

Anatomy of Abuse

A Punch Thrown Behind Closed Doors Sends Ripples Through Community

Case Study in How We All Pay a Price

We'd like you to meet Jerome. You will not know him by that name, but that's what we'll call him here.

Jerome is 36 years old, a married father of three, living in Kettering. He works as a roofer and his wife, Jacquie, sells jewelry at home parties. Jacquie has left Jerome a few times, trying to end the verbal and physical abuse by her husband of 11 years.

On a recent summer afternoon, Jerome came home to an empty house. There was unfolded laundry on the sofa and lunch dishes in the sink. No one had started dinner. He waited, brooding in the living room. Jacquie arrived a few minutes later,

“What many... consider a ‘family matter’ does affect you.”

rushing back from an appointment with her regional sales manager. Although she apologized for the state of the house and began preparing a quick meal, she recognized that Jerome was not going to be appeased. He began throwing dirty dishes across the room, hurling them close to his wife's head. When she tried to leave the kitchen, her husband grabbed her and slammed



Children who witness violence at home pay a high price at school and in life.

her, face down on the dinette table. Just then, the kids, returning from a day at the pool with friends, walked in. They knew from experience that Dad was on a rampage. Six-year old Ella ran to her bedroom to hide. Dionne, 8, began screaming for her father to stop hurting Mommy. Trevor, 13, ran outside and told the neighbors to call 911. Then he went back to try to get his stepfather Jerome off his mother. Jerome turned his attentions to Trevor, slamming him against the wall and breaking his collarbone.

The police arrived in minutes. They were familiar with the family because they'd responded to this address many times. As an ambulance carried Jacquie and Trevor to the hospital for emergency treatment of their injuries, the police arrested Jerome.

So, what impact does this event have on the family and on you? What many erroneously consider a “family matter” does indeed affect you and others like you.

Police, Courts and Child Welfare
First, your taxes have covered a share of the police response to this family's home. Add to that the cost of court proceedings, 911 services, and you've incurred several expenses.

An injury to a child often triggers a child welfare investigation. Caseworkers know that children can be hurt both physically and emotionally by domestic violence. An investigation and ongoing services cost additional tax dollars.

Now, factor in the lost wages while Jerome awaits prosecution

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and Jacquie waits for her injuries to heal. American businesses lose between \$3 and \$5 billion a year on costs related to workers' domestic violence. If Jacquie is unable to do her job due to injuries, she loses money. Perhaps she was saving up to enable her to leave her abusive husband; if so this will set her back significantly.

Healthcare Expenses

When Jacquie arrives at the hospital, chances are good she will not be alone. Injuries caused by violent partners account for 37% of ER visits by women every year in the U.S. The ambulance ride itself will be costly. Both Trevor and Jacquie require medical treatment. Let's hope they have good insurance – otherwise, your healthcare costs just went up to help pay for their care.

Human Cost

Let's look beyond actual dollars to the human costs. These children will pay a price for the violence in their home. Their school performance will likely suffer. You can understand how a child who witnesses such violence at home might have difficulty focusing on school work. Worse still, these young victims are at high risk for drug use and suicide. They may find themselves in unhealthy relationships as adults, continuing the cycle of DV. They are likely to experience a sense of isolation as they protect the "family secret." They may be afraid or embarrassed to invite their friends over. These could be your child's friends.

If Jacquie participates in prosecuting Jerome, she may lose her job by missing work for various legal proceedings. If the landlord learns

of the trouble at the house, he may refuse to renew the lease. Jacquie and her children could face a very real threat of being homeless. (In American cities, DV is the #1 cause of homelessness for women and children.) If she attempts to leave her husband, she most certainly will not be able to support the family on her wages from her part time sales job. If she doesn't leave, those around her will likely judge her as "liking the abuse" or "pushing his buttons."

DV – It's Everybody's Problem

In ways too numerous to thoroughly examine here, domestic violence pulsates out from behind closed doors and creates a tidal wave of after effects. The effects ripple throughout the community and touch us all.

Did You Know?

Every day in the United States, three women and one man are murdered by their intimate partner.

In 2002, 66% of corporate executives agreed their company's financial performance would benefit from addressing the issue of DV among its employees.

78% of Human Resource Directors rank DV as a substantial employee problem.

A woman is beaten by her husband, boyfriend or ex-partner every 9 seconds in this country.

