



**Domestic
Abuse**



**Assistance
Program**

2007

Annual Report

Overview

The Domestic Abuse Assistance Program (DAAP), located within the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), is the sole government entity in the State of Colorado dedicated entirely to funding and sustaining community-based domestic abuse programs across the State. DAAP ensures that services to victims of domestic abuse and their children are readily available throughout Colorado's diverse communities.

More than just a funding administration, DAAP is responsible for:

- Taking the lead for CDHS and state government to address domestic abuse policy and legislative initiatives;
- Working collaboratively and developing partnerships with state entities and community stakeholders;
- Ensuring that domestic abuse program standards are met and level of service provision is optimal;
- Tracking statistical data related to domestic violence service delivery;
- Analyzing data and developing relevant reports for program stakeholders; and,
- Delivering domestic abuse-related training to CDHS and county departments of human/social services personnel.

History

In 1983, the Colorado General Assembly authorized the formation of DAAP, located in the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). The legislation created the Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund (CDAF), a voluntary check-off on Colorado individual income tax forms. The funds from the CDAF encourage the development and maintenance of domestic abuse programs across Colorado. DAAP distributes the funds from the CDAF directly to community-based domestic abuse programs.

In 1984, DAAP was designated to receive federal funds from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). DAAP distributes these funds to community-based domestic abuse programs. Nationally, and in Colorado, FVPSA is the largest funding source for emergency services for victims and their children.

For two years, 2002 and 2003, DAAP received State general fund dollars designated for distribution to community-based domestic abuse programs. Due to budget shortfalls, this funding was eliminated, and DAAP secured additional funding from Colorado's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to distribute to domestic abuse programs.

Kay's Story

Kay's husband was enrolled in a treatment program for abusers and Kay received advocacy and support from the victim's advocates employed by the treatment program. Kay says, "I would sometimes call the advocate's number late at night just to get her voicemail to hear her voice. She was the first person who believed me and made me feel sane." The advocate helped Kay develop a safety plan and referrals for other services to help Kay remain safe from abuse.



A Parents' Story

Parents of a female college student attended a "How to Help" workshop after their honor roll student daughter abruptly dropped out of college and went missing for almost four months. They immediately knew that this drastic change in behavior was a result of abuse by her boyfriend whose treatment of their daughter had been a concern of theirs for a long time. At the workshop, they learned the specific do's and don'ts for talking with her about the abuse, with an emphasis not on getting her to leave but rather on how to establish themselves in her mind as "safe" to confide in about this. The workshop leaders created extensive safety plans with the parents and told them about red flags of escalation and what legal remedies they had. (continued)

Each year, DAAP funds support at least 40 domestic abuse programs across Colorado. This funding sustains a network of domestic abuse programs and services, available to victims and their families, 24-hours a day.

Governance

DAAP operates with the guidance of two groups – the Advisory Committee and the Selection Committee. DAAP's Advisory Committee, which meets bi-monthly, provides guidance with regard to the overall direction of the program. 2007 members:

- Alicia Calderon, Colorado's Attorney General's Office
- Mary Clair, CDHS Child Support Enforcement
- Kenya Lyons, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice
- Delores Nelson, El Paso County Department of Human Services
- Peggy Rogers, CDHS Aging and Adult Protective Services
- Pam Stewart-Maddox, San Miguel Resource Center
- Carol Wahlgren, CDHS Child Welfare
- Denise Washington, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

DAAP's Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing all applications for funding and make recommendations to CDHS. 2007 members:

- Margaret Abrams, Denver District Attorney's Office
- Art Atwell, CDHS Workforce Development
- Donna Bailey, Violence Prevention Coalition of Southwest Colorado
- Nancy Feldman, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs
- Angela Gover, University of Colorado, Program on Domestic Violence
- Paula Hammond, Project Safeguard
- Spiro Koinis, Denver Adult Probation Department
- Levetta Love, El Paso County Department of Human Services
- Mary McGhee, CDHS Division of Boards and Commissions
- Tamika Payne, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Judy Page, Colorado's Attorney General's Office
- Jalice Vigil-Kelly, Office of the State Court Administrator
- Randy Saucedo, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Ana Soler, Front Range Earth Force

Collaborative Work

In Colorado, victims of domestic abuse seek services from a myriad of programs and systems. As such, DAAP strives to ensure programs and systems work together to provide a seamless array of support. DAAP participates in a variety of collaborative efforts to include engaging the response of the criminal justice system, civil legal services, county departments of human services, the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the CDHS Responsible Fatherhood Program, and many others.

2007 Accomplishments

DAAP serves as the State lead on domestic abuse issues. DAAP works collaboratively with other State and CDHS programs, counties, and other non-governmental agencies to develop state domestic violence policy, address legislative issues, and measure the effectiveness and quality of domestic violence programs. DAAP's accomplishments for 2007 include:

- Delivered a domestic violence in-service training for 40 CDHS staff;
- Facilitated a one-day domestic violence institute to enhance collaborations between domestic violence services and healthy father-involvement programs;
- Developed an advanced domestic violence training led by subject-matter experts for 75 county human services staff;
- Provided two Family Violence Option training sessions for 50 county human services staff;
- Bestowed the first annual domestic abuse program award to a funded program; and,
- Conducted nine site visits to programs receiving DAAP funds.

Funding Sources

DAAP is a compilation of three different funding sources that are pooled to distribute to domestic abuse programs across Colorado. Funding has remained nearly stable for the past three years, while at the same time many programs face an increase in demand for their services and new programs request funding from DAAP to provide domestic abuse services. Annually, DAAP distributes approximately \$2.2 million.

The Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund (www.domesticabusefund.org)

Colorado taxpayers elect to make donations through their state income tax return refunds to the Domestic Abuse Fund. The first tax return donations for DAAP were collected from the 1983 income tax year. Each year, DAAP distributes the funds to community-based domestic abuse programs.

(continued)

Eventually the parents were able to re-establish contact with their daughter and four months after coming to the workshop, the mother helped her daughter escape the relationship. Their daughter returned home with her parents and re-enrolled in college. She is very grateful to her parents and has plans to become a veterinarian. Both the parents and their daughter credit the "How to Help" workshop for helping free her from abuse.



Andrea's Story

Originally from Mexico, Andrea came to the United States after marrying her husband, who abused her physically and emotionally. She had been beaten, strangled, called names and hospitalized for injuries from the abuse. Although Andrea was married a US citizen, she was granted Conditional Permanent Residency status in the US. Through the federal Violence Against Women Act and the legal services provided by the domestic abuse program, Andrea was able to obtain legal status and now lives a successful, safe and productive life in Colorado with her children.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

In 1985, the Federal Congress approved the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), appropriating monies to each state. Colorado determined that the monies would be distributed by DAAP. Colorado received its first allocation in 1986. DAAP reserves a small portion of FVPSA funds for administrative purposes. The majority of funds go directly to community-based domestic violence programs and provide training and education for workers in domestic violence programs across Colorado. These funds are intended to provide shelter for victims and their children, as well as other services that enhance safety.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

To meet the increased need for domestic abuse services in Colorado, additional funding for DAAP was secured in 2004 through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) monies. In addition, in 2004, DAAP also relocated within CDHS to the Colorado Works program, having previously been located in Child Welfare Services.

Local Domestic Abuse Programs

In 2007, DAAP administered funds and provided oversight to 41 local domestic abuse programs. These programs are statewide and represent the majority of domestic violence programs in Colorado. These local programs provide crisis intervention, advocacy, prevention, and various support and skill building to assist victims in re-stabilizing their lives, as well as prevention through community education. Local programs funded by DAAP represent rural and urban, shelter and non-shelter, and general and specialized services. Programs also provide direct services to victims in traditionally underserved areas and populations. This report documents the services provided by these domestic abuse programs as well as many of the stories of real victims who used the services.

2007 DAAP Funded Programs

Programs listed below received DAAP funding to provide domestic abuse services to victims and their children. Awards ranged from approximately \$10,000.00 over \$100,000.00.

Program Name	City
A Woman's Place, Inc.	Greeley
Advocate Safehouse Project	Glenwood Springs
Advocates Against Battering and Abuse	Steamboat Springs
Advocates Against Domestic Assault	Trinidad
Advocates Crisis Support Services	Craig
Advocates for Victims of Assault	Frisco

