



& My Sister's Place

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Estes Valley Victim Advocates provides victim services: Advocacy • Counseling • Information & Referrals • Education • Safehousing



During 2009 National Crime Victim's Rights Week, we celebrate landmark federal legislation that was enacted 25 years ago on behalf of victims of crime. It's easy to forget that twenty-five years ago, victims had little help. State compensation programs were poorly funded, victim services were scarce and most victims faced their traumatic experiences alone. Today, programs like Estes Valley Victim Advocates are in every community supporting victims of crime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Teen Dating Violence by Annette Marshall, Safehouse Manager

What if your high school son's new girlfriend calls his cell 20 times while your family is at dinner? Or your normally spunky best friend stops looking happy and hanging out with you now that she is dating the new kid? Or your 12 year old is on MySpace and seems unusually defensive about being 'private'? Healthy teen relationships can be difficult for adults to untangle. According to www.loveisnotabuse.com: 3 in 4 tweens (11-14yrs)begin boy/girl relationships at 14 or younger. 62% of tweens who have been in a romantic relationship know a friend who has been verbally abused by a partner. Only 50% of all tweens claim to know the warning signs. More than 20% of tweens admit parents know little to nothing about their dating relationships. 1 in 3 teens know someone who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by a partner. ONLY 30% of teens who have been in or know about an abusive relationship said they told someone. National community assessments continue to reveal society still blames the victim. There is NO excuse for abusive behavior at any age! Surveys show that 90% of those in abusive relationships never reach out for help. Society still makes excuses for the abusive behaviors. 'Love is an action or group of actions, behaviors that bring a good feeling to others. Love does NOT hurt, you are NOT afraid or sad, you do NOT wish it could be different'. Teens are learning what are acceptable behaviors and they still need adult guidance. Parents and friends need to act if they feel something is wrong. Let them know you are uncomfortable or scared with how they are being treated. Help them seek advice, direction or help.

Estes Valley Victim Advocates is a non-profit agency funded through the Town of Estes Park, Larimer County Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Board, Colorado Domestic Abuse Assistance Program, Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, Estes Park Medical Center, United Way of Larimer County, Estes Valley Community Resources Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, Estes Park Thrift Store, Lions Club of Estes Park, Quota Club, Estes Park Rotary Foundation, and community donations and local agency fundraisers.

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Estes Valley Victim Advocates and My Sister's Place to support victims of crime and trauma in our community.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Estes Valley Victim Advocates, P.O. Box 1287, Estes park, CO 80517

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The Estes Valley Community Foundation is the philanthropic organization dedicated to building an endowment to meet the diverse needs of our community by attracting, managing and distributing funds entrusted by donors. Creating an endowment fund with the Estes Valley Community Foundation is a commitment to our future. Please remember Estes Valley Victim Advocates Endowment Fund in your estate planning. Call 586-5063 for information on how to financially support Estes Valley Victim Advocates in this way.