

Emergency shelter not always what victims need

Complex Issue of Domestic Violence Requires Multifaceted Response

Artemis focuses on long-term safety

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of helping victims of domestic violence? If you answered "shelter," you're not alone. That's the greatest perceived need among the general public. But ask a survivor, and you may get a very different response.

In 2009, Artemis Center surveyed some of the 6,000 victims who came to us for help. When we asked which services they were most hoping to find from a domestic violence agency, 78 percent said emotional support. Only two percent were seeking shelter. See page 3 for details about the survey.

We need to think beyond 'getting safe.' The real goal is staying safe, long-term."

*- Patti Schwarztrauber
Executive Director
Artemis Center*

Montgomery County is fortunate to have both a domestic violence shelter and an agency to provide advocacy and support. Each year, the YWCA-operated shelter serves about 500 women and children. For the women who need it, a safe haven can be a lifesaver.

There are, however, many reasons why a victim might feel that an emergency shelter will not meet her needs.

- victim has another place to stay
- her transportation difficulties to and from work
- shelter far from children's school
- victim not financially or emotionally ready to leave the abusive relationship
- communal living situation
- no space available at shelter
- beliefs about shelter population

Read about Carla's decision to contact Artemis. "When my boyfriend left on a fishing trip with

his buddies, I thought this was my one chance to get some help. I didn't want to go to shelter because I have a perfectly nice house. I really didn't know what my options were, but I knew I had to get him to leave me alone. The first thing the Artemis advocate did was get somebody to come out and change the locks on my house. Then she told me about getting a protection order. We talked about how I could stay safe when I went to work or out with my friends. We made a plan that I felt good about."

"While emergency shelter is sometimes necessary for a victim of domestic violence, shelter alone is a temporary solution," said Patti Schwarztrauber, executive director of Artemis Center. "We need to think beyond 'getting safe.' The real goal is staying safe, long-term."

Artemis Center works toward the long term safety of every client. When a victim contacts Artemis, she receives individualized services that take her circumstances into account. At the same time, the Family Violence Collaborative works with community partners to coordinate and improve assistance for victims.

Victims want/need financial independence

Artemis Works with Local Jobs Agency to Help Victims

The best strategy for helping most victims stay safe is to help them gain financial independence. Often victims want to work, but their efforts are thwarted by their abusive partner.

One study found that women who have experienced abuse had held more jobs than other women, but were employed for fewer total months. This suggests that victims continue to try to work, but have problems keeping their jobs. Recognizing the barriers many victims face in obtaining financial independence, Ohio passed legislation in late 2007. Provisions of the law require Job and Family Services staff to:

- Screen for domestic violence



- Refer victims to counseling or supportive services
- Issue waivers for training or work requirements if employment would make it more difficult for a victim to escape a violent situation or would unfairly penalize a victim

Beginning in 2008, Artemis Center joined with the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services (MCDJFS) to develop a domestic violence protocol for MCDJFS Job Center staff. The staff has been trained in the protocol and has recently begun implementing the guidelines in their work with applicants and participants in the Ohio Works First program.

Since 2006, an Artemis Center advocate has had an office at the Job Center. The advocate provides training and consultation to MCDJFS staff. She's also there to work with victims who might not be able to come to Artemis Center. On a number of occasions, the Artemis advocate and MCDJFS staff have collaborated to keep a victim safe.

Batterer Sabotage Tactics

A woman living in an abusive partnership faces serious obstacles in gaining financial independence. Her abusive partner will often sabotage her efforts to obtain education, training, or employment.

Abusive partners' sabotage tactics may include:

- Initiating a "fight" before tests or job interviews
- Threatening or harassing the victim at work, training, or school
- Interfering with the victim's efforts to go to work, training or school
 - failing to provide promised child care at the last minute
 - refusing promised transportation at the last minute
 - beatings so severe that she can't work or go to school
- Telling the victim she'd never be able to succeed at work or school
- Telling the victim "Working women are bad mothers" and or "You may work only if you keep up with the housework."
- Sleep deprivation (In one study 84.5% of women who experienced current or past abuse said their abusive partner had kept them from sleeping.)

