

Feb. 4, 1988 – Dec. 1, 2019



Presented by
Susann Montgomery-Clark
Meredith & Megan's Mom
Co-Founder & Board President

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

“DO MORE”



- **Megan**
- **Surviving the Unthinkable**
- **God Winks**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Critical Unmet Need**
- **Megan's Foundation- our response to unmet need**
- **Challenge to Ladies of Charity**



7 yrs old



10 yrs old



Age 16 Protesting Circus



“Most Likely to Save the World”





- **Jr. Board GBHS**
- **UAB. M.A. Pres. Honors**
- **UAB Writer**



Age 29 First date July 2017

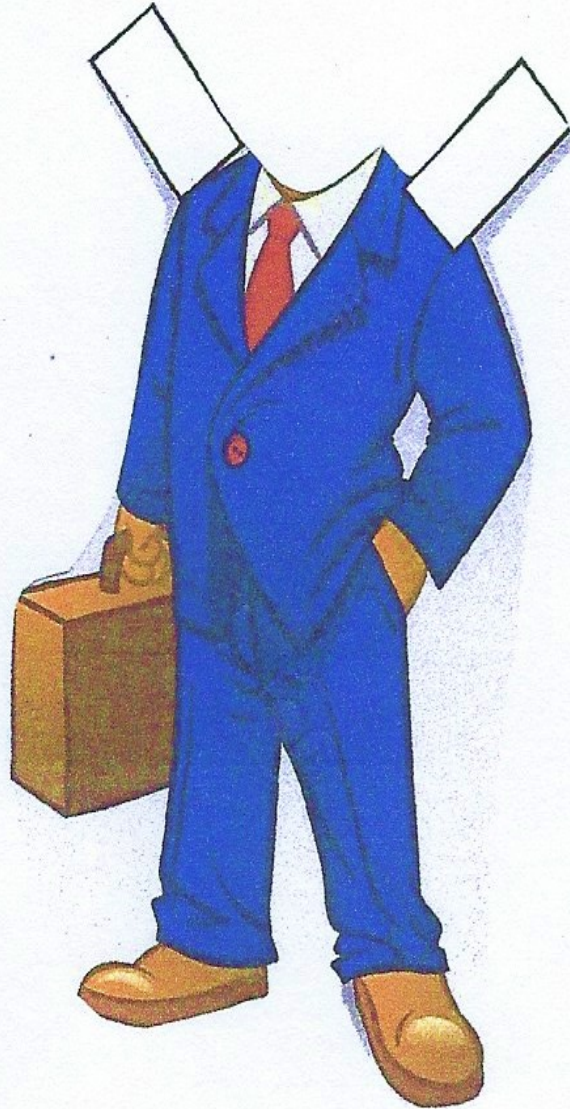


caps.com

Megan's Fund (c)









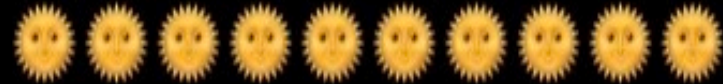


ON EAGLE'S WINGS



48 likes

meganmontgomery Make you to shine like the sun.
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.



View all 5 comments

meredithgummy 😭😭 and He will raise you up
— on eagles wings!



meganmontgomery @meredithgummy yes





9:04 AM
meganmontgomery
Hoover, Alabama
To show them the warning signs, why
it is so HARD to get out, to help them
with the legal system, to help them
leave sooner. I would have never been
shot had I just

COURAGEOUS

October , 2019

To show them the warning signs. Why it is so
HARD to get out. To help them with the legal
system.

I'm embarking on my new calling to help
other girls and other victims.

calling to help other girls and other
victims.



**God often uses our deepest
pain
as the launching pad of our
deepest *calling*.**

November 28, 2019



Waited 213 days for JUSTICE





Megan Montgomery, 31, was killed Dec. 1, 2019 by her estranged husband, former police officer Jason McIntosh. Contributed

Megan Montgomery , 31, was killed Dec. 1. 2019 by her estranged husband, former police officer Jason McIntosh.



Grief
by
Albert Gyorgy

***The LORD is close to the
brokenhearted and saves
those who are crushed in
spirit. Ps 34:18***

The Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM

A guilty plea, and a vow to fight domestic abuse



Megan Montgomery, 21, was found shot to death Dec. 1, 2018, in the parking lot of the Mountain Brook Middle School. Her estranged husband, Jason Bragg McLeod, was sentenced this week after pleading guilty to the murder. Carol Kottmann, staff file

Megan Montgomery Domestic Violence Prevention Fund will help provide education on dating, domestic violence prevention

Carol Kottmann, staff file

Just a few weeks before Megan Montgomery was shot to death in the dark, empty parking lot near Mountain Brook High School, she posted on social media that she wanted to help others avoid the trap of abusive relationships.

"I want to share them the warning signs, why it is so hard to get out, is help them with the legal system, to help them have control. I wanted to bring the book to the hospital and I want it to be easy," the 21-year-old Montgomery wrote.

Montgomery's family on Wednesday, just hours after McLeod pleaded guilty to a second charge of murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for her death, spoke publicly about their ordeal and announced they have set up the Megan Montgomery Domestic Violence Prevention Fund at The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

The fund will give grants to nonprofits, high schools and colleges to provide advice and support to students, families and



April 2, 2021

17 months after Megan's death

30 Yr Sentence



Do not be overcome by evil, but
overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

Surviving the Unthinkable

- Prayer
- Reading/grief counseling
- Turning Pain into Purpose
- Support of family & friends



