Projects Available Through Living On

Silent Witness Exhibit

In 1990 a group of women from Minnesota became upset after learning about the growing number of women being murdered by their partners or acquaintances. They felt an urgency to do something that would speak out against domestic violence, something that would commemorate the lives of the women whose lives had been lost. After much brainstorming they created free standing, life-sized, red wooden figures, each one bearing the name of a woman who once lived, worked, had neighbors, friends, family, children- whose life ended violently at the hands of a husband, exhusband, partner, or acquaintance. The organizers called the figures Silent Witnesses. The mission of the Silent Witness National Initiative is to promote peace, healing, and responsibility in adult relationships in order to eliminate domestic murders.

Sheila's Shawls

Sheila's Shawls is a project sponsored by the Silent Witness National Initiative. Sheila's Shawls was created as a memorial for Sheila Wellstone, a tireless crusader on domestic violence issues. Sheila was killed tragically in a plane crash along with her husband Senator Paul Wellstone. Sheila's Shawls are presented to family and friends of domestic homicide victims in an attempt to provide love, comfort, hope, and healing.

For more information on the Silent Witness Initiative or Sheila's Shawls please contact NDCAWS at 701-255-6240.



Living On

A Support Network For Friends and Family Members of Domestic Violence Homicide Victims

NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON ABUSED WOMEN'S SERVICES

418 East Rosser Avenue #320 Bismarck, ND 58501

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> A Project of the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services



Living On Support Network

Living On is a new initiative to assist friends and families of homicide victims in North Dakota. Victim service programs have been crucial in assisting the families of survivors over the years. They tend to be crisis oriented, however, and the need for on-going support has become more and more apparent.

Becky Dunker, the coordinator of Living On, knows too well the physical demands and emotional toll domestic. violence murders have on families and communities. Becky lost a sister-in-law to a domestic violence homicide in 2001. During her search for better understanding of domestic violence, she developed a relationship with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services and from there the idea of a support network was born. Her goals as coordinator are to provide mutual support and a network of understanding to those who are dealing with the murder of a loved one. She hopes to assist individuals with the grieving process and give them reasons for Living On.

Mission of Living On

Although everybody grieves and experiences emotional pain in very individual ways, when we come together to share our experiences, we see that there are many similarities too. Living On is a support network for friends and family members of domestic violence homicides who are banding together to support each other and make a difference in reducing violence in our communities. Living On will facilitate communication among individuals and organizations to share information, resources, and ideas to improve support and victim assistance to homicide victims' family and friends. Through this support network, survivors will be given a voice; a voice to speak to other survivors, so no one that goes through this type of trauma ever feels alone; a voice to speak out in honor of victims of homicides to ensure that victims receive the dignity and respect they deserve.

Goals of Living On

*Facilitate support to family and friends of domestic violence homicides

*Link family and friends with services and resources

*Provide a support network through internet access

*Publish Quarterly Newsletters for Living
On Network

*Declare a day of mourning in remembrance of domestic violence homicide Victims

*Introduce the Sheila's Shawls Project to North Dakota

*Establish a mobile Silent Witness Exhibit

Who can so softly bind up the wound of another, as he who has felt the same wound himself.

-Thomas Jefferson