



December 2015 From the Board

The holiday season is a difficult time for those caught in the cycle of abuse and violence. Fear, shame and secrecy keep many women and their children trapped in harmful and defeating patterns unable to protect themselves and seemingly unable to get free from the abusive persons in their lives. The added stress of the holidays brings out the best and worst in a person prone to using controlling behaviors on their partners and children. Everyone's safety is in question when abuse happens. Silent Witness is dedicated to creating awareness, hope and healing by encouraging you to do what you can to help anyone in need of safety from an abusive situation.



What can be done to help the vulnerable people in our families and community?

Here are some practical things you can do to assist anyone being abused:

- * Be willing to offer your assistance to anyone being abused.*
- * Listen carefully to an abused person's story and believe it.*
- * Don't judge - respond with care and concern.*
- * Call 911 if danger is imminent.*
- * Create a list of the available resources for shelters and social services designed to provide safety and housing for women and children.*
- * Encourage a woman who's ready to leave an abusive relationship that she is strong and courageous; affirm the need for counseling for all members of the family.*
- * Provide for the day to day needs of the family when needed.*

Silent Witness National Initiative is celebrating our 25-year anniversary. We invite you to listen to a short video about how the organization was formed and some of the significant events that have taken place during the past 25 years. Click [HERE](#).

To send a donation through PayPal in support of Silent Witness, visit our website [HERE](#). We appreciate all donations as the funds help us stay actively involved in creating a network for the SW projects throughout the USA and Canada and many countries around the world.

We send our best wishes to you and your family for a safe and memorable Holiday Season filled with the warmth and love of those who are most important to you.

*Peace,
Jacquie Skog
Co-Director*



Domestic Violence + the holidays

Take a look at the following article and video about a window project in Canada that gives a strong visual message about the rise in domestic abuse and violence during the Holiday. Click [HERE](#)

FCB Toronto conceived "The Window Project," which ran from Dec. 6-13. It appeared in the window of the Untitled & Co. store in Toronto's Fashion District. The project was made for the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses (OAITH), in partnership with the Yellow Brick House.

DV Awareness around the campuses:

In October, the Silent Witness Day of Remembrance at Roger Williams University (Bristol, RI) honored those lost to domestic violence in a day of remembrance and solidarity.

Participants wore black shirts that said "remember my name" across the back and laminated shields representing RI community members tragically lost to domestic violence.





In collaboration with the event, dance students engaged in a performance art piece entitled "Stand", a durational art installation that raises awareness of domestic violence and its victims. The progressive slow motion of "Stand" is a kinetic metaphor. The hour-long process of going from a prone position to STANDING, symbolizes the extensive time it often takes for those touched by violence to extract themselves from its cyclical patterns of physical and mental abuse.

The choreographer's intent is to honor all victims of violence by ending up STANDING on our own two feet. The performer's start by falling and end by walking away - fueled by personal agency and communal support. Divided we fall, but together we STAND.





[CLICK HERE FOR NEWS VIDEO](#)
15th Annual Ohio Silent Witness Event

SYLVANIA, Ohio (13abc Action News)

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Each and every year, more and more people are added to the list of domestic violence victims.

"They weren't from Cleveland or Columbus or Chicago or New York," Mary Krueger, the Director of the Women's Center at BGSU, said.

"Every one of them was from northwest Ohio."

Thursday was the 15th annual Silent Witness unveiling. The ceremony includes more than 60 life-sized wooden silhouettes. Each one represents a woman killed at the hands of her partner.

This year, Joscelyn Jones, 16, was on of them. Police say she was stabbed to death by her former boyfriend, also 16. Jones' brother, Johnny, 14, was also killed in the attack.

"I'm a voice for the women that are no longer here, for the people that are no longer here," Karen Rossbach, who attended the ceremony said.

Rossbach reads the stories of one of the victims. She herself, is a survivor of an abusive relationship

"I know that I have a voice and I can speak from experience," Rossbach said. "Hopefully I can affect somebody, even if it's one person."

The ultimate goal is to honor the people, and make sure they're always remembered, and never become another statistic.

How can you help?

The work of Silent Witness is more important now than ever. Click on the button below to make a gift now and help us continue our efforts.

[DONATE NOW](#)

The Silent Witness Initiative - www.silentwitness.net