Megan's friends' support





**John Carroll Catholic High
School Honors Megan
Oct 2, 2021**

Devotions for Every Day of the Year

Sarah Young



Jesus Calling®

ENJOYING PEACE IN HIS PRESENCE

KATHLEEN O'HARA, MA

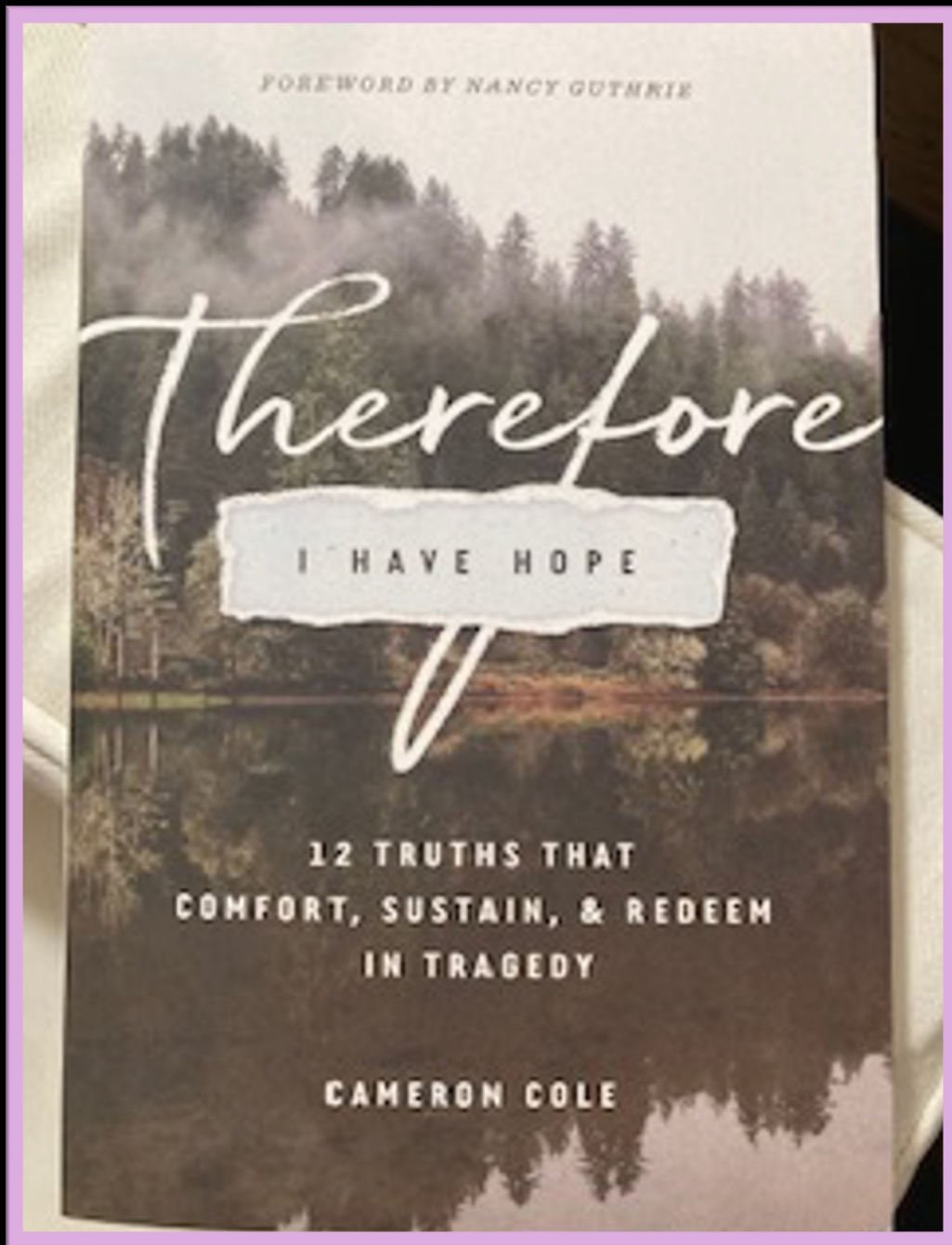
FOREWORD BY DR. DAN GOTTLIEB,
HOST OF NPR'S "Voices in the Family"

A Grief Like No Other



SURVIVING THE VIOLENT
DEATH OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE

**25% of Survivors
PTSD up to 8 yrs
later**



“You now have knowledge, experience & credibility in an area you never wanted.

But your trial will make you into a vessel of hope & comfort for someone else down the road.”

When Bad Things Happen to Good People

THE INSPIRATIONAL #1 BESTSELLER
OVER 4 MILLION COPIES SOLD

HAROLD S.
KUSHNER



Do not be overcome by evil, but
overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

Father John Muir

“Jesus tells us that God is not the cause of evil

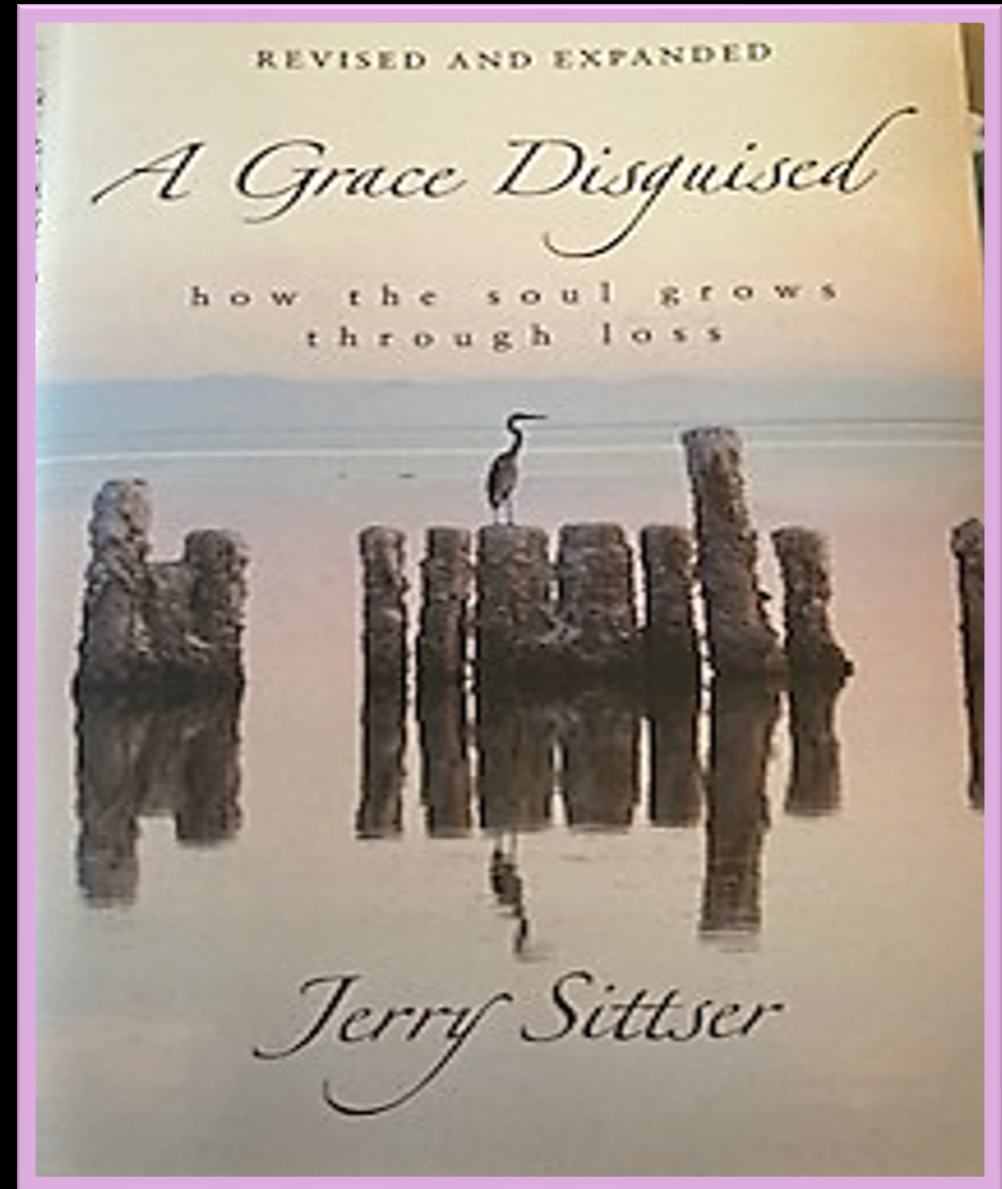
But permits evil to exist with good out of his patient love.

