

# THE CRIME WATCHER



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



The Fishers Crime Watch Program began in 1994 and reaches 7,000 homes in Fishers. I encourage you to become active in your neighborhood and support the Crime Watch Program. When neighbors look out for each other, everyone benefits.

*Chief George G. Kehl*

## Did you know...in Indiana...

July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011  
Total Domestic Violence Deaths 62

Domestic Violence Victims Served in Emergency Shelters  
Women 6,194 Men 16 Children 4,532

Gender of Domestic Violence Victims Served in Emergency Shelters  
Female 81.78% Male 16.66% Unspecified 1.56%

Domestic Violence Victims Served by Non-Residential Programs  
Women 14,638 Men 679 Children 4727  
Total Number of Crisis Line Calls 65,493  
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Program Statistics 2011

## Hamilton County Domestic Violence Victims have ALTERNATIVES

Once a Hamilton County domestic violence victim has made the courageous decision to leave an abusive situation, where can they turn for help? Quite literally, these victims have **Alternatives, Inc.**, the United Way designated domestic violence shelter and advocacy center for families in Hamilton County.

According to Mary Jo Lee, Executive Director of Alternatives, "Our shelter services are much more than a bed and three meals a day. We are very focused on helping families break the cycle of violence and move forward in their lives." Alternatives is available 24/7 and not only provides shelter services, but helps with the necessary counseling, job services, child counseling and expert support services as well as general advocacy for all victims.

So far in 2011, Alternatives has served 212 families from Hamilton county, a 16% increase due to more widespread awareness of their ser-

vices and more responsive communities helping these victims.

Alternatives also works with local police departments in Hamilton County and praises the assistance neighborhood watch groups provide. "The people who know best that is going on in a neighborhood are the persons who live in the neighborhood. The police cannot respond if there is not a reported incident and more citizens are helping victims by recognizing the signs and making that call," Lee maintains. One popular service that Alternatives provides is community outreach trainings and education for community groups, neighborhood organizations—any group that wants to learn more about family violence and how to be part of the solution to ending this epidemic.

The Fishers Police Department Citizens' Academy Alumni group helped out in another way - by donating funds to purchase linens and necessities for some of the family suites at the shelter. Donations of money,

time and talent are always welcome and go so far in helping victims from your own community. During the month of October, the Fishers, Greenwood and Carmel Beauty Brands stores are donating **100%** of the proceeds from their sales of Guts™ Volume-boosting spray to Alternatives.

As the child's drawing below shows, "Peace begins at home." Help the Fishers Police Department and Alternatives help our victims find that peace

**Alternatives, Inc.**  
Toll Free 24/7 hotline:  
866-593-9999  
Administrative Office:  
765-643-0218  
[www.alternativesdv.org](http://www.alternativesdv.org)



4 Municipal Drive  
Fishers, Indiana 46038



For information on the Fishers Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program contact Officer Tom Weger at [weger@fishers.in.us](mailto:weger@fishers.in.us) or call 317-595-3300.



[WWW.FISHERS.IN.US](http://WWW.FISHERS.IN.US)

Fishers Police  
Department  
4 Municipal Drive  
Fishers, Indiana 46038  
317-595-3300

FAX 317-595-3344



## FISHERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

For information on the Fishers Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program contact Officer Tom Weger at [weger@fishers.in.us](mailto:weger@fishers.in.us) or call 317-595-3300.

Every day 4 women  
in this country die  
as a result of  
domestic violence.  
That is approx.  
1,400 women  
a year.

Indiana Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence  
**24-Hour Statewide Hotline**  
**Linea Directa Estatal de 24**  
**Horas**  
**1.800.332.7385**

"Domestic abuse is the use of power and control within an intimate relationship that threatens a person's emotional or physical well being. Prevail believes all people deserve to live free of fear in their own homes." Prevail, Inc.

**Call Prevail today :**  
**24-Hour Crisis Line:**  
**(317) 776-3472**

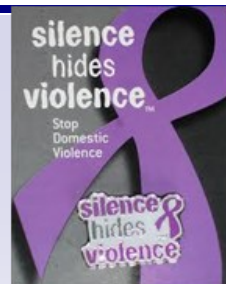
## How can Neighborhood Watch help stop family violence?

You should call law enforcement if you suspect domestic violence, even if only to get advice on how to address the situation in your neighborhood.

Countless people have lost their lives to domestic violence crimes in the U.S. - not only intimate partners, but their children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, friends, and co-workers. In addition, many bystanders and professionals who work in the field have also fallen victim to these crimes. Countless more have been injured, many critically. Most recover - some from devastating injuries. YOU can be that link to survival for a victim in your neighborhood.

After the police have become involved in a domestic violence incident, it can be challenging to figure out the best way to support and provide helpful assistance to a friend who is the victim of domestic violence. At the outset, you must keep in mind that every situation of domestic violence is unique. Contact a professional, an expert trained in dealing with victims of domestic violence. Not only can such a professional stand ready to assist your friend, she can help you in being a productively supportive friend for your abused friend.

Domestic violence is a serious community problem, which affects individuals of all races, religions and socio-economic backgrounds, including elders and juveniles. The Fishers Police Department responds to acts of domestic violence as crimes. Victims of domestic violence are treated with respect and dignity and are given all available assistance. We can't do it alone — if you suspect domestic violence, please make that call and help a family.



## Support, Employment and other Counseling Options : YOU can help!

There are several agencies in our community that can provide victims with assistance.

**Prevail** is a victim awareness and support program in Hamilton County. They are committed to offering services, free of charge, in a confidential, supportive, non-judgmental environment meant to empower, educate and strengthen those we serve. From one-on-one safety planning to ongoing support groups, Prevail offers services to families who have experienced or are living with violence and abuse. By openly and consistently addressing financial education along with job readiness for all clients, Prevail works to address the long-term self-sufficiency needs of the women served.

**Recognize the signs of domestic violence.** If someone you know is becoming more with-

drawn, has unexplained injuries or seems fearful of other people in the household, she may be a victim of domestic violence.

**Communicate your concerns with the victim and express understanding that she is in a difficult situation.** Demanding that she leave her abuser will not help the situation and will make her feel more alone and persecuted.

**Listen to everything the victim has to say and be as nonjud-**



**mental as possible.** Be supportive and let the victim know that you are available to lend assistance.

**Encourage the victim to take part in events and activities outside of the abusive relationship.** The abuser frequently will try to isolate the victim from any support system and participating in outside activities can help raise self-esteem and provide more emotional support for the victim.

**Provide information for shelters and anti-abuse programs.** The victim has to make the decision on her own to seek out assistance, but by providing resources, you can encourage it without being pushy or overbearing.

Call the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)** to discuss the situation with someone who can advise you and provide more advice on how to proceed.