

Turning Point

Freeing Families From Fear



SISTERCARE

Freeing Families From Fear

Sistercare is a non-profit organization that provides services to survivors of domestic violence and their children residing in Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties in South Carolina.

The Facts

- **3.3 Million:** Estimated number of children in the U.S. each year that witness violence against their mother by a family member.
- **40-60:** Percentage of men who abuse women who also abuse children.
- **175,000:** Number of workdays American employees miss each year on account of domestic violence.
- **40-70:** Percentage of female murder victims in the U.S. who were killed by their husbands or boyfriends, often within an ongoing abusive relationship.

Spring 2018

Victim Blaming and Domestic Violence

Written By Leah McKee, Director of Grants Management



We have heard it in the news, on social media, and perhaps even amongst our friends and acquaintances:

“If it was so bad, why didn’t she just leave? I would have left the second my husband raised a hand to me.”

“She was drunk and provoked him. He would never hurt her without a reason.”

“She didn’t even report it to the police. It must not have been that bad.”

Why do some people jump to blame the victim? And more importantly, do they realize how dangerous this can be for the victim?

One reason people blame a victim is to distance themselves from the unpleasantness of the situation, which gives a false sense that domestic violence could never happen to them. This could be a harmful reaction and in turn marginalizes the victims and makes it harder for them to come forward about the abuse. Not seeking help can endanger victims. Victim blaming creates barriers, which limits options. In addition, victim blaming allows the abuser to avoid accountability and can lead to prolonged and escalating abuse, and in some cases, domestic homicide.

When *USA Today* reported that former Spice Girl Mel B accused her estranged husband of domestic abuse, one woman commented, “Why is it that everyone saw this coming but her? Let’s see what idiot she hooks up with next.” Both men and women victim blame and those who experience it often feel shocked and demoralized.

You can take a stand against victim blaming by challenging victim-blaming statements when you hear them, letting victims know it is not their fault, holding abusers accountable for their actions, acknowledging that survivors are their own best experts and provide them with support, and avoid victim blaming in the media.

Article Sources: domesticshelters.org, The Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness



Sistercare



@SistercareSC

We Need Your Help

By: Shatoyia Todd, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator

Become a Sistercare Volunteer



Group volunteers from the Alpha Chi Omega sorority at USC provided mulch, beautiful flowers, raked leaves, and trimmed hedges to make Sistercare's administrative and counseling building more inviting.

We currently have 145 volunteers on our roster and we couldn't do the work that we do without them. Our volunteers provide community outreach, make presentations regarding intimate partner violence, assist with our Hospital Accompaniment Program, dedicate their time to support our administrative services, and lend a hand wherever they are needed. But how did those volunteers get here? The process of becoming a Sistercare volunteer is as follows: please complete an application, participate in a short interview, pass two background checks, attend a mandatory training session, and shadow with a current volunteer. The time commitments are flexible and based upon opportunities that are presented to us. But why do those volunteers take those steps to volunteer? There are many reasons why our volunteers dedicate their time and support to Sistercare, the top reasons include:

1. Being able to give back to the community.
2. Volunteering to show dedication and support of a survivor of intimate partner violence.
3. Wanting to be able to share their own personal domestic violence stories.
4. Having the desire to educate others about the dangers of intimate partner violence.

The reasons for volunteering with Sistercare are various and are unique to each volunteer; their reasons drive them to be upstanding, dedicated, hardworking volunteers that create a wonderful foundation for our organization. We look forward to welcoming more volunteers to our roster, and if you or someone you know is interested in giving their time and service to Sistercare, please contact our Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator at 803-926-0505 or volunteercoord@sistercare.com.

Sistercare's Wish List

Sistercare is always in need of donations! Here is our wish list:

- ◆ Baby Products
- ◆ Nonperishable Food
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Bedding
- ◆ Car Seats
- ◆ Cell Phones (any condition)
- ◆ Cleaning Agents (Ajax, etc.)
- ◆ Home Goods
- ◆ Strollers
- ◆ Dish Sets
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Trash Bags (extra-large)
- ◆ Gas Cards
- ◆ Vehicles (used & running)

* We are unable to accept clothing donations at this time.

Midlands Gives is Tuesday, May 1, 2018!

By: Paula Howell, Director of Development



Join Sistercare for 24 Hours of Giving

Where: Donate online at www.midlandsgives.org/sistercare

Sistercare will participate in Midlands Gives 2018, the fifth-annual community-wide day of giving sponsored by the Central Carolina Community Foundation. When you donate through www.midlandsgives.org/sistercare on May 1, every dollar you give will be magnified with bonus funds and prizes. Your donation to Sistercare will be used to provide services to children and teens exposed to domestic violence to include counseling, early intervention, and education about domestic violence and dating violence to prevent future domestic violence and help break the intergenerational cycle of violence.

As we count down the days until this exciting community-wide event takes place, please visit www.sistercare.org/ to learn more about our mission and how you can make a difference.



Yes!

I will donate to help prevent domestic violence.

Pledge Amount: _____

Monthly Yearly

My tax-deductible contribution is enclosed:

\$500 \$50
 \$100 \$25 Other

Please make checks out to: Sistercare.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

To donate online through PayPal, please visit

www.sistercare.org

Please contact me regarding shares of stock.

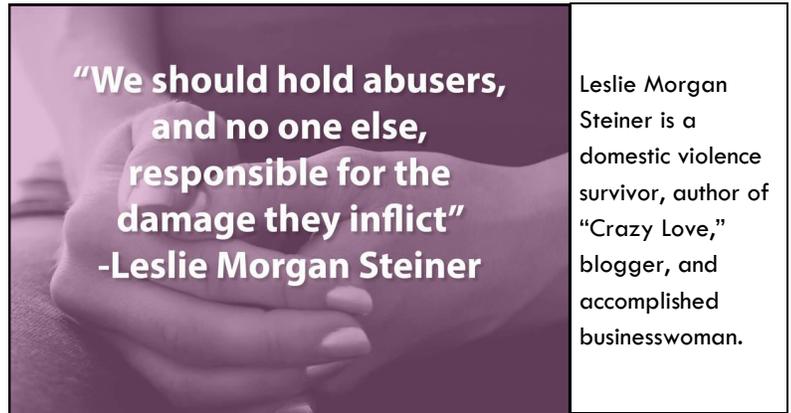
My company will match my gift.

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

*Sistercare is a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 partner agency of
the United Way.*



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