Survey Reveals Profile of Artemis Center Clients

What Victims Reported about Their Experiences

- 86 % told family or friends about abuse
- 71 % had tried to leave the abusive situation
- 59 % reported police had been called regarding assault or threat
- 34 % reported abuse charges had been filed at some point
- 34 % reported being abused during pregnancy

Length of Relationship with Batterer

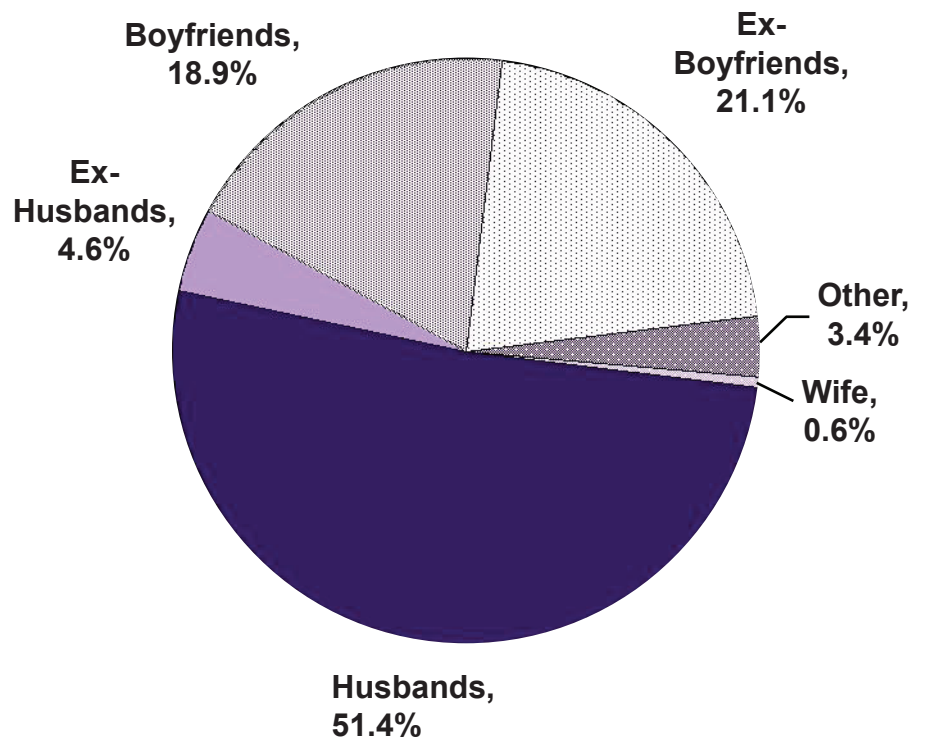
- Average length for survey respondents was a little over 9 years
- Shortest relationship listed was 4 months
- Longest relationship was 50 years

Top Five Responses to “What are the most important things Artemis can help you with?”

(Clients could mark more than one.)

- Emotional support 78%
- Information 69%
- Counseling for me 67%
- Support group 48%
- Safety planning 36%

Batterer Demographics (based on Artemis client survey)



Artemis' Annual *Walk Away From Violence* Raises \$16,000 For Local Victims

On May 31, nearly 200 people turned out to show their support of our mission by joining us for our Annual 5k *Walk Away From Violence* at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.

This year, participants could use our new fundraising web site to send emails and collect donations from friends, family and co-workers to support their walk efforts.

Our supporters have done it again. Thank you to all the individuals, volunteers, families and teams

who made this wonderful event possible. Because of your support, nearly \$16,000 was raised to offer support to local domestic violence victims and their children.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, Verizon and Burger King, for their generous support of this event and of Artemis Center's mission year-round.

We hope to see you next year as we once again join together to show the community how to *Walk Away From Violence*.

ARTEMIS CENTER

Dayton's Domestic Violence Resource Agency

Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence
310 West Monument Ave.
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Hotline 937.222.SAFE
Phone 937.461.5091
Fax 937.461.2852
TTY 937.461.7910



2010 Board of Directors

Dianne Marx, Esq., Board Chair
Sebaly, Shillito & Dyer

Bobbie Gerhart, First Vice Chair
Miami Valley Hospital

Elaine Bettman, Second Vice Chair
Community Volunteer

Frieda Brigner, Sec'y/Treasurer
Habitat for Humanity

Judy Abromowitz
Community Volunteer

LaShawna Coleman
Community Volunteer

James Kelleher, Esq.
Pickrel, Schaeffer & Ebeling, LPA

Helen Jones-Kelley, Esq.
Central State University

Holly McCutcheon
Aida America Corporation

Ana Paner-Johnson
One Lincoln Park

Richard A. Talda, Esq.
Coolidge Wall

Lori Vavul-Roediger, MD
Dayton Children's Medical Center

Steve Wargo
Houser Asphalt & Concrete

Thanks to You, Our Supporters

In troubled times, trembling with
fear

A woman calls, and we are here
To listen as she tells her plight –
To give her strength against his
might.

At Artemis, she finds her voice
And sees she has another choice.
We're here to help, day after day.
*We're here because you light the
way.*