He will finally deal with it, but his love lets things stay messy for a while.

We have to embrace patience rooted in hope.”

Unthinkable Loss

- ~~WHY ME?~~
- WHY NOT ME





**“Only in eternity shall we see the beauty of the soul
And only there shall we realize what great things
Were accomplished by interior suffering.”**

Grief Counseling

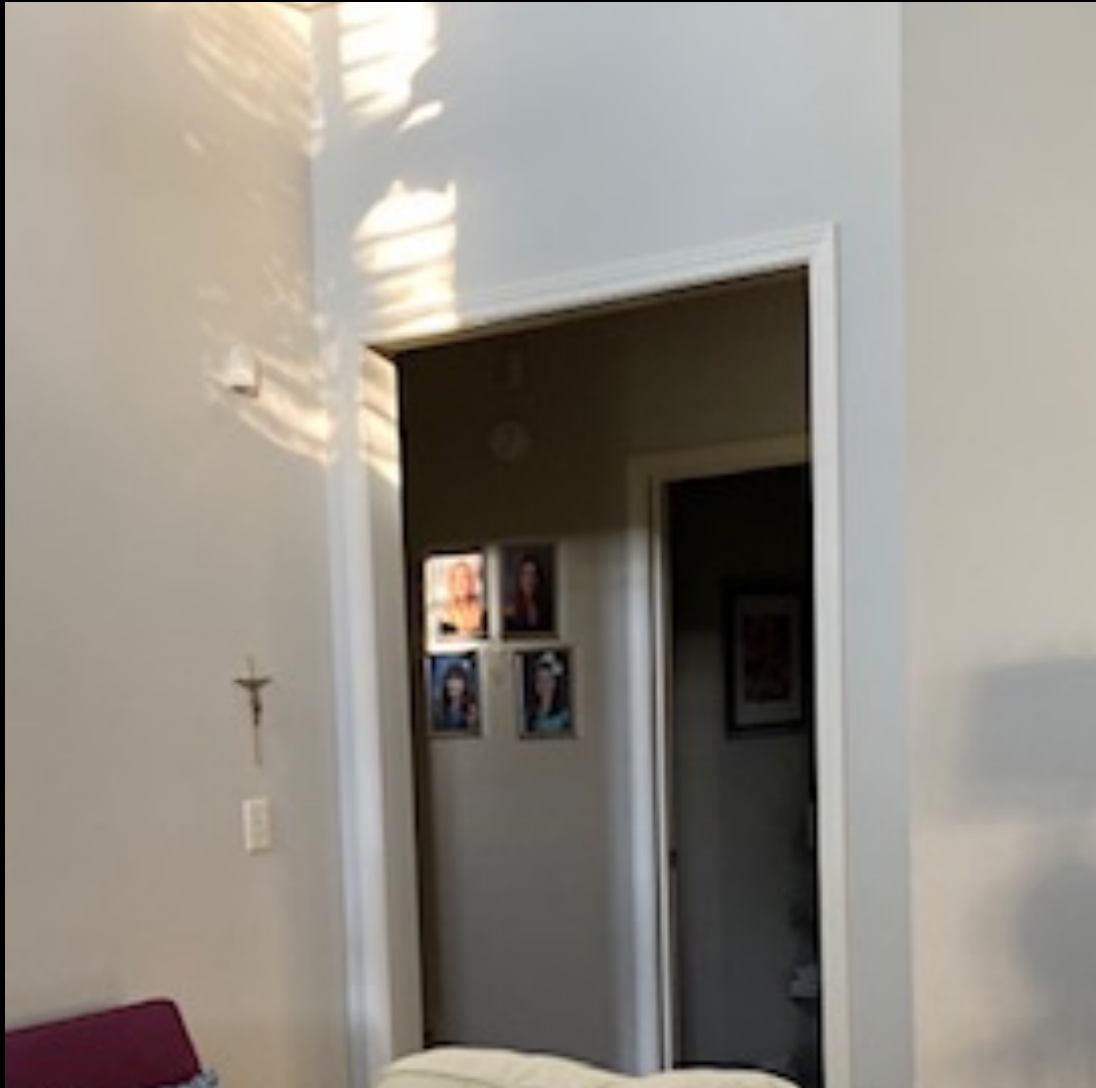


GOD WINKS

Coincidences --too strange to be rationally explained.

- When we are hurting, God uses God Winks to part the veil between Heaven & earth.**

GOD WINKS



GOD WINKS



GOD WINKS



**How does someone like
Megan
become a victim of a violent man?**



TWO YEARS RESEARCH ON DV

- **He was never held accountable**
- **The criminal justice system failed her**
 - **She and WE were uninformed**

DV cuts across EVERY race, age, income.
Megan was 1 of 1,800
Criminal Justice System generally fails victims



Definition of DV

- Any pattern of behavior in a relationship -to gain control over another.
- Threats, Intimidation, fear, manipulation.
(Coercive Control)
- Emotional, psychological, physical, sexual.

HISTORY

- **5th century catholic church -Men abuse their wives - discipline**
- **To this day- abuse -not a reason to divorce. Even if life in danger.**
- **1970's First DV shelter opened in NY**
- **1993 U.N finally declared it was a human rights issue**

***HORRIFIC REALITY**

- **210 people killed in 42 mass killings 2022**
- **1,700 women killed by partners in 2021**
- **66% of mass murders linked to DV past**

