

# Victims find help on campus

By Lee Jeffries  
Of The Print

It's the most frequently committed crime in the United States. One occurs every 12 seconds. Yet it's perhaps the least understood crime. This crime is domestic violence.

Domestic violence affects everyone regardless of race,

income level, sex and age. One of the myths of domestic violence is that it is only common among the poor. This is untrue, anyone can be a potential abuser. A recent study showed that college students tolerate domestic violence more than any other group.

Once started, abusing

becomes more and more frequent. One of the more haunting facts of domestic violence is that abused children are more likely to become abusers themselves.

Victims of domestic violence usually don't run away for many reasons: lack of money, confused state of mind, the abuser won't let them leave, and also fear of retaliation.

Often the police are reluctant to make an arrest at a domestic violence call because the victim usually doesn't want to press charges against a loved one. But this is overshadowed by the fact that more police officers are killed answering domestic violence calls than any other call.

There is an organization trying to do something about it. It's called the Domestic Violence Intervention Center. It's located here on campus. It used to be known as project B.E.T.T.E.R., and it was only for women. Now the center

provides services for everyone, services like: confidential counseling, information and referral, community education, support groups, shelter and safe homes.

The Domestic Violence Intervention Center is located in room 126 at Orchard Center. Anyone interested in contacting them may do so by calling 656-2631, ext. 204.

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