

Domestic Violence

New Yorkers are facing an added crisis brought on by Sept. 11. Violence in the home is on the rise and few agencies are addressing this important issue. Statistics show that 50 percent of all homeless women and children have left their homes to flee domestic violence. Nearly two of five U.S. women have been physically or sexually assaulted at some point in their lives. Studies also show that initially following a disaster, reports of domestic violence actually decline and shelters empty out. This is a very frightening reality. After disaster strikes, women often feel that even though they're in danger at home, it's the place they know — it is home. They want what feels normal to them while the outside world is wrought with turbulence. Abuse often becomes worse and more frequent after a disaster, as the violence is fueled with post-traumatic stress and anxiety. Domestic violence is one of the most hidden and least talked about effects of disasters.

There is a reported shortage of beds in domestic violence shelters in the New York metropolitan area. LDRNY has helped to fund programs that serve victims, and help to raise public awareness.

It has funded two domestic violence awareness programs — one for clergy and one for teens. It has also funded House of Hope in Suffern, N.Y., which provided a healing arts program for victims and families, as well as giving funding to Trinity Healing Center, a domestic violence outreach program. For more information, contact Jennifer Singer, LDRNY Senior Coordinator, mail to: Jennifer@LDRNY.org



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LDRNY MISSION STATEMENT

To respond directly and encourage and facilitate response from others to the needs of persons and their families affected both directly and indirectly by tragedy or disaster.

Lutheran Disaster Response of New York
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"I am a survivor of domestic violence"



"Trinity Healing Center is one of the most important places in my life at this time. Words cannot express what it has meant to me, both spiritually and emotionally. My story about domestic violence is different than the rest. In reality, I do not like to talk about it much because it is depressing. Something that I have learned is to love and value myself as a person and as a woman. I'm learning that I am a survivor of domestic violence. I believe it's important to have places like Trinity Healing Center where one can talk about the violence and help find solutions or try to better one's situation. Personally, if there wasn't a place like Trinity Healing Center where I can share my problems, I don't know what I would have done. It's so important to talk to someone with confidentiality, who is patient and willing to listen."

- M.S., a Trinity Healing Center client