

New Partnership Helps Victims of Domestic Violence

Since August, several community partners have been working together in a new way to help local people experiencing domestic violence.

"We're glad to have a new tool to help the different entities who encounter domestic violence situations work together more smoothly for the benefit of those experiencing the violence," said Kim Kempf, YWCA Victims' Services Director.

The YWCA has been and continues to offer important services that help women and children experiencing violence. Law enforcement often find themselves on calls related to such violence, and attorneys also frequently work with people in domestic violence cases.

For six months now, the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) has been operated in partnership between the YWCA St. Joseph, St. Joseph Police Department, Buchanan County Sheriff's Department and Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

The LAP is a homicide prevention program that helps identify high danger victims of intimate partner

violence and connect them with services. Trained police officers on the scene of a domestic violence call now use a standard assessment to measure a victim's risk for serious injury or death. Officers immediately link high danger victims to the YWCA's hotline with the goal of connecting them with program services. The assessment tool is also readily available as a resource for area prosecuting attorneys.

In the first six months of the LAP partnership, law enforcement administered 403 screenings with 84% of victims scoring in the high danger range. Of the high danger victims who agreed to speak with the hotline worker, 36% went on to receive services from the YWCA.

In times of immediate danger, Kempf urges anyone in a situation of violence to call the police.

She encourages victims of domestic violence to call the

YWCA hotline number for guidance and information about a variety of services designed to help. To reach an advocate 24-hours a day, call either hotline number: 816-232-1225 or 1-800-653-1477.

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Local Young Men Are New Eagle Scouts

The Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America recently honored all 81 young men who earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2016.

The Eagle Scout award is the highest award in Boy Scouting.

To reach the Eagle rank, a Boy Scout must earn 21 merit badges, of which 12 specific ones are required.

Beyond the merit badges, the candidate must also plan and carry out a service project to benefit the community. In addition, he must have held a troop leadership position during his Scouting tenure. Finally, the Eagle Scout candidate undergoes a rigorous board of review in which his district, council and troop leaders evaluate his attitude and practice of the ideals of Scouting. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout must happen before a boy's 18th birthday.



18 Partner Agencies

American Red Cross of Northwest Missouri
Bartlett Center
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.
The CENTER, a Samaritan Center
Children's Mercy Hospital
Community Missions (CMC)
Family Guidance Center for Behavioral Healthcare
InterServ
Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Northwest Missouri Community Services
Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America
St. Joseph Safety & Health Council
The Salvation Army
Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc.
United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri
YMCA
YWCA

7 United Way Initiatives

FamilyWize® Prescription Assistance
Financial Stability
Leadership St. Joseph
Profit In Education®
Success By 6®
Unmet Needs Committee
Volunteer Center

You are invited to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER through United Way to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph supports 18 Partner Agencies and operates seven Initiatives.

(816) 364-2381
stjosephunitedway.org



United Way of Greater St. Joseph



Opportunities to Remember

March 2—Spring Trunk Show to benefit the YWCA Shelter, 3-7 p.m. at Dr. Rosenak's Optical Options, 2229 N. Belt Highway. View, try on, purchase from full line of eyewear options from Barcelona, Spain. Refreshments, giveaways, photo booth, more. Call 671-0500 now to schedule eye exam during show.

March 4—Dr. Seuss' Birthday Brunch for children, age six and under, and their parents or caregivers, 10 a.m.-noon at Keatley Center, 1202 S. 28th Street. Free event with food, early literacy activities, story time, crafts, a free book and more. Call 236-2136 with questions.

March 4—Public open house and dedication of new Catholic Charities building, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at 1123 S. 10th Street. For more information, call 232-2885.

March 5—Chili Challenge for UCP at Civic Arena, 100 N. 4th Street. Doors open at 11 a.m. Chili tasting begins at 2:30 p.m. \$3 admission. Live music, live auction, online auction, vendors and more.

March 8—Taste of United Way with lunch and presentation featuring Northwest Missouri Community Services, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at United Way, 118 S. 5th Street. RSVP in advance. No cost. 364-2381.

March 16—Training for parents, "Reclaim Your Power: Choices Build Self-Esteem and Willpower," using Conscious Discipline®, 6-8 p.m. at McCarthy Baptist Church, 2710 S. Belt Highway. Light supper at 5:30. Free. RSVP to 364-2381.

March 17—Deadline for Women of Excellence nominations at YWCA. Nomination forms at ywcasj.org.

March 20-24—Childcare available for school-age children, kindergarten through 6th grade during St. Joseph School District spring break, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at YMCA. \$20 per child a day for Y members; \$25 a day for non-members. Call 232-9622.

March 30—Eat. Drink. LIVE UNITED all day at Ground Round, 123 S. 6th Street, and Pizza Shoppe, 2229 N. Belt Highway. Ten percent of day's sales support United Way of Greater St. Joseph.

April 1—Trivia contest to support AFL-CIO Community Services, 7 p.m., at Callison Hall, 1222 S. 10th Street. \$20 per player for teams with 1-9 people; teams of 10 just \$15 per person. Registration begins at 6 p.m., or pre-registration can be called in at 364-1131.