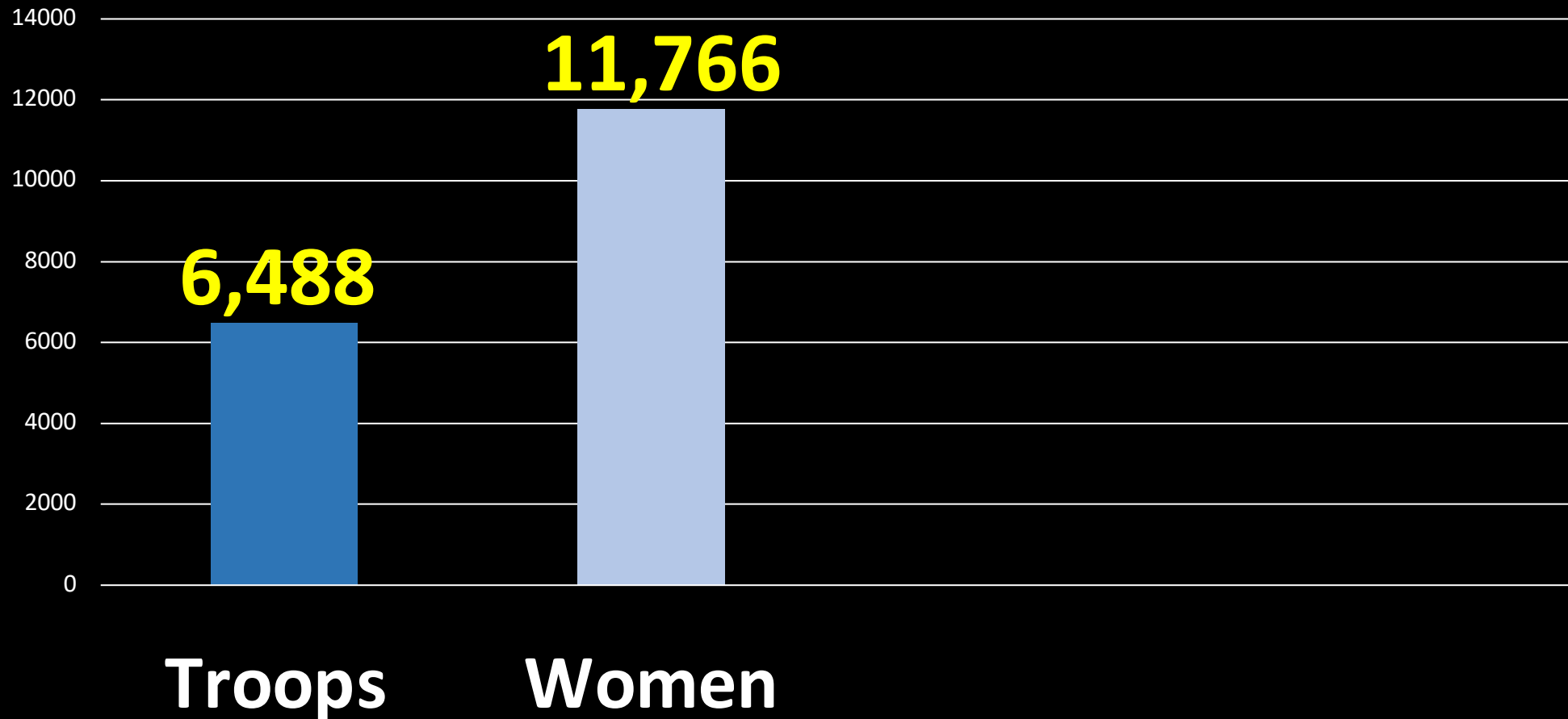
***USA Today/Northeastern University 2023 mass killing database**

DISPROPORTIONATE FOR BLACK WOMEN*

**Twice as likely to be murdered by a spouse.
Four times as likely to be murdered by a
boyfriend or girlfriend.**

*U.S. Department of Justice 2007 Study-Domesticshelters.org

AMER. WOMEN KILLED BY PARTNER VS TROOPS AFGHANISTAN & IRAQ 2001 - 2012

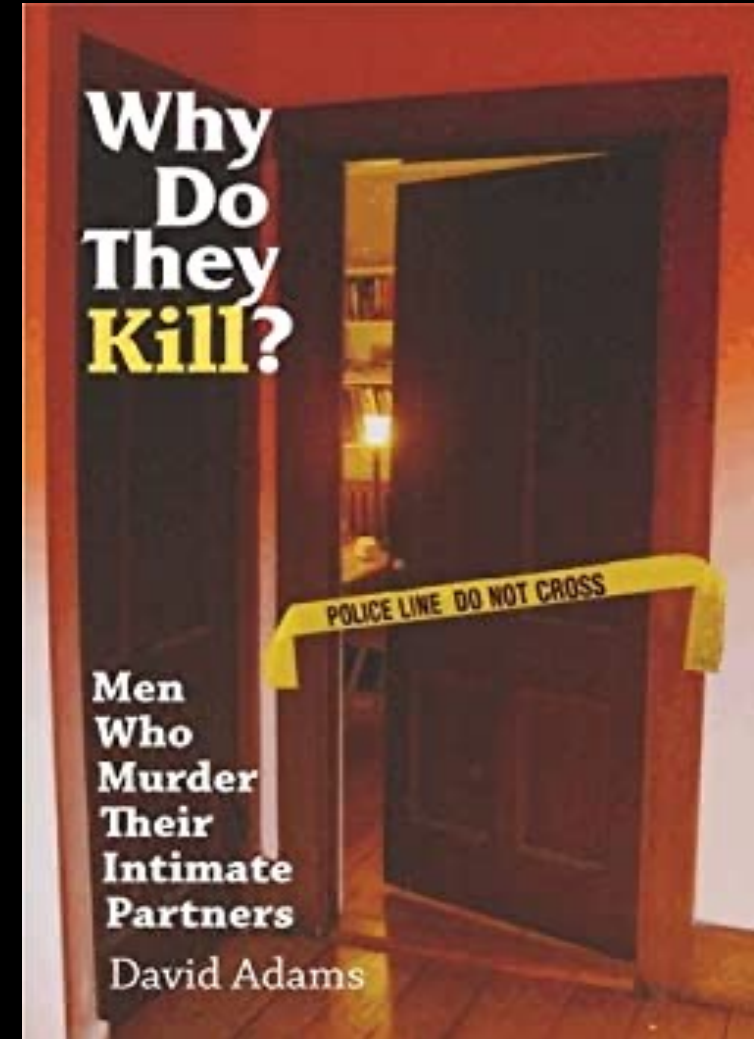


Dr. David Adams *

- DV is NOT a crime of passion, but escalating and predictable over time
- PREVENTABLE
- MIDDLE SCHOOL!

***Why do they kill? Men who murder their intimate partners.**

2007

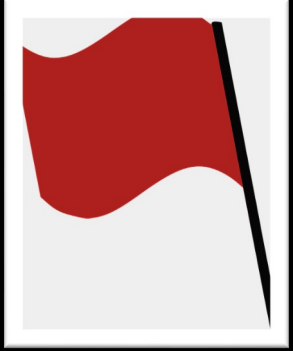


Love Bombing

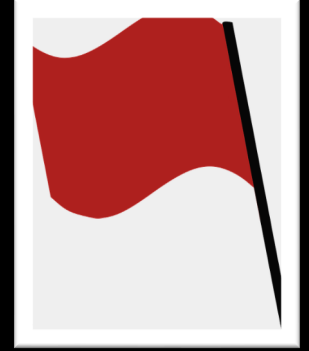
Tactics used to potentially control victims

- **Intense attention in the beginning**
- **Never-ending compliments**
- **Demanding commitment early on**
- **Disrespecting boundaries**
- **Mirroring your personality**



