

Arizona men draw line against domestic violence

BY ANDY FEDERHAR
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Every nine seconds a woman is beaten. Every six hours a woman is killed. In more than half the homes where there is domestic violence, the children are abused as well.

As adults, men from these homes are four times more likely to be abusive in dating relationships, 25 times more likely to commit rape, and there's a high probability they will abuse their adult partner as well as their own children.

Domestic violence is not about physical abuse alone. It's all about control. Domestic violence includes sexual and psychological control as well as economic coercion. They are all equally harmful.

While the most devastating effects of domestic violence are certainly the pain and suffering of women and children, the effects on society reach far beyond the home.

For example, corporations report paying \$3 billion to \$5 billion annually in medical expenses related to domestic violence and an additional \$100 million a year in lost wages, sick leave and missed work time.

In addition, 71 percent of corporate human resources directors reported that a DV incident had occurred on their

premises. As a result, corporate security directors now list DV as a high security problem.

The Governor's Commission on Prevention of Family Violence reported that last year there were more than 90,000 calls to law enforcement in this state related to domestic violence.

It's time to end the silence on this issue. As men, we need to make it clear that domestic violence is unacceptable in our community.

The Men's Anti-Violence Network (M.A.N.) is a newly formed group of concerned business, community and government leaders created



to stop domestic violence. M.A.N., an initiative of the Arizona Foundation for Women, supports abuse prevention programs, public awareness and education to target abusers, and community coalition building to address prevention issues.

Founding members include prominent Arizona men including Hugh Downs, Rick Romley, Herman Chanen, Dan Harkins and Jerry Colangelo.

We can't be silent when one in four women in the U.S. will experience some sort of domestic violence in her lifetime. As men, our involvement in this issue, no matter how small, can make a difference in the lives of our sisters, daughters, wives and our children.

Join M.A.N. in our fight to stop domestic violence. Talk with your employer to ensure your company has a workplace safety plan. Or donate money or in-kind services to local organizations fighting domestic violence.

Or take these statistics and share them with just one other person. Increasing awareness of this community problem is essential.

It's going to take all of us to draw the line against domestic violence.

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