

Pets and Animals

What's happening?	Needs/Gaps	What can I/we do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAFE Pet Program: a foster care program for pets.• HAVEN= Human Animal Violence Education Network is a program that educates agencies about animal violence and its connection to human cruelty.• Community agencies have been trained and now work along side Safe Plan advocates.• Animals can now be added onto restraining orders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spread the word about the SAFE Pet and HAVEN programs to the general public.• New participants/agencies who can be trained.• Education.• Being able to identify warning signs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Join either program• Become a SAFE Pet home• Donate food/blankets to the Humane Society

Faith Community

What's happening?	Needs/Gaps	What can I/we do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Church Training is a program that teaches individuals how to be a referral resource. • Workshops are available that teach participants how to be a responsive and respectful domestic partner. Role modeling is done in hopes to prevent domestic violence. • Financial assistance is available in an emergency situation. • Meeting spiritual needs for people in Emergency Centers/Shelters. • The Faith community is trying to impact people at all the various stages in life (ex. Youth Groups, Marriage Counseling). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-escalation training for marriage counselors and volunteers at emergency shelters. • General knowledge of agencies & the resources available in the community. • Faith community should have a general knowledge of domestic violence information/warning signs. • Faith community leaders should be trained appropriately on how to work through a domestic violence situation. • Faith community usually has a relationship with both partners of the domestic relationship, who feels safe at church? • Sermon on DV annually that discusses how to have a respectful relationship together, what's happening in this community, and give referral sources at the end. • Trainings for leaders, volunteers, and even youth to coordinate a community response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate a community response. • Use appropriate and empowering language toward victims. • Safe place for victims and families because church could be a resource to them all? • Training for Faith community leaders. • Ask your local faith leaders to have sermons on respectful marriages that are relevant. • Initiate a youth group. • Start a respectful family relationships conversation. • Faith communities should build into their life cycle events education on domestic violence. • Leaders should help organize workshops that bring in community based organizations and social service agencies to the church.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions:	Answers:	What's happening now?	What can I/we do?
<p>1. How has relational violence been studied in regards to mental health and cultural concerns?</p> <p>2. Does the Crisis Intervention training for law enforcement differ from the training that EFC is hoping to facilitate on child trauma?</p> <p>3. Concerning with the impact that domestic violence has on children, are there groups for children?</p> <p>4. How is technology affecting violence?</p>	<p>1. Studies have shown that mental health can be a big factor on relational violence. Other key factors are where you live and the resources that are available to you. Awareness is key for this issue and law enforcement is trying to take a closer look on how to handle these scenarios. Mental illness and substance abuse are two separate issues in relationship violence.</p> <p>2. Yes, it is different. EFC isn't familiar enough with CIT to say the exact differences.</p> <p>3. EFC has an advocate counselor that works with children, North Adams Public School has groups, and Berkshire County Kids Place runs a mentoring program.</p> <p>4. EFC is being trained on how technology is affecting this issue. Survivors are being taught how to block on social media and phone numbers. Also, the phones the survivors are given do not have access to the Internet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning Point in Bennington has a small domestic violence group. • YMCA has discounts for families affected by domestic violence in Pittsfield and is looking into having this available in Northern Berkshire. • Rally on October 16th located at City Hall. • SAFE Berkshires is a program for children who are affected by domestic violence. • Elizabeth Freeman Center has a counselor that works within the North Adams Public Schools district. • The Children's Place is educating the children on what is/is not appropriate behavior. • Use Playwright Mentoring Program as a resource to help youth who have experienced domestic violence express themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get together as a community to have discussions to bring awareness to the general public; If you see something, call the police • Call the EFC and make a referral if you suspect domestic/emotional violence • Be an advocate. • Be a location that designates itself as a safe place for those experiencing DV to find help & support. Potential idea for sticker designation discussed. • Communicate: There is help! • Make a community group in Northern Berkshire. • Educate all workplaces on signs of domestic violence- the EFC will be calling local agencies to provide information on training. • Elizabeth Freeman Center is trying to make palm cards of domestic violence signs to be aware of (Christa Collier, NBUW, volunteered to help)

Men's Initiative

What's happening now?	Needs/Gaps	What can I/we do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 16th: Stand Out at City Hall from 4-6pm. • Monthly MICINC [Men Initiating Change in North County] meetings, which are posted on Facebook. • In Pittsfield, at Community Corrections, there is a mandatory Intimate Partners Program thru the court. This group is available to men in north county. • 24/7 Dad is a parental education program offered by nbCC in partnership with the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department. • DCF and the court can refer people to National Fatherhood Program. • MCLA and Williams each hold a "Take Back the Night" where students protest against relational violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional ways to share MICINC minutes increase visibility of the men's group to the public, and train MICINC participants in best practices. • A young men's group was proposed as a DV prevention effort. • Education on: consent & respect, characteristics of a healthy relationship, cultural impacts on DV, and identifying vulnerabilities/ predispositions/the warning signs of domestic violence. • Have a discussion on pornography and its impact on the perceptions of sex/violence and how to develop healthy masculinity in our community. • Develop a better understanding of the sex education that students receive in schools. • Enhance the connection between initiatives, local programs, schools, and the community. • Positive role models in the community & ways to interact with the men who need positive role models the most. • Support for male victims of relational violence/sexual assault. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread the word about MICINC and refer people. • Be a positive role model by joining local groups or education programs to model & interact with men in need. • Connect with the Court System. • Social media campaign that highlights positive male behavior/healthy masculinity. • Call out negativity but in a respectful manner. • Promotional campaign on relational violence in Northern Berkshire; help bring the message to everyone in the community, including diverse populations. • Include college/high school students in the dialogue. • Advocacy for mental health services • ROOTS is looking for identifying males to volunteer