



formerly River City Domestic Violence Center

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Ideas for Involvement

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month — a time to raise our voices, honor survivors, and show our community that help is always within reach. This year we're also marking a new chapter: River City Domestic Violence Center is now **Waypost**. Join us this October in spreading the word through simple, visible ways to show your support.

Chalk the Walk

Join us downtown on **Friday, October 2** as we chalk sidewalks and paint storefront windows purple — and drop off your raffle basket donation while you're there. Write messages of hope, draw purple ribbons, or share the Waypost helpline number; every piece of chalk and paint helps someone see they're not alone.

Purple Lights

Purple lights and display it on your porch, in your business window, or at your front desk all month long. It's a simple, seasonal way to show your home or business stands against domestic violence.

Wear It Wednesday

Wear purple every Wednesday in October — at work, at school, or around town — and encourage coworkers, classmates, and friends to do the same. Snap a photo and tag Waypost on social media to help the message travel further.

Decorate to Educate

Businesses and organizations are invited to decorate a window, bulletin board, or lobby space with purple ribbons, awareness facts, or the new Waypost name and logo — an easy way to keep the conversation visible all month.

Donate a Raffle Basket. Help us fill the raffle table for our Candlelight Vigil! Put together a themed basket — self-care, coffee & treats, family fun, date night, anything goes — and drop it off downtown on October 2 (home base: Celebrate Church). Baskets will be raffled off at the Candlelight Vigil, with proceeds supporting Waypost's programs for survivors.

Together, we can break the silence and help every survivor find their way forward.

Understanding Domestic Violence

Domestic violence affects people of every age, gender, race, and income level. Understanding its scope and impact helps our community respond with compassion instead of judgment — and helps survivors know they are not alone.

The Reality of the Impact

- More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the U.S. experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Each year, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence with lasting impacts such as injury, fearfulness, or symptoms of PTSD.
- In 2021, more than 1 in 3 women murdered in the United States were killed by a current or former intimate partner — and access to a firearm increases that risk fivefold.
- American Indian and Alaska Native women face some of the highest rates of violence in the country: 55.5% experience physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, and 84.3% experience some form of violence overall — a reminder of why accessible support matters across our rural service area.

Barriers to Leaving & Staying Safe

- **The Danger:** Leaving an abusive relationship is often the most dangerous time for a survivor — domestic violence homicides frequently occur during or shortly after separation.
- **The Pattern:** On average, it takes a survivor about seven attempts before leaving an abusive relationship for good, and safety planning matters every time.
- **The Barriers:** Financial dependence, fear for a child's safety, housing instability, and distrust of outside systems all make leaving far more complicated than “just walking away.”

How You Can Help

1. Believe survivors. Most people first disclose abuse to a friend or family member, not a professional — your belief and support matter.
2. Learn the warning signs. Controlling behavior, isolation from loved ones, and monitoring of phones or finances can all be early indicators of abuse.
3. Offer support without judgment. Respect a survivor's choices, even if they return to a relationship — leaving safely is a process, not a single decision.

Office Phone: 605-665-4811

Morgan@waypostsd.org