

Service Commission

December, 2017

Projects from NCCW

NCCW has put together service projects that we would like to focus on. To learn more please visit nccw.org.

Women Healing the Wounds: Domestic Violence

Abuse takes many forms: emotional torment, verbal, sexual assault, threats and, physical force or injury.

Domestic violence is a learned behavior that increases in frequency and severity.

Battery is the single greatest cause of injury to women of all ages, more common than auto accidents, muggings and rapes. Most assaults are never reported. In this country, a woman is beaten every 15 seconds. One-third of all female homicide victims are killed by their husband or partner. One out of four women will be abused during their lives.

Domestic violence occurs in 33%-66% of all adult co-habiting relationships regardless of age, race, sex, religious affiliation, marital status, education, income or social standing. Similar statistics apply to teenage date abuse.

Abusers tend to exhibit “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” behaviors, showing extremes in both kindness and cruelty. Others seldom see or suspect this person of explosive rage.

Pregnancies have been terminated due to abuse.

Respite Program

RESPITE trains local volunteers to help family members care for loved-ones at home by offering relief and renewal to the family caregivers. The NCCW program includes a curriculum to train volunteers, materials to promote the program, and a group insurance program for Respite volunteers. Upon implementation by a diocese, the NCCW Respite program is regulated by its own safe environmental criteria. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops mandated that each bishop select which program to use, and the vast majority use the program called Protecting God’s Children (PGC). All volunteers must complete this PGC class, which is a once in a lifetime class, and they must have a current criminal background check on file with their parish or diocesan office. It is necessary for each diocese to know what is required in their diocese. All volunteers must complete Respite Care basic training and have all safe environment criteria in place before being placed with a client. Since NCCW provides our insurance, we must have all components in line and cannot misrepresent NCCW or any of our dioceses.

Media — What is the message?

Media provide great opportunities and great dangers. It requires an intelligent and sensible approach to use it properly in a healthy balanced life. It is also incumbent that there be strong supervision of youth and adolescents in their use of all kinds of media and an awareness of the good and bad aspects media offers to adults. There must be frequent and open discussion in

families when they encounter unavoidable exposure to value-negative messages through media such as in commercials, magazine articles and ads, and billboards that glorify violence, sex, extreme commercialism, and other inappropriate influences as normal and desirable. Parents need to assume this duty to explain why such messages are unacceptable and not accurate portrayals of what a normal healthy life should be.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery that subjects children, women, and men to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. This horrific practice can include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism as well as domestic servitude, factory work, migrant farming, and mining. Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling; it does not require movement across borders.

Human trafficking happens in all 50 states. The U.S. is a source and transit point for trafficking and is considered one of the major destinations for trafficking victims. Anyone can be trafficked regardless of class, education, gender, age, or citizenship when lured by false promises and the desire for a better life.