



RamTell E-Newsletter

August 2023

Reflection

Every human life is sacred.

Every person is a child of God who possesses incomparable dignity and worth—no matter what his or her state in life or personal gifts and talents. Regardless of who we are; or what our background is; or the state of our physical, emotional, or mental health; or our accomplishments; or our race, religion, or cultural heritage; or our age; or our social status; every individual human being is precious in the sight of God and, therefore, should also be valuable in the eyes of his or her fellow human beings.

Domestic violence is an assault against the sanctity of human life. Domestic violence can be defined as any kind of behavior that a person uses to control another person through fear and intimidation. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, and economic abuse. Some examples of domestic abuse include battering, name-calling, and insults, threats to kill or harm one's partner or children, destruction of property, marital rape, and forced sterilization or abortion.

Violence in the home against women has serious repercussions for children. Over 50 percent of men who abuse their wives also beat their children. Children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to develop alcohol and drug addictions and to become abusers themselves.

Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers. The stage is set for a cycle of violence that may continue from generation to generation.

While abuse cuts across all ethnic and economic backgrounds, some women face particular obstacles. Women of color may not view the criminal justice system as a source of help. Additionally, in some cultures, women feel pressured to keep problems within the home and to keep the family together at all costs. Some fear that they will lose face in the community if they leave. Immigrant women often lack familiarity with the language and legal systems of this country. Their abusers may threaten them with deportation.

Women in rural communities may find themselves with fewer resources. The isolation imposed by distance and lack of transportation can aggravate their situation. Isolation can also be a factor for women who do not work outside the home. They may have less access to financial resources and to information about domestic violence. Women with disabilities and elderly women are also particularly vulnerable to violence.

Violence against another person in any form fails to treat that person as someone worthy of

love. Instead, it treats the person as an object to be used. What's needed to break the cycle of domestic abuse is a conversion of minds and hearts (on the part of individuals) and a moral revolution to replace a culture of violence (on the part of societies).

RamTell, Inc. supports organizations including churches, schools, and social service agencies that provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. We are committed to the dignity and human rights of every individual, and we work to make our society a safe place for all.

Profile

In each issue of this newsletter, we will provide a brief profile of organizations that RamTell has supported that are making a difference.

LIFEHOUSE MATERNITY HOME
Louisville, KY 40206
502-897-1655
www.Lifehouselouisville.org

Lifehouse Maternity Home is a safe home where women and teens in crisis can find hope and healing.

Lifehouse addresses the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of pregnant and parenting women by transforming their lives through the healing touch of Christ. Lifehouse's goal is to help end the cycle of abuse, neglect, generational poverty, and social services dependency of pregnant and parenting women.

The Lifehouse Approach

Lifehouse is a three-part program of planning and preparing for baby, planning and preparing for the future, transition, and aftercare. The priority in each step of our program is the positive growth of each resident.

At Lifehouse Maternity Home, our Christ-centered home environment provides residents with a safe place to live, emotional support,

prenatal care, and a loving team to guide them into becoming the mother and woman God plans for them to be.

A visit to Lifehouse (in person or virtual) gives the strong impression that the women who come here are warmly welcomed and cared for with dignity and respect. Executive Director, Dolli Neikirk, explains that Lifehouse is a safe environment for all—expectant mothers and women who need a home for themselves and their children after childbirth. Residents receive help in all aspects of daily living including the basics of parenting and childcare, financial help, referrals for legal assistance, spiritual counseling, and social skills.

At Lifehouse Maternity Home new mothers can get the help they and their babies need. Lifehouse offers a safe home, food, and essential pre-natal care for both mothers and their small children. Women can live at Lifehouse for up to four years. Many people are surprised by this, and Lifehouse thinks it is important to note that women can stay much longer than just through the birth of their baby.

Whether residents choose parenting or are considering adoption, Lifehouse offers a structured, secure, Christ-centered environment where each resident can learn to become a confident, independent woman. Lifehouse's full-time staff, 24/7 onsite house moms, and fellow residents help expectant and new mothers understand they are not alone.

As Dolli Neikirk says to women who are considering Lifehouse, "Whatever your situation, Lifehouse can help."