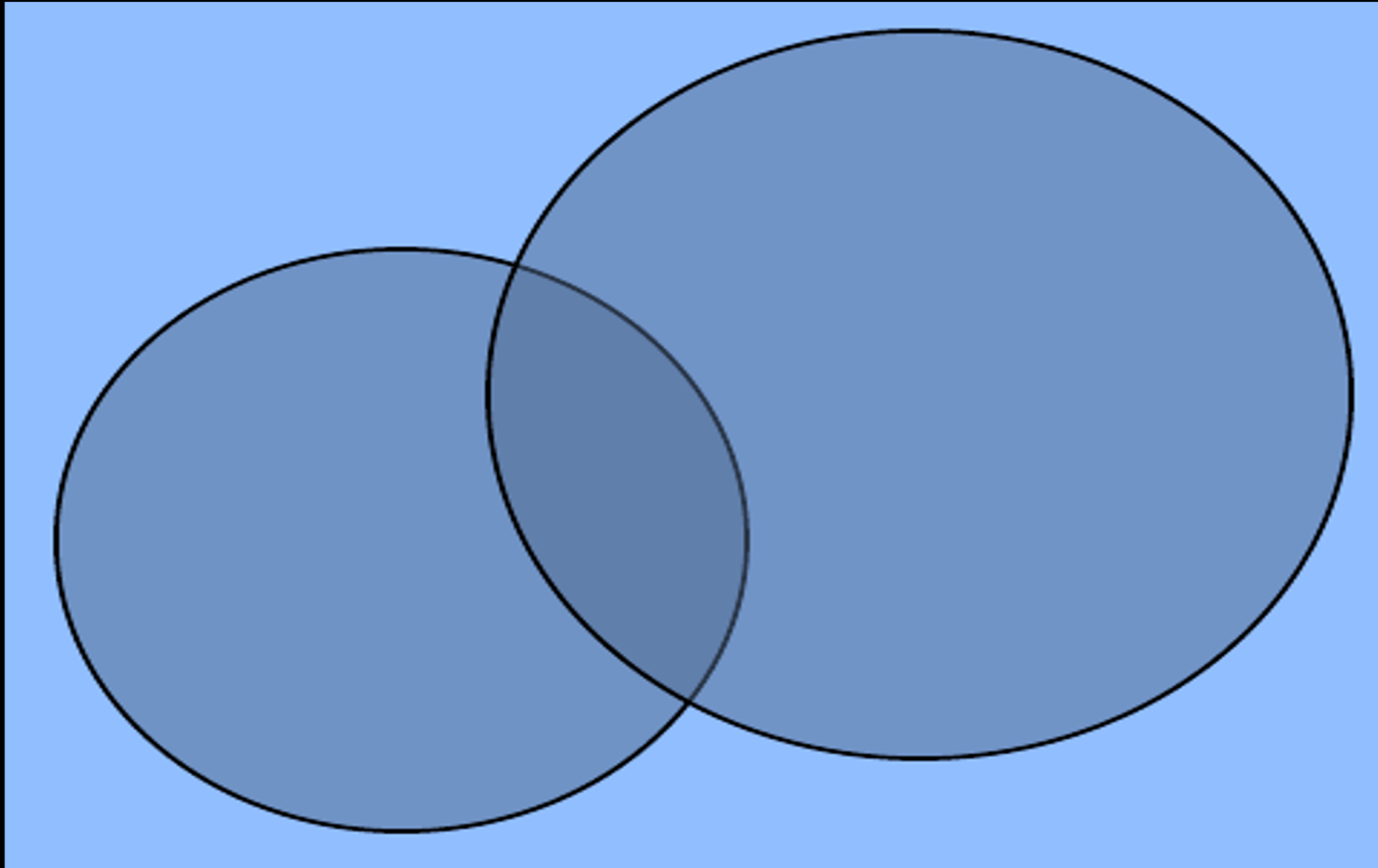


Know the Red Flags of abusive partner

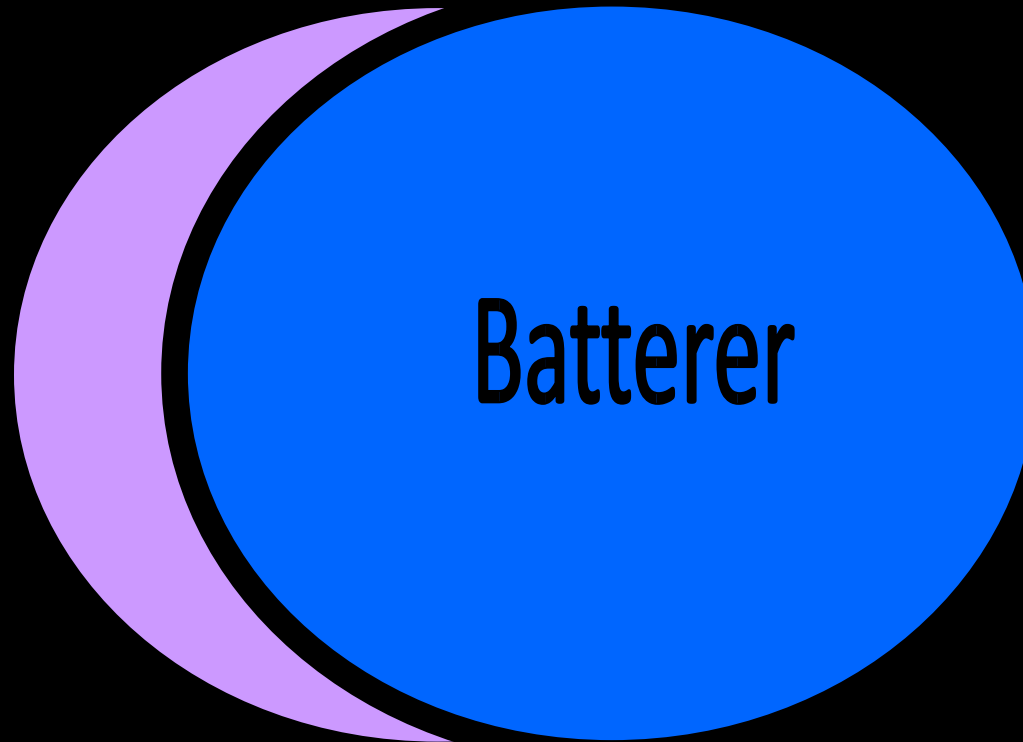


- 1. Demands access to phone & social media**
- 2. Isolates you**
- 3. Follows you or shows up at dorm, class or job**
- 4. Begins to criticize you/call you names**
- 5. Threatens to hurt you / themselves**

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP



UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP



Venn Diagram

“SEE WHAT YOU MADE ME DO Power and Control of Domestic Abuse”

We don't have a plan
for men's violence.

"We talk a lot about **women's safety**. We have a women's safety summit. We have a **plan for women's safety**. We **don't have a plan for men's violence**."

Jess Hill

Journalist and author, on the lack of action on the reasons for men's violence.