Nearly ¾ of abused working women are harassed by their partners while on the job.

In a recent survey, 75% of batterers admitted to using workplace time and resources to pressure, chastise or threaten their victim.

Survey shows demand up, funding down for DV agencies *Artemis Center maintains level of service*

For the third consecutive year, the Mary Kay Foundation has conducted a survey of 672 domestic violence shelters throughout the United States. The survey focused on DV and the economy since September 2008. Although the respondents were DV shelter staff, much of what they report mirrors what we are seeing at Artemis Center.

Results from March 2011 survey:

- Demand for services has increased for the third straight year
- 80 percent of shelters report an increase in demand
- 75 percent report an increase in women with children seeking shelter
- Women are staying longer in abusive relationships
- 77 percent say that clients report they stayed with abuser longer because of finances
- Abuse is more severe
- 56 percent report an escalation in the severity of clients' abuse
- The economy is causing shelters to decrease services and eliminate staff
- 47 percent of shelters surveyed reported they had decreased their services to clients

Like so many other nonprofit organizations, Artemis Center is facing deep cuts in federal and county funding. We want to assure you, our supporters, that we will continue to do everything possible to maintain the same level of service we always have. With your continued support, we will still be here to offer hope and healing to those who need us.



Artemis Center Announces Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We have planned a full range of activities to bring a greater awareness of domestic violence to our community.

“Artemis Center works year round to shine a light on this issue,” said Patti Schwarztrauber, executive director of Artemis. “October is the month we focus on expanding the conversation beyond victims to the community at large.”

As a friend of Artemis Center, you are probably aware that purple is the color that represents the issue of domestic violence. As part of a growing national campaign called Purple Light Nights, the CareSource building in downtown Dayton will be illuminated with purple neon for the entire month. The Stewart Street Bridge, the Edwin C. Moses Bridge and the City Transportation Center will also be awash in purple October 3 – 9.

Artemis invites the community to raise awareness of this issue throughout the month. Supporters are urged to

participate in Purple Wednesdays, by wearing purple clothing to work or school. “Purple is a color that’s hard to ignore,” said Patti. “When you wear purple, folks are sure to comment. That’s the perfect opportunity to talk with them a little about the issue of domestic violence.” Artemis hopes that businesses will take part in Purple Wednesdays and share photos of their purple clad staff on the Artemis Center Facebook page, www.facebook.com/artemiscenterdayton.

You’re invited to join us for the annual domestic violence vigil on October 5. Gather with other friends of Artemis at Courthouse Square at noon. Here, you can celebrate the lives of those who have survived, support those who are still living in violent situations, and remember those who have lost their lives at the hands of their partner. Participants are encouraged to wear purple to the vigil.

To raise funds for local victims, we hope you’ll join us for the first annual Girlfriend Ride Dayton. Read more about this fun-filled event on page 4.

Legacy

As a reader of this newsletter, you have already shown your support of Artemis Center and the clients we serve. Now, we’re inviting you to think about the Artemis Center of the future. In order to secure the financial stability of this agency and assure that we will always be here to help those who need us, we have begun to develop our legacy program and the “Legacy of Hope” society.

Please consider making a planned gift to Artemis as you make your financial plans for the future. Through a bequest, stock transfer, insurance policy or other mechanisms, you can be a positive force in the community for generations to come. We encourage you to call our office, talk to your financial advisor or contact the Dayton Foundation to discuss options that will fit your estate planning needs.

If you have already included a gift to Artemis Center in your plans, please let us know so that you can be included in our “Legacy of Hope” society. Call Patti or Susan D. at 461-5091.

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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What a Ride!

Calling all girlfriends! Join us on October 15 for our first ever Girlfriend Ride Dayton. This is a must-do, leisurely ride just for women, to raise funds for victims of domestic violence.

Bring your sisters, daughters, girlfriends, and co-workers for a fun-packed ride through downtown and nearby historic neighborhoods. Along the way, you'll encounter delicious treats and some good, old-fashioned pampering. We'll wrap it all up with a celebratory cookout back at Artemis.

Girlfriend Ride ROCKS! I've been waiting a millennium for a bike ride to do with my B.F.F. Betty

Wilma Flintstone

The bicycle ride with the "right stuff," in the Wright Place, Dayton! Very cool!

Amelia Earhart

For more information, check out www.girlfriendride.org or email info@girlfriendride.org