

SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES

Calling All Men



David Wiegman
Executive Director

My first real job after college was that of a sheriff's deputy in a county far away but somewhat similar to Lane County. I never imagined that many years later I would recall many of my experiences there while working at Siuslaw Outreach Services. As any police officer will tell you, the most dangerous call to handle is one involving domestic violence. These calls are also some of the most frustrating and difficult to comprehend for the investigating officers because so many times they are extremely complicated with no simple solutions. They can also be some of the most disturbing to experience for an officer because of the nature of the violence, especially when there are children in the home. Once again, this year's special news supplement is being written to call on men in our community to become more engaged in addressing a problem that is often mistakenly assumed to be a problem primarily for women. In fact, it is a community

problem and we all have a stake in it whether we realize it or not. It is not a particularly fashionable subject for casual conversation, and it tends to be uncomfortable for many to even hear about. Nevertheless, I suspect that most people have some level of connection with someone who is or has been a victim. It can be a spouse, sibling, friend, co-worker, employee, or child. In fact, one in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. One in five women will be a victim of sexual violence in her lifetime. Oregon has the sad distinction of being second in the nation for the incidence of sexual violence. What many people do not seem to realize is the profound emotional toll perpetrated on the children in homes with domestic violence. These children are far more likely to grow up to perpetuate violence, use drugs, and experience a range of other significant problems. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports the following:

Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.

Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

According to a study at the University of Massachusetts:

85% of abusers watched domestic violence occur in their own homes as children.

Juvenile delinquents are 4 times more likely to come from abusive homes.

20% of all murders in the U.S. are domestic violence related.

In recent years we have seen a dramatic increase in mass murders. According to the FBI, there have been 146 mass shootings (4 or more killed) since 2006, and almost half involved family members. The role of domestic violence in these highly publicized tragedies is so often understated, but it is terribly real. We live in a culture that is steeped in violence, from sports to entertainment to gangs, ad infinitum. The notion that a male being non-violent and respectful toward women is somehow less masculine is as false as it is destructive. Quoting from "Coaching Boys Into Men",

Violence Does Not Equal Strength.

Florence is a great community with an amazing spirit of volunteerism and pride. It can also be a model community in enlisting more men to join this cause, and publicly proclaiming support for efforts to end domestic and sexual violence. Join with us on **Sunday, September 27th at 12:45 p.m.** as we march along Bay Street doing exactly that. We will meet near the Veterans' Memorial and march toward the boardwalk. **It only takes 15 minutes to demonstrate your support!**

...and a special thanks for the community leaders who contributed articles for this supplement.



Services Provided by SOS in 2014

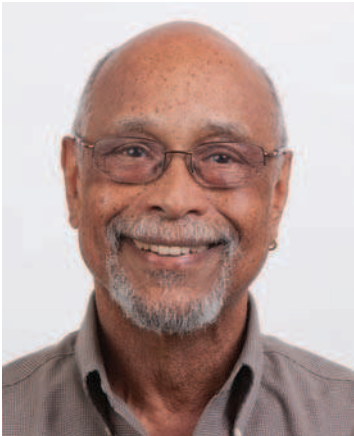
- 170 survivors of domestic violence received advocacy services
- 32 survivors of a sexual assault received advocacy services
- 36 survivors received assistance in filing protective orders with the courts
- 575 shelter nights were provided to survivors and their children
- 153 Focus Four crisis line calls were handled
- 36 survivors participated in empowerment groups

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MARCH ON BAY STREET**
Sunday, September 27, 2015
Gather by 12:45pm
Veterans' Memorial
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

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