Thursdays 8.30pm



with **Jess Hill**



THE HORRIFIC REALITY

- **Single greatest cause of injury**
- **1 in 4 women- SEVERE physical violence by partner**
- **20,000 calls EVERY day to DV Hotlines***
- **“We as a society, close our eyes to it.”**
--Amy Sanchez, Director Break the Cycle
- **Relationship violence is a “family matter”**

*Bureau of Justice Statistics

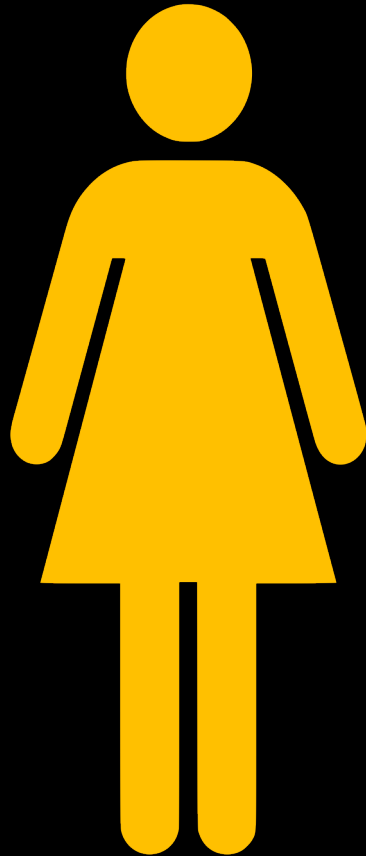
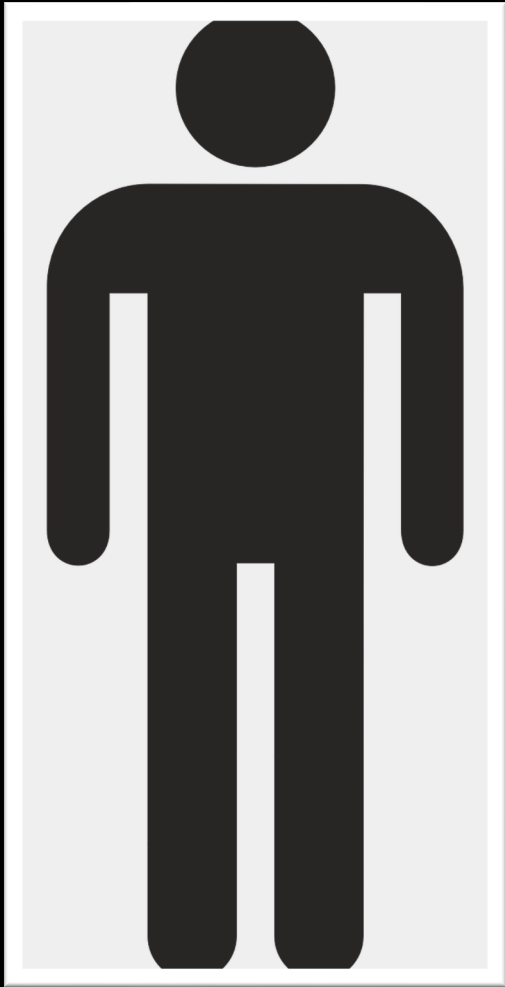
They face victim blaming

“Why don’t they just leave?”

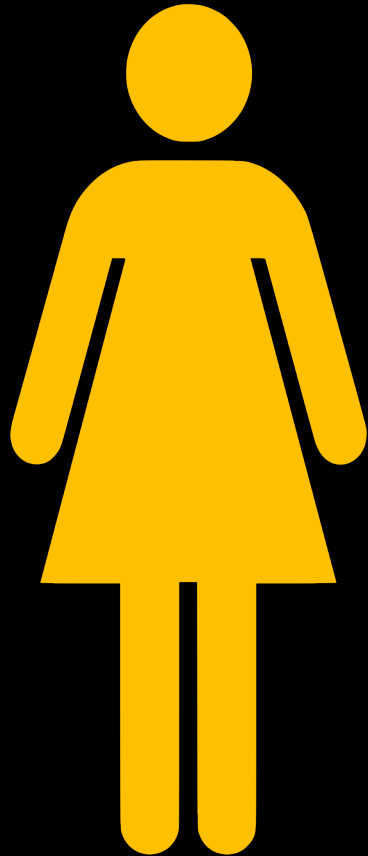
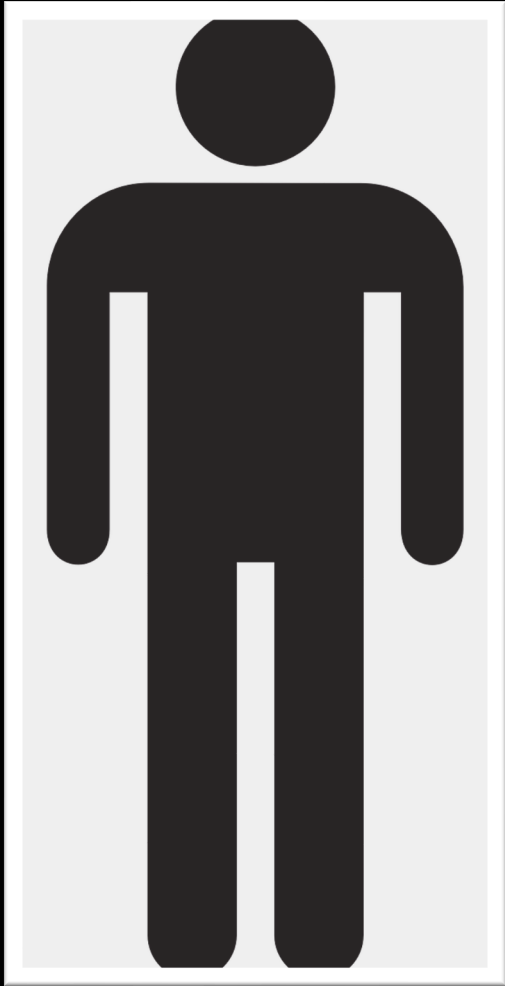
VS

“WHY DOESN’T SOMEBODY STOP HIM?”

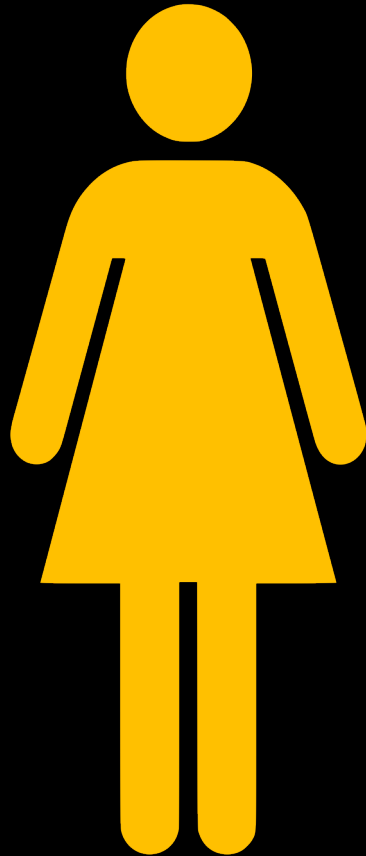
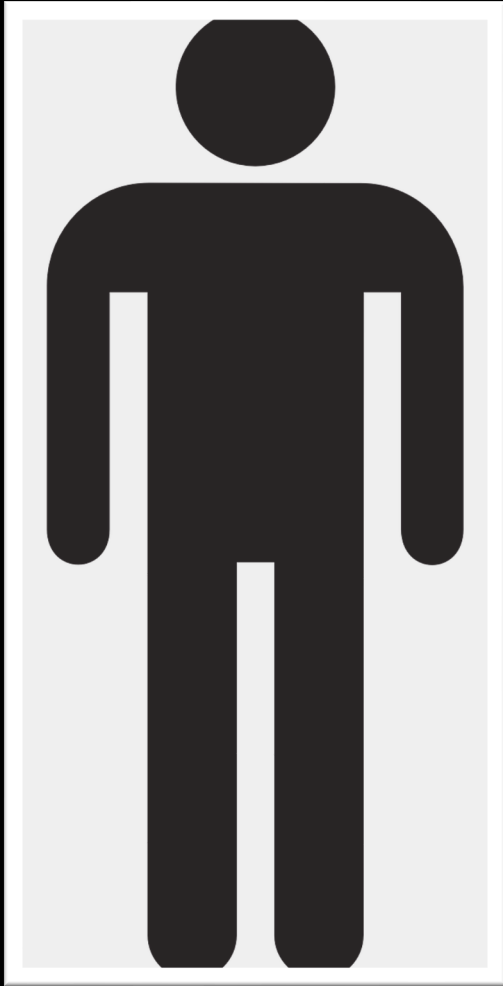
When HE's not stopped



