

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse occurs in families of all ages and races regardless of social, economic or religious background. Abuse can be emotional and sexual as well as physical; ranging from being verbally harassed, pushed or slapped to being punched, stabbed or having your life threatened. In Minnesota an estimated 132,000 women are assaulted each year.

Laws in Minnesota are meant to hold the abuser accountable. Police departments do make an arrest when they have probable cause that an assault occurred. The victim is **not** responsible for pressing charges. Charges are pressed by the state usually based on the information in the police report, including the victim and witnesses statements to the police.

The majority of assault charges are misdemeanor assaults. These cases vary a great deal. The assault may be the most recent in a long history of abuse or the very first incident. There may be few visible signs of injury or there may be need for medical attention or there may be fear of physical injury.

Battering is part of a system of behaviors used to establish and maintain power and control over another person. **Many women report that the emotional, verbal, and economic abuse hurts worse than the physical assaults and heals more slowly.**

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women also provides the following services:

- 24-hour emergency assistance
- temporary shelter for battered women and their children
- support/education groups for battered women
- Latina Advocacy Program
- Criminal Justice Intervention Program
- iM o.K.® Children's Visitation Center
- community education
- opportunities for volunteers

## We Need Volunteers...

We are looking for conscientious and concerned volunteers to help us in a variety of capacities in the operation of the Alliance.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Alliance, fill in the form below and return to:

### Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women P.O. Box 166

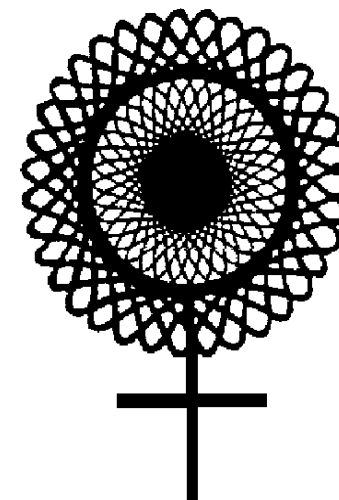
- I am willing to help in:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ advocacy (training provided)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ fundraising
  - \_\_\_\_\_ transportation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ child care for mothers during support groups
  - \_\_\_\_\_ publicity
  - \_\_\_\_\_ community education
- I am interested in:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ joining a support group for battered women
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Obtaining a speaker for my organization

### DONATIONS

Donations are Tax Deductible

Enclosed is a donation to  
Southern Valley Alliance  
For Battered Women

Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



## Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women

551 East Park Street  
PO Box 166  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011  
Bus: 952-873-4214  
Fax: 952-873-4673  
[www.southernvalleyalliance.org](http://www.southernvalleyalliance.org)

Serving Scott and  
Carver Counties

## We believe that:

- no one deserves to be beaten
- all people have the right to live free from violence and fear of abuse
- every battered person has the right to seek help and protection in halting the **illegal** cycle of battering.

## Who we are...

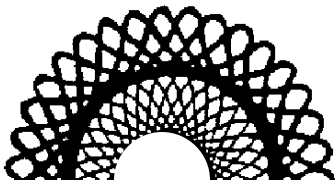
We are a non profit organization founded by community women and dedicated to providing the battered woman and other victims of family abuse with support, referrals, protection and advocacy.

## Our purpose...

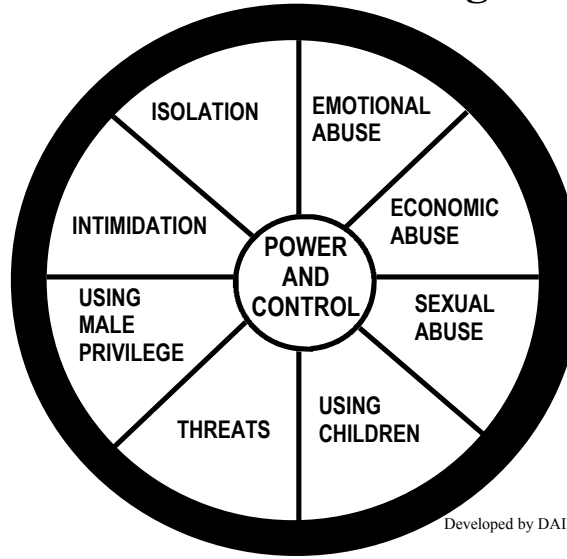
More specifically, we are set up to assist the abused woman in exploring the medical, legal and social service options available to her. We listen to a woman's needs and encourage her to make her own decisions. An advocate stands ready to help her in meeting those needs by accompanying her through the various medical, legal and social service alternatives she chooses.

## SVABW

Welcomes women of any race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, affectional preference, age, marital status, physical challenge or status with regard to public assistance.



## What is battering?



**Battering, or use of physical force, is part of a system of behaviors used to establish and maintain power and control over another person.**

### **Intimidation**

Putting her in fear by using looks, actions, gestures, loud voice, smashing things, destroying her property.

### **Isolation**

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, where she goes.

### **Emotional Abuse**

Putting her down or making her feel bad about herself, calling her names. Making her think she's crazy. Playing mind games.

### **Economic Abuse**

Trying to keep her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money, giving her an allowance, taking her money.

### **Sexual Abuse**

Making her do sexual things against her will. Physically attacking the sexual parts of her body. Treating her like a sex object.

### **Using Children**

Making her feel guilty about the children, using the children to give messages, using visitation as a way to harass her.

### **Threats**

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her emotionally. Threatening to take the children, commit suicide, report her to welfare.

### **Using Male Privilege**

Treating her like a servant. Making all the "big" decisions. Acting like the "master of the castle."

**These behaviors are more powerful because they are reinforced by the threat or use of physical abuse.**

For help or information, call  
Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women  
952-873-4214

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- Criminal Justice Intervention Project
- Latina Advocacy Program
- Opportunities for volunteers

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Scott and Carver Counties  
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952-873-4214**

Collect Calls Accepted