



CONTACT THE
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Spotlight

On Domestic Violence

First Step Newsletter
A Program of
The Family Guidance Center

THE MISSION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER'S FIRST STEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO INCREASE THE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

Financial Abuse is a Form of Domestic Violence

If you are in an intimate relationship, do you know if your name is on the deed to your home? Is it on the rental contract of your home or apartment? Do you have a vehicle in your name? Do you have a bank account or a credit card in only your name? Is your name on the family's bank account?

Financial abuse is an invisible weapon (unlike physical abuse, which leaves bruises and scars) that traps victims in abusive relationships. Financial abuse is a common tactic used by abusers to gain power and control over their intimate partner. The forms of financial abuse may be subtle or overt but in general, includes tactics to limit the partner's access to assets or conceal information and accessibility to the family finances. **Research indicates that financial abuse is experienced in 98% of abusive relationships.** It is just as effective in controlling a victim as a lock and key. Victims of domestic violence are often forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or facing economic hardship and possibly extreme poverty and homelessness.

A victim, who sought our First Step services, was devastated when she realized her name

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Family Guidance Center Quilt Raffle



Don't miss the opportunity to win a "Scrap Quilt", size 69"x80". The beautiful quilt was made by a member of the Catawba Valley Quilter's Guild. Tickets may be purchased at Family Guidance Center or at The Purple Ribbon for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. The Drawing will be December 8, 2016—you do not have to be present to win.

Scenes from the Gala



Methods Abusers Use to Gain Financial Control

- ▽ Controlling how all the money is spent
- ▽ Not allowing the victim access to bank accounts
- ▽ Withholding money or giving “an allowance”
- ▽ Not including the victim in investment or banking decisions
- ▽ Forbidding the victim to work
- ▽ Forbidding the victim to attend job training or advancement opportunities
- ▽ Forcing the victim to write bad checks or file fraudulent tax returns
- ▽ Hiding assets
- ▽ Forcing the victim to work in a family business without pay
- ▽ Withholding funds from the victim or children to obtain basic needs such as food, clothing and medicine.

Lack of income is one of the top reasons victims cite for staying in an abusive relationship.

From NCADV Public Policy

Financial Abuse Continued From Page 1...

was on the home mortgage, but only her husband's was name on the deed. This meant she was equally responsible for the mortgage payment, but had no ownership, whatsoever, of the home. Another victim was blocked from the family bank account, which she'd used for twenty years, when she left her abusive husband – the account was only in her husband's name. **Financial abuse is a powerful weapon in preventing victims from leaving the relationship.**



“Under Lock and Chain” by Pictures of Money. Flickr.com.

How He Keeps Her From Work

- ▽ He moves her to a rural area where she can't find a job
- ▽ He makes her late, trashes her work clothes, or interferes with her transportation or childcare, so she loses her job
- ▽ He interferes with her work performance through harassing behavior, such as frequent phone calls or unannounced visits
- ▽ He calls her workplace and tells lies or talks trash about her, i.e. says she's using drugs, having an affair with co-worker
- ▽ She has excessive absences due to physical abuse, (black eyes, bruises, broken nose) so she loses her job

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month...

Watch for Next Month's Newsletter.

If you or someone you know is being abused, please call us.
828-322-1400
Crisis Line 828-228-1787



You Made A Difference

Thank you to the Wonderful Companies who sponsored our first-ever gala, A Black and White Affair, on August 27th.

Silver Sponsors

- Peoples Bank
- Transportation Insight
- Service in Action
- Shurtape

Bronze Sponsors

- Medical Supply Solutions
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- Bayada
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- Mike Johnson's of Hickory

Sponsor of The Baby Black Band

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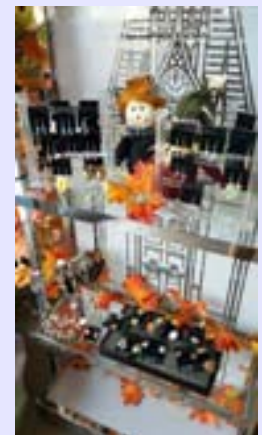
Special Thanks To

- Molly Bass, Emcee
- Sally Bentley & Team of Designing Woman
- Alice Guy, Hickory Wine Shoppe
- Lillie Greenhill, Gala Chair and member of FGC Board



UW Campaign

The United Way Campaign is well underway. We hope you already have or plan to contribute to it—when you give to United Way, you are helping to support our services. United Way is a vital life-line for our agency so **Please Give**. When you give your Fair Share, your name is put into a drawing for a new car from Paramount Kia. The first drawing is Thursday September 22.



The Purple Ribbon

We're all ready to celebrate fall. Come on in and see what treasures you can find. Located on Highway 70, S.W., Hickory, across from U-Haul. Open M-F, 10A.M. to 5 and Saturday 10-3:00 P.M. All proceeds benefit our Shelter for Battered Women