



SILENT WITNESS CAMPAIGN

The District-wide Silent Witness Campaign is aimed at visually impacting our communities, while educating the public about domestic violence. The Campaign will feature Zonta clubs exhibiting life-size silhouettes, each silhouette representing a woman who was murdered by her husband or intimate partner. Because these women no longer have a voice, the silhouettes are called 'Silent Witnesses'. Clubs will also present the silhouettes and information related to domestic violence and its impact on all parts of society to a male dominated organization (i.e., Rotary, Breakfast Exchange, Men's church group) to emphasize that domestic violence is not just a woman's issue—it is a human issue. This is a combined project involving both the Service and Advocacy Committee.

WHY:

The objectives of the Initiative are:

1. To remember -- by honoring women who were murdered by an intimate partner.
2. To create awareness -- by sharing information in our communities about the nature and extent of relationship violence.
3. To promote action -- by profiling local resources that support women coping with violence in their lives and by encouraging community and government action to end all forms of violence in our society.
4. To prevent a root cause through education by educating men about the forms of domestic violence, preventative measures, and the impacts on all parts of society.

WHEN:

Each club should schedule their event during the "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women," November 25 through December 10.

HOW:

Service component: Prepare silhouettes, plan and produce event, in conjunction with community education activity.

Advocacy component: Research the names and stories of recent victims for display on the silhouettes, plan and produce community education activity. Take pictures of your event and post on social media. Involve the local television and radio stations, as well as an area newspaper.

Tips and Ideas to Help Your Exhibit Work

- ❖ Contact a local battered women's shelter, YWCA, county health department or similar local organization to obtain brochures, fact sheets, *etc.* for distribution with your exhibit. Have a table of these pamphlets available for people to take away with them. Remember, education is a key component of this project.
- ❖ Print small commitment cards that visitors to your exhibit can sign and place in a basket. These cards can contain statements like, "I commit to taking care of myself" and "I commit to bringing peace and responsible behavior to my serious relationships". This way you can invite each individual in your community to make a personal pledge to engage in peaceful relationships.
- ❖ Take pictures of your exhibit or program. We would love to post some of these on the D12 website.
- ❖ This campaign can be done with little or practically no funds.
- ❖ Hold a candlelight vigil at the close of your exhibit as a way to wrap up your program and to honor all of the victims of domestic violence in this country and around the world.
- ❖ Make small purple ribbons for each visitor to your exhibit. Dark purple is the color of remembrance for victims of domestic violence.
- ❖ Have visitors to your exhibit anonymously write their reflections and impressions of the exhibit in a guest book or notebook after viewing the figures.
- ❖ Be creative and innovative! There are numerous ways to accomplish this Campaign. But, the goal is always the same--to speak for those women who can no longer speak for themselves with an emphasis on Zonta's role in eradicating violence against women.
- ❖ Keep presentations short, 20 minutes or less.
- ❖ At your exhibit, put out a basket to request donations to a local shelter or Zonta International.
- ❖ Use flowers or a plant at the foot of each witness and soft music in the space where your exhibit is being displayed. Whatever you can do to add an atmosphere of honor and respect to the victims is important.