



HOME FREE

A program for battered women and their children.

Celebrating 30 Years of Providing Safety

In the early seventies, the need for a shelter for battered women in northwest Hennepin County was identified by women working in community-based emergency assistance programs in the area. With resources available to them, they provided battered women with food, cash, clothing, and eventually housing, through the development of a network of safe homes.

In 1978, with the involvement and support of the northwest Hennepin Human Services Planning council, a group of community women began the work of establishing a battered women's shelter in northwest Hennepin County. A spacious ten-bedroom home on the 38-acre campus of Missions Inc. Programs, then known as Union City Mission, on the north shore of Medicine Lake in Plymouth,

MN provided an ideal setting for a shelter.

Home Free opened its doors on September 15, 1980 and was filled to capacity the very next day. Since that time, Home Free has provided emergency housing, advocacy, support and information to nearly 17,000 battered women and their children.

On January 1, 1984, Home Free Shelter, in conjunction with the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley and Plymouth, began preparations to implement a Domestic Assault Intervention Project. The first ten weeks were spent working out police policies that would mandate arrests in domestic assault cases where certain conditions existed, training the officers of the three police departments, working out agreements with city prosecutors that they would aggressively prosecute these cases, and recruiting and training community volunteers who would carry the brunt of the workload of this project. Within three months, each city was fully operational.

The purpose of the Intervention Project is to provide a coordinated response to domestic assault among police, prosecutors, courts and so-



cial services systems. Domestic violence is no longer treated as a private matter, but as the crime that it is. The Home Free Community Program has assisted over 30,00 victims of domestic violence and currently offers domestic assault intervention projects in the cities of Plymouth, New Hope, Golden Valley, and Brooklyn Park. The Community Program also offers assistance to victims in rural municipalities of northwest Hennepin County including Corcoran, Osseo and Rogers.



Our mission is to provide battered women and their children with safety, support, and information, so that they have the opportunity to explore alternatives to living with a violent partner.



Home Free celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and as we look over the past thirty years, our goal and mission have not changed. Through all its efforts, Home Free, alongside other battered women's programs works to end domestic violence. Domestic violence is present in all

Help Us End Domestic Violence

communities, crossing racial, socioeconomic and age lines.

Our message has always been that domestic violence will not be tolerated; it is not a private matter and it is the responsibility of each of us to do our part in putting an end to it. Each year, in Minnesota alone, dozens of women and children are killed as a result of domestic violence. Every year, Home Free provides emergency housing to nearly 500 women and children whose own homes are no longer safe; and every year, we turn away nearly half of the requests for shelter because we are always full to capacity.

So while we have accomplished much to be proud of over the last

three decades, we are far from achieving our goal of ending domestic violence.

We are grateful that in spite of the tough economic times we have been able to continue providing uninterrupted services when many other programs faced significant operational cuts or closed their doors. We owe much of our success to our supporters who have joined us in the effort to end domestic violence.

We look ahead to much more work that needs to be done, but we are certain that with the help of our generous supporters, we will be able to continue providing safety and support to families as long as it is needed.

Learn More About Home Free

- ◇ Home Free Shelter is a safe haven for battered women and their children. Advocates assist women as they identify and work towards their goals by providing information, resources, advocacy and support.
- ◇ Home Free's children's program works with children and their mothers to provide day care, assistance with homework and tutoring, age-appropriate support and educational groups, and recreational activities and outings. Parenting groups and assistance with school enrollment are always provided.
- ◇ Home Free's Immigrant/Refugee program focuses on the needs of immigrant and refugee battered women. The advocate helps battered immigrant women navigate through the legal process while providing culturally-specific information, support and advocacy. The advocate also runs a weekly support group for immigrant/refugee battered women living in the community.
- ◇ The Home Free Community Program works with victims of domestic violence who are living in the community. When a domestic assault occurs, police contact Home Free and a volunteer or staff member contacts the victim to answer questions about her rights, court procedures, or what she can do to protect herself if she is still in danger. Advocates then work with the victim throughout the court process, offering legal advocacy, support, and information.
- ◇ Home Free's community outreach program raises awareness about domestic violence through public speaking events and trainings. Please contact Kari at (763) 559-9008 if you would like to schedule a presentation for your group.
- ◇ Home Free offers volunteer opportunities at the Shelter and Community Program. Volunteers help out in the women's program, children's program, community program, and at special events. If you would like to volunteer please contact Kari at (763) 559-9008.



The Truth About Domestic Violence

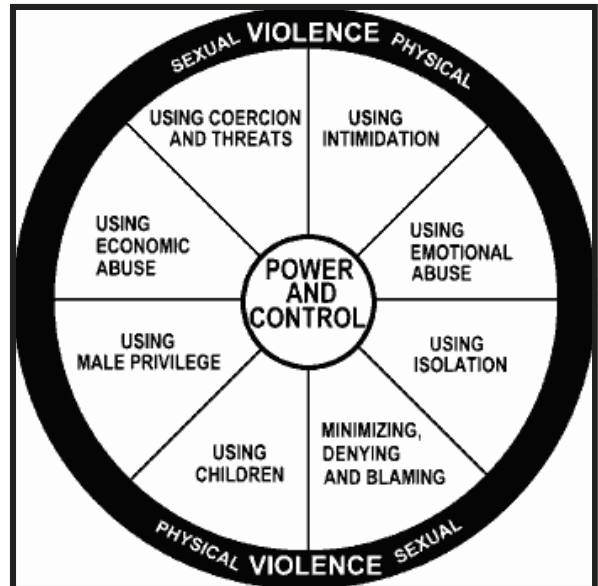
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports:

- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- Almost one third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner
- 85% of domestic violence victims are women.
- Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.
- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
- 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.
- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.

NCADV Domestic Violence Facts

Source: <http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet>

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The Power and Control Wheel was developed from the experience of the battered women in Duluth, MN who had been abused by their male partners. It was translated into 40 different languages and has resonated with the experiences of battered women world-wide.

www.theduluthmodel.org

Home Free Accomplishments

- Since 1980, Home Free has provided emergency housing to nearly 17,000 women and children.
- Through the 24-hour crisis line, Home Free has provided support and information to nearly 80,000 crisis line callers.
- The Home Free Community Program has provided legal advocacy and support to over 30,000 victims of domestic violence.
- We have developed strong and effective relationships with police, prosecutors and courts to provide an improved response to victims of domestic violence.
- Today, volunteers contribute nearly 3,000 hours per year working at Home Free.
- Home Free provides over 3,000 hours of child care annually for children living at the Shelter.
- Home Free continues to grow through partnerships with other organizations working towards the same goal such as CUT IT OUT, Day One, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), and WATCH.
- Currently, Home Free offers five support groups, two of which are open to the public: Immigrant/Refugee support group and Domestic Abuse support group. Please contact Home Free at (763) 559-9008 for more information.
- Home Free, in partnership with other domestic violence organizations, was instrumental in changing Minnesota laws that protect the rights and safety of victims of domestic violence.





Home Free is Funded By:

- * *Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs*
- * *Cities of Plymouth, New Hope, Golden Valley, Brooklyn Park, Corcoran, Osseo and Rogers*
- * *Greater Twin Cities United Way*
- * *Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department*
- * *Private and Corporate Foundations*
- * *The generous contributions of hundreds of community groups, churches, businesses and individual donors*

Special Thanks to Lennar Family of Builders

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THANK YOU!!!



Missions Inc. enables people struggling to meet fundamental human needs, to obtain safety and healing and to pursue justice in their lives.