The Problem



The Problem



Allison Dearing, Ex. Dir.

One Place Metro Family Justice Center



- **“It’s high time for people to stop expecting victims to keep themselves safe.**
- **It’s not their responsibility; it’s on the systems that exists; law enforcement, the courts, prosecution, healthcare.**

They can't get those in power to help them

- **Law Enforcement & judges**
- **Very few offenders go to jail – only 2%**

They are afraid to leave **ESCAPE**

- Fear, threats
- Finances
- Shame, loss of self



THEY ARE AFRAID TO ESCAPE

- Takes average 9 - 12 attempts
- ~~Leaving~~ escaping is the most dangerous time
FIRST 90 DAYS.
- Sometimes It's safer to stay

Greatest Risk = Escaping

- **75% of all victims murdered by their partners were escaping or had already left (escaped) their partner.**



THEY DID LEAVE. THEN WERE MURDERED.

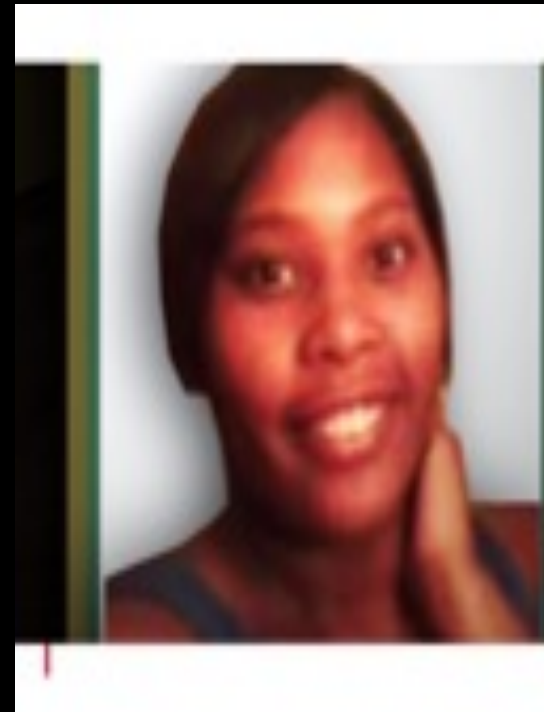
Yeardley Love 22

Jury = 26 yrs Judge 23 yrs



Tyisha Davis 23

RO, 4 kids, High casualty = Life



THEY DID LEAVE THEN WERE MURDERED

Chiquita Tate 34

Never admitted guilt+40 yrs



Jessica Martin 35

**10 yrs later murder suicide-4
victims**



THEY “SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPED”

**Jaime Kimble 31- murder
suicide**



**Karen Smith-53- murder + 1 +
suicide**



EACH VICTIM'S MURDERER

**Had history of
abuse**

**Was never
stopped.**

We treat domestic violence victims like refugees - the only way for them to be safe is to leave everything they know and love. This has become the 'norm' because we don't have systems that hold perpetrators accountable, protect victims, and because we accept the unacceptable.

~ Paula Goodwin

@DefendSurvivors

OUR RESPONSE

Prevention BEFORE it escalates.



Megan Montgomery Foundation

To Prevent Domestic Violence, Inc.

Mission
To prevent relationship violence BEFORE
it starts.

Structure

- Tax exempt 501c(3) nonprofit corporation
- Public Charity
- 4 non-family board members
- 3 family

STUDY GUIDE

SIX SESSIONS

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

DR. DAVID JEREMIAH

OVERCOMER

LIVE A LIFE OF UNSTOPPABLE STRENGTH,
UNMOVABLE FAITH, AND UNBELIEVABLE POWER



**“Sometimes God uses you
in ways that are bigger
than you can understand
& longer than you will live”**

Megan's Foundation

- To educate, advocate and eliminate the stigma associated with DV, while funding programs to empower students with tools to prevent it before it starts.
- Provide grants to non-profits, high schools & colleges - AGE-**APPROPRIATE healthy relationship** education.
- Most at risk 16 - 24
- **IT'S WHAT MEGAN WANTED TO DO**

- **Had a course in algebra**
- **Had a course in biology**
- **Had a course in history**



- **Had a course in healthy relationships
(evidence based, academically sound)**

“Educating the mind and without educating the heart is no education at all”

Aristotle

What is healthy relationship education

- It is NOT faith based
- It is NOT sex ed
- It IS Boundaries, Regulating your emotions, Respecting others' opinions, Understanding Consent, Resolving Conflicts Without Violence, Intervening as a Bystander, BEFORE the harm occurs.
- Holding peers accountable BEFORE it escalates to violence.
- HONOR AND COURAGE

Niolon. P.H., Kearns, M., Dills, J., Rambo, K., Irving, S., Armstead, T., & Gilbert, L. (2017) Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical package of programs , policies and practices. Atlanta , Ga.: National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“If only I had been able to have this education in high school or college. I could have avoided so many years of abuse, trauma and heartache. And my children could have avoided it too.”

~ Dorothy, survivor

WHAT IS IPV PRIMARY PREVENTION

Preventing harm before first occurrence

Knowing the red flags

Knowing HOW to respond

How to hold peers accountable

(Bystander Intervention BEFORE harm occurs)

Knowing resources available to help

WHY PRIMARY PREVENTION?

- **Many agencies exist to help “survivors” of DV**
- **Survivors live with trauma-induced fear, anxiety, depression, PTSD (3 -5 yrs recovery)**
- **Young adults -risk for drug & alcohol abuse, declining academics**
- **ONLY Alabama charity devoted solely to prevention**
- **IMPACT LIVES TODAY**

WHY: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS 2021

- **1 in 11 females and 1 in 14 males - experienced physical dating violence in the last year**

WHY: TEENS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

- **Females 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of interpersonal violence.**
- **21% of COLLEGE students experienced physical abuse from a dating partner**
- **Only 20% of rapes on college campuses are reported**

WHY

COLLEGE STUDENTS NOT EQUIPPED *

78% of college students: important to intervene when you see a friend being abused

58% - DON'T KNOW HOW!

