

Women Are Safe, Inc.

P O Box 2
Centerville, TN 37185

HOTLINE : 1-800-470-1117 (Dickson, Humphreys, Perry Counties) **729-5730** (Hickman County)



SAFE SANCTUARY

Although domestic violence is no stranger to those who gather in our churches, it is a subject seldom mentioned by our church leaders. That is such a shame because religious institutions can be a powerful resource for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence when they are educated on domestic violence and address the problem openly with their congregations. Members of clergy can play a very important role in expressing condemnation of domestic violence from their pulpits. The consistent message that domestic violence is unacceptable should be voiced through sermons to congregations, in classes for children, and in programs for adults.

Members of clergy should educate themselves on the dynamics of domestic violence. Victims often consult with their ministers regarding difficulties in their marriages. Domestic violence training will enable clergy to recognize abusive relationships and to know that the appropriate response in such cases is to refer the victim to a domestic violence program for assistance and to express clear disapproval of the violent behavior.

Churches, members and leaders have a tremendous opportunity to help in so many ways.

1. Educate themselves and others on the issue.
2. Be a support system to survivors in their congregations.
3. Be a financial support to local domestic violence programs.

Women Are Safe, Inc. is available to provide educational programs to church groups in our service area on dating violence prevention and domestic violence dynamics. Also, during the month of October, we will be providing an information sheet on what every congregation needs to know about domestic violence. These sheets can be mailed out in church bulletins or distributed in any way deemed appropriate. If we miss your congregation, please contact us for the information. Let's commit ourselves to working together to end domestic violence one family at a time. Healthy families lead to healthy churches and healthy communities.

Korie Cochran
Children's Program Coordinator
Women Are Safe, Inc.
P. O. Box 2
Centerville, TN 37033
931-729-9885