be experiencing violence (domestic or sexual) by listening and believing without blaming or judging.
2. Start conversations with your children, your partners, and friends about the importance of mutual respect and meaningful consent in healthy relationships.
3. Display your commitment to ending the violence and your support for victims and survivors by displaying a purple ribbon as a means to begin conversations.
4. Don't buy it! Refuse to financially support companies that promote sexual exploitation in their advertising. Be sure to let the company know why you are not buying their products.
5. Talk to someone you know who makes sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise bigoted remarks. Explain why the behavior is not okay.
6. Propose curriculum at your child's school to include more time on healthy relationship information.
7. Invite an advocate or educator to speak to your class, workplace, church, or organization about domestic and sexual violence.
8. Urge your political leaders to take a stand; to support laws meant to protect victims and budgets that provide needed services for victims.
9. Educate yourself about domestic and sexual violence. Read books, do research online, and seek out the diverse voices of survivors.
10. Volunteer your time, talent, and energy to help raise awareness in your own community.

## Not Just a Family Matter

How do we as individuals and a society react to family violence? Do we turn our heads? Do we call law enforcement? Do we intervene? These are questions that have been discussed often but have come back into the spotlight with the recent beating of Milwaukee Mayor, Tom Barrett, when he attempted to call 911 and found himself the target of an assault.

Domestic violence is a very, very dangerous situation. Ask any law enforcement official and they will tell you how quickly these situations can get out of control and become life threatening. It is everyone's business because it affects us all. In a past newsletter, I wrote about the need for social change to make a real and lasting change to end family violence.

Advocates of Ozaukee's mission is "working to end domestic and sexual violence", a succinct statement that gets to the core for our organization. However, I believe that too often we get involved in the vital day-to-day efforts and forget that the heart of our work is really a bigger vision, one of social change.

As we read the newspapers and see the news on television, we see again and again the affect of two social norms. We see them world-wide; from the words of popular talk show hosts, to the honor killings still taking place in the Middle East, to the murder of six people just up the road from us in Delevan, WI. The norms are:

1. The unequal position of women (both gender and class issues) in some relationships and in society.
2. The normalization of the use of violence when conflict arises.

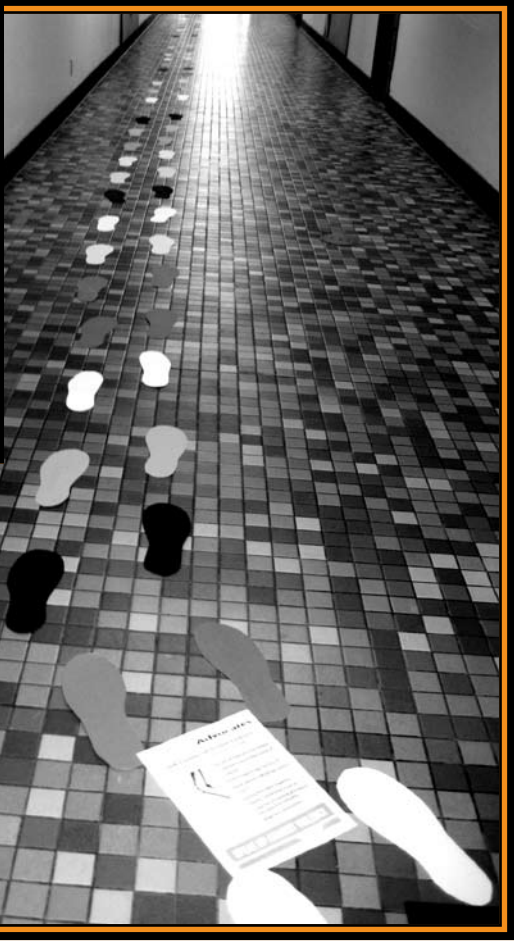
As advocates (and hopefully all of us see ourselves as advocates) it is our responsibility to take action. An easy and excellent first step is simply to talk with others about the two factors above. Until there are norms that call for all of us to be equally respected and to problem-solve in a manner that doesn't permit violence, we will continue to see incidents of violence against women and children. Additionally, each of us needs to practice and model the behavior we are advocating, and finally, we need to speak up and voice our objections whenever we hear or see gender or class inequity or violence being used to settle disputes.

With each of us taking these important steps, one at a time, we will begin to see a change in ourselves, our families, our communities, and in society as a whole.

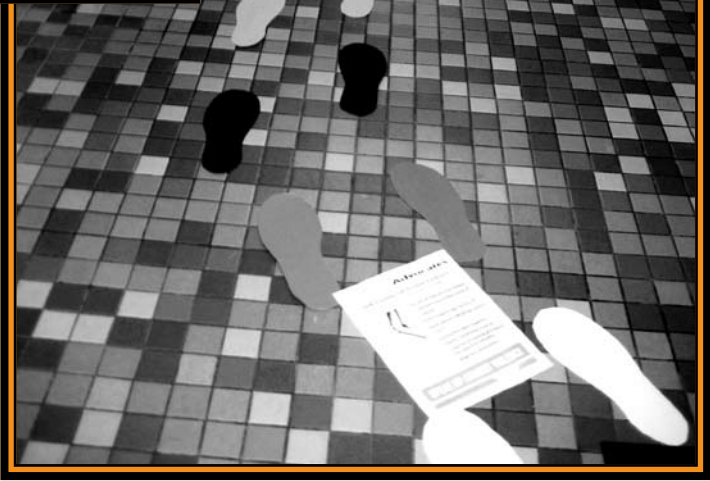
This is not a matter of simply teaching girls and women to not tolerate a violent relationship. That is vital. It is equally important to teach boys and young men that violence is not okay. There are two parts to family violence - an aggressor and a victim. We need to be sure we are educating about both roles if we truly want to put an end to the devastation that family violence brings.



# Take Back The Night



April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness month. Each year in April, Advocates sponsors a Take Back the Night Speak Out and Rally. This year, in addition to the rally at Concordia University, Advocates and several local organizations worked to raise awareness of sexual assault by displaying 168 pairs of shoes or 168 footprints - one for every victim who sought help at Advocates in 2008. The displays provided a visualization of how prevalent sexual assault is in our community. Our thanks to Alliance Bible Church, Rockwell Automation - Mequon, and Concordia for helping with this project.



Take Back the Night was also the site of a survivors' art show, displaying the healing artwork of both adults and children working with Advocates. Quilt squares have been created throughout the years by clients in support group. The squares have been sewn together to create a quilt which now hangs in the shelter office.

**JOIN A  
SUPPORT  
GROUP**

*Groups are open to all women and their children experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence.*

**Call for more information.**

**262.284.6902 or  
1.877.375.4034**

*Visit our website: [www.advocates-oz.org](http://www.advocates-oz.org)*



Ruth Maze, a long time volunteer, represented Advocates at the 4HOPE event on Saturday, August 29th at Grafton High School organized by Vineyard Community Church.



A special thanks to **Kleen Test Products Corporation** and the employee team, The Lion Tamers consisting of Kevin Rudser, Joe Winker, Laurie Rabuck, Steve Matusiak, Kaitlyn Thill, and Liz Winker for designating Advocates of Ozaukee as the winning charity in the company volleyball tournament. The event encourages employees to bring family and friends together to enjoy a day of fun while raising money for a local cause. In addition to a check for \$1,643, the Lion Tamers also donated a gift card to a local store that was given to a Mom to get back-to-school clothes for her children!

**Suburban Motors Harley-Davidson** representatives Pat Dano and Kathy & Scott Kietzke present a check for \$1,571 to Advocates' Executive Director, Barb Fischer. The check represented the proceeds of the annual H.O.G. Inter-Chapter Bowl-A-Thon.



Each year the previous year's winning dealership chooses a charity for the proceeds. Thanks to Wayne Houpt and the rest of the folks at Suburban Motors Harley-Davidson for choosing Advocates of Ozaukee.



Advocates always has a lot of jobs that need doing and recently a team from **Harris Bank** spent a day working on many of them. Harris Bank employees helped to get the gardens in shape, painted, cleaned, and helped with repairs to the shelter. They also collected and delivered lots of nonperishable food and paid for the cost of the materials needed for the work they did. Advocates really depends on the talents and time of community volunteers. Thank you Harris Bank for stepping up and helping out.

### Thanks also to:

- **Victoria's Secret - Mayfair**  
*for gifts for Moms on Mothers' Day*
- **Kohl's Cares for Kids**  
*for helping sort clothing in the Hope Room and donating \$2,500*
- **Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary**  
*for moving furniture and doing repairs to shelter*
- **Ozaukee Master Gardeners**  
*for maintaining our beautiful gardens*
- **Dick Scholten & Bob Reiter**  
*for continuing to keep our grass mowed again this year and helping with odd jobs around the shelter*
- **Steffen Middle School students**  
*for helping with the yardwork*
- **Grafton School District**  
*for monthly collection of shelter needs*
- **You Are Special cake bakers**  
*for shelter resident celebrations*



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***Please contact us!***

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***Information everyone should know  
about sexual violence***

- The age range of the 168 sexual assault victims seeking assistance from Advocates last year was 6 to 74.
- 80% of sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance of the victim.
- Sexual violence is NEVER the victim's fault.