*[Loveisrespect.org/collegedatingandabusefinalstudy/Glaubera@ruderfinn.com](https://loveisrespect.org/collegedatingandabusefinalstudy/Glaubera@ruderfinn.com)

MEGAN'S Foundation GRANTS 2022-23

\$103,300

- **University of West Alabama \$10,000**
UWA Yr 2 - \$10,000
- **Alabama State Univ. \$5,000**
- **UAB \$10,000**
- **Wallace State \$5,000**
- **Girl Scouts \$4,300**
- **One Place \$300**
- **Crisis Center \$1,500**
- **Restoration Academy \$1,200**
- **YWCA- \$5,000 Boys & Men**
- **Samford University \$4,500**
- **Samford Yr 2 - \$7,500**
- **John Hopkins Danger Assess. \$39,000**

ALABAMA STATE UNIV.

Powered by the Megan Montgomery Foundation

First 50 Attendees Get a Tshirt

Food & Doorprizes


Adult males are welcome to come and support the students.


**Man to Man
ManPower**


FREE Intimate Partner Violence Experience for College and HS Male Students Only

ASU Ralph Abernathy Auditorium
1655 Harris Way

Sunday, April 16, 2023 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm


Lt. Reginald Smith


Bishop Leo Lewis, Jr.


Mr. Tramayne Moorer

Sponsored By: The ASU
VAWP 334-229-6767
Supported By: Coca Cola Bottling Co. United

Scan to Register

- Cheryl Lang Director of Office of Violence Against Women -
- “If we don't **mobilize** men to the IPV table to effect change, we are just bandaging the problem.
- How can we weigh in on the violence if we don't weigh in on the majority violators?

MEN AND BOYS



WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE – HANCEVILLE

- “Whether it is testing anxiety or food insecurity or suicidal ideation or simply fixing a flat, Wallace State has a plan in place for that.
- Yet, we somehow missed relationship violence.”

Kristi Barnett, Grants Adm.



ALABAMA A & M HUNTSVILLE



Chi McDade

A FEW RESULTS - IMPACT of MMF Grants

- 97% --more confident in identifying unhealthy relationship characteristics
- 96% --more confident in their ability to address unhealthy characteristics early in a relationship



Megan wrote :

“God works in mysterious ways. And no matter how bad the situation is, there is always HOPE. If you trust, pray and have faith in God. “

Help IS available to ALL DV victims

- **One Love**
- **NCADV**



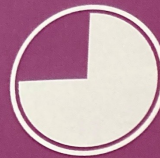
MEGAN MONTGOMERY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND



FEBRUARY 4, 1988 - DECEMBER 1, 2019

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- Intimate partner violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior such as emotional or financial abuse. It is part of a systematic pattern of power and control committed by one intimate partner against another.
- Only 33% of teens in abusive relationships ever tell anyone.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of violence by an intimate partner.
- Research shows that victims try to leave an average of nine times before they are finally able to escape. If the victim does escape and survive, most face many years of therapy to recover emotionally from the trauma they've suffered.



75% of individuals know someone who has been affected by domestic violence.

RED FLAGS OF POTENTIALLY ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS:

- Demands access to your phone and social media
- Isolates you from friends and family
- Uses jealousy to justify behavior
- Follows you or shows up unexpectedly at your dorm, class or job.
- Begins to criticize you or calls you names.
- Threatens to hurt you or hurt themselves.
- Not taking "no" for an answer

LOVE BOMBING - TACTICS USED TO POTENTIALLY CONTROL VICTIMS:



- Intense attention in the beginning
- Never-ending compliments
- Demanding commitment early on
- Disrespecting boundaries
- Mirroring your personality
- Showered with affection, gifts and promises for the future

RESOURCES FOR HELP:

- YWCA of Central Alabama Helpline
205-322-HURT
(205-322-4878)
- Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1-800-650-6522

- Live chat: [Loveisrespect.org](https://www.Loveisrespect.org)
- Text: "loveis" 1-866-331-9

LADIES OF CHARITY CHALLENGE

Corporal Works of Mercy

FEED THE POOR

EVERY DIMENSION OF LIFE

Homeless

Abused Children

Substance Abuse

Refugees

Those with mental or physical disabilities

Natural Disaster Victims

Veterans POW Survivors

Victims of Relationship Violence

DIGNITY

- Megan -class -homeless men
- St Mark's -Christmas party -women in DV shelter
- Misty request- lost a child to bullying



FR. BOB SULLIVAN



“All of us, like Mary, are on a journey.

All of us are traveling to places we may not understand, to destinations we cannot see. This is life.

But we ask Mary to help guide us on our way. The road is long.

The journey is not easy.

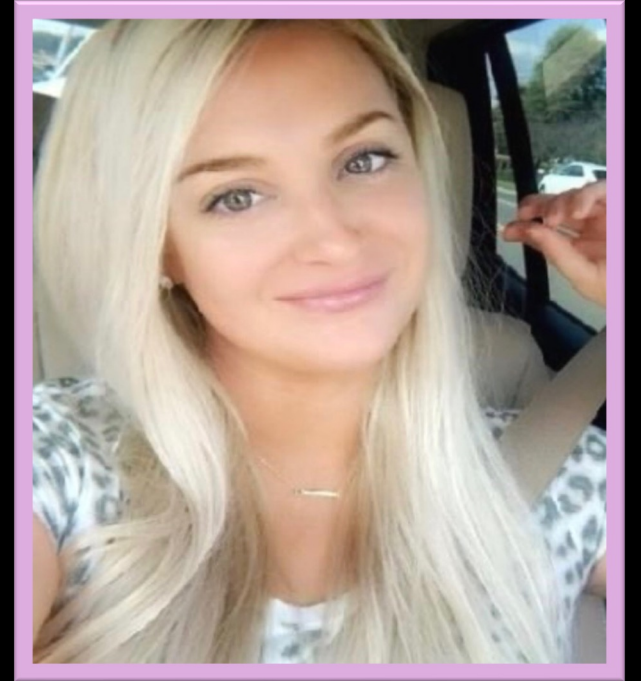
We pray to have the trust in God that we need to travel whatever road we must take— just as Mary did. ”

Kathryn Blackwell, LMSW, CEO
Partnership Against Domestic Violence

**“ I look forward to the day where survivors of
domestic violence
no longer need shelter, but instead can remain in
their own home
SAFELY and WITHOUT FEAR.”**

HOPE
How YOU
Can Make a Difference

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



- 1. PRAY for us**
- 2. Use brochures/post on bulletin bd/purse/office**
- 3. Give to Megan's Foundation (tax ded)**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BIRMINGHAM, AL.





Thank you!



www.megansfoundation.org