Advocates of Lake County	Leadville
Advocates Victim Assistance Team of Grand County	Hot Sulphur Springs
Alliance Against Domestic Abuse	Salida
Alternative Horizons Corporation	Durango
Alternatives to Family Violence, Inc.	Commerce City
Alternatives to Violence	Loveland
AMEND	Denver
Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program	Pagosa Springs
Arkansas Valley Resource Center	La Junta
Clear Creek County Advocates	Georgetown
Colorado Anti-Violence Project	Denver
Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Denver
Crossroads Safehouse	Fort Collins
Denver Center for Crime Victims	Denver
Domestic Safety Resource Center	Lamar
Estes Valley Victim Advocates	Estes Park
Family Crisis Services	Canon City
Family Tree	Wheat Ridge
Gateway Battered Women's Services	Aurora
Help for Abused Partners	Sterling
Latimer House Counseling & Advocacy Center	Grand Junction
Renew, Inc.	Cortez
RESPONSE: Help for Battered Women	Aspen
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	Longmont
Safehouse Denver	Denver
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence	Boulder
San Miguel Resource Center	Telluride
SHARE, Inc.	Fort Morgan
TESSA	Colorado Springs
The Resource Center of Eagle County	Avon
Tri-County Resource Center	Montrose
Tu Casa, Inc.	Alamosa
Volunteers of America Brandon Center	Denver
Volunteers of America Southwest Safehouse	Durango
Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center	Castle Rock

Marcia's Story

Marcia, a 65 year-old woman, came to the domestic abuse program for support after experiencing abuse for much of her 47-year marriage. Marcia lived in the shelter for three months, where the staff discussed her situation, offered her options and understanding, and she attended a weekly support group. Marcia says, "They helped me get my life to be worth fighting for and feeling I was able to see myself that I was worth working for. I am a good person, mother, and grandmother."



Claudia's Story

Claudia says she never knew that domestic violence meant more than just physical abuse. She felt like she couldn't go to the local domestic abuse program because the type of abuse she was facing was emotional and financial. Over the course of her abusive marriage, she lost her confidence and her ability to speak for herself. At the domestic abuse program, Claudia worked with an advocate to understand that the abuse wasn't her fault. She says, "The best was talking to someone who believed me. Now I can see the red flags earlier and I know what I want in a relationship. Today, Claudia is planning to pursue a master's degree in social work, eager to help other women and children.

Program Services

All DAAP-funded programs provide confidential services via their crisis line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Programs offer a wide array of domestic abuse services to victims and their children. Most programs have bilingual staff or translators available.

General Services - Programs offer supportive advocacy to victims in crisis as well as those in need of long-term support. These services include safety planning, support groups, counseling, case management, transportation, information and referrals, and other programming as described below.

Residential Services - Many programs have residential shelters where victims and their children can stay in a comfortable home while receiving supportive advocacy. Shelter stays are usually around 45 days, and can be as long as 90 days in some programs, depending on need. Several programs offer transitional housing where victims and their children can stay for up to two years. Programs without a shelter or transitional housing may be able to provide short-term safehousing in a motel.

Children - Residential shelters offer children's programming such as group support, safety planning, healthy communication, skill-building and recreation for children living in the shelter. Some programs also offer parenting skills classes. Childcare is usually available for victims who are attending domestic violence counseling or support groups.

Advocacy - Court-based advocacy such as accompaniment to hearings for civil orders of protection are widely available. Other legal services such as support with immigration issues, divorce or child custody may be directly available in some programs or by referral. General advocacy is available to help victims access resources such as victim compensation, affordable housing, food stamps, welfare, and other community supports.

Teens - Teen dating violence education services are available in many programs that collaborate with local schools to promote healthy relationships and recognize the signs of an abusive relationship.

Community Education - Programs have staff who are available to speak to community groups about domestic violence. Presentations have been made to schools, churches, hospitals, social services, businesses, law enforcement, civic groups and others interested in learning more about the dynamics and prevention of domestic violence.

Efforts to Improve/Strengthen Programs

Despite challenges, programs constantly improve upon existing services in a variety of ways. Examples include:

- Recruitment of Board of Directors members who bring diversity to the

organization;

- Monitoring criminal justice intervention (comparing the number of domestic violence arrests to the number of convictions or reviewing dual arrest cases);
- Creating a triage team of victim advocates, domestic violence program staff, law enforcement and district attorney staff to assess domestic violence cases from the preceding day's arrests;
- "Building Peaceful Communities" – designing a curriculum for early education centers to receive training on children exposed to domestic violence;
- "Peace Maker Campaign" – giving students (pre-school through high school) tools to navigate important relationships in a healthy way;
- Creation of an Entrepreneurial Training Program and a revolving loan fund; and
- Support group for male victims of domestic violence.

Shelter & Transitional Housing

Victims of domestic abuse and their children need safe housing to rebuild their lives in the wake of abuