

One in five Americans has a disability

Women with Disabilities at Greater Risk for Domestic Violence

You already know that one in four women in the United States will experience abuse at the hands of an intimate partner at least once in her life. You may be surprised to know that women with disabilities have a 40 percent greater risk of DV than those without a disability.

If you met Hattie, you would notice right away that she has a fragile kind of beauty. She is small-framed with delicate features and wears her hair in a long and sleek style. Hattie also uses a wheelchair.

Hattie was thrilled when she met Daniel. She was happy to have found not only a loving relationship with a man, but also someone who could



Victims with disabilities face challenges that other victims do not."

provide for her care as only her parents had before. When she moved in with Daniel, she felt she was finally an independent adult.

Just as all batterers exert power and control over their victims, Daniel began to control and manipulate Hattie. What began as a helpful offer to do her banking lead to Daniel assuming control of her

disability check. What seemed like a romantic gesture of carrying Hattie to bed became isolation when she'd awake and find her wheelchair was in another room and Daniel was nowhere around. When Daniel turned violent and Hattie threatened to tell her family and friends, he chided her that her bruises could easily be explained by her "clumsiness."

As you might guess, people with disabilities face types of abuse that people without disabilities do not. Someone who is visually impaired may trip and fall over an object maliciously placed in their path. A

victim who is deaf may be unable to accurately report the abuse if there is no sign language interpreter available. In some cases, law enforcement or health professionals may rely on hearing family members to explain a victim's injuries. You can see how frightening that can be when the one doing the explaining is, in fact, the batterer!

Victims with disabilities face challenges that other victims do not. Will the local shelter be wheelchair accessible? Will the doctor provide an interpreter? If the abusive caretaker is arrested, who will provide her physical care? Will she end up in a nursing home? In fact, few of the strategies used in traditional safety plans work for victims who rely on their abuser to dress them, feed them or communicate for them.

In 2009, Artemis Center partnered with the Access Center for Independent Living, Deaf Community Resource Center, Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley, Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disability Services and the Wright State University Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI) Program to form the Facilitating Access, Choice, Empowerment and Safety (FACES) Collaborative. Under a federal grant from the Office on

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Violence Against Women, the FACES Collaborative is working to close systems gaps and remove barriers to make domestic violence services more accessible to Deaf victims and victims with disabilities. As a society, we have much to learn about how to keep all victims safe.

Your support allows us to serve victims regardless of any disability they may have. For example, were you aware that our building is totally wheelchair accessible? We have translated some of our key informational brochures into American Sign Language, (ASL)

allowing victims who are Deaf to reach us. In addition, our entire staff has received diversity training on working with the Deaf culture and we have staff members who are conversant in ASL. Our goal is to help keep victims safe, no matter what barriers they may face.

April is National Volunteer Month

Artemis launches new Friends of Artemis initiative We want you to become an Artemis ambassador in the community



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at Artemis? Do you like to be among the first to hear about new events and activities? If so, we hope you will consider joining Friends of Artemis (FOA)

As a member of FOA, you will be among the first people we contact with information and requests. Through regular e-newsletters and special email communications, you will learn when our pantry shelves are running low, when we're looking for a particular item needed by a client, or when we announce events. You'll have the opportunity to sign up for one-time and on-going volunteer assignments.

Member Benefits:

"Insider" newsletters and announcements

Unique offers and discounts on event

registrations.

Special trainings offered exclusively to FOA members.

Annual recognition event for Friends of Artemis.

Like the old song lyrics, "we get by with a little help from our friends." We're asking you to become an Artemis ambassador, helping us fill volunteer needs and spread the word about the work we do here. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Lee at 937 461-5091, or via email at LeeA@artemiscenter.org. You may also visit our website and click "Sign up Now for Email Updates." After filling in your email address and clicking on "join," you can select "Friends of Artemis" newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming you into our circle of friends and supporters!

Did You Know?

People with disabilities are our nation's largest minority

In a recent survey, 92 percent of women with disabilities said abuse at the hands of a caregiver was a major concern for them

Women with disabilities experience the highest rates of personal violence at the hands of partners, spouses, family and caregivers than any group in our society

Yee Haw! Rustle up some friends and join the Artemis 5k Stampede!

The Artemis 5k Stampede Walk/Run/Roll is the place to be on Sat. June 2. Pull a team together, or register as an individual, but don't miss out on the fun. T-shirts featuring our event mascots Beau and Buffy Lowe are sure to be a big hit.



Buffy & Beau Lowe

Following the walk at Wegerzyn MetroPark, feast your eyes on a high-energy step demonstration by Omega Psi Phi fraternity. Then feast your belly on a buffalo wing-eating contest. (Participation in the wing-eating contest is limited.) Western attire encouraged for this event.

Set your sights now on the hottest event west of...well...Xenia! Register today at www.ArtemisStampede.kintera.org

Thanks to sponsors WellsFargo, Miami-Jacobs Career College and Kondas Dental for their generous support of this event.

Also...mark your calendar for the second annual Girlfriend Ride Dayton, October 6. Watch for details coming soon.

This year, the Artemis Board of Directors approved a new commitment statement that defines our beliefs about domestic violence. We want to share this document with you so that you have a more complete understanding of why we do what we do. This document informs all our decisions about how we deliver services and how we respond to victims. We'd love to hear your thoughts on this statement. In future issues of this newsletter, we will discuss some of the individual points in greater depth.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT – Artemis Center

We believe that:

- Victim safety is our first priority
- No one deserves to be abused
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a social justice issue
- IPV in its predominant form is violence against women
- IPV is rooted in male entitlement and a historical devaluation of women
- When women are not afforded equal rights to men, intimate partner violence is perpetuated
- Battering is a learned behavior
- Battering is a choice
- Men are part of the solution
- Batterers exert power and control over their partners and feel entitled to do so
- Situational violence is a different phenomenon from intimate partner violence
- Services for victims should be empowerment based
- All victims are entitled to services
- There is a high association between intimate partner violence and child abuse/neglect
- Abusing a child's mother impacts the child
- Providing therapy to children who witness intimate partner violence and its effects helps break the cycle of abuse and can promote healing
- Domestic violence will continue until the community insists that it ends

Domestic Violence is Everybody's Problem

A professional athlete who suffers four or five concussions can become aggressive, depressed, even suicidal. He may be considered unemployable.

There are women in our community who have suffered multiple concussions at the hands of their intimate partner. They may spend years battling depression, homelessness and poverty.

The difference is, domestic violence has no referees, no rules, and no big team mates coming to the rescue. It has no instant medical attention, no high-profile neurologists offering state-of-the-art treatment.

If there were televised, bench-clearing brawls every time a woman had her head slammed against a hard surface, there'd be no room on the dial for any other programs.

Concussions are not just for athletes. Domestic violence is everybody's problem.

ARTEMIS CENTER

Dayton's Domestic Violence Resource Agency

Artemis Center

310 W. Monument Ave.

Dayton, OH 45402

Hotline 937.222.SAFE

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Fax 937.461.2852

TTY 937.461.7910

www.artemiscenter.org

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You Can Help Survivors with Your Donations

Check out website or Facebook for ideas on how small gifts can make a big difference

Artemis relies on your donations to provide material support for victims. We need your gifts of non-perishable food, toiletries, cleaning supplies and small household items year round to help clients save their limited financial resources.

Your old cell phone can be a lifeline. Some cell phones are given to victims for use in emergencies. We recycle surplus phones to earn cash for vital programs.

Visit our website at www.ArtemisCenter.org and click on the "You Can Help" tab to learn more about ways you or your service organization can help. The website also features an easy "Donate Now" button that allows you to make a secure cash donation.

We accept donations Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 4:30 at our office at 310 W. Monument in downtown Dayton. Please call ahead at 461-5091 and ask for Lee to let us know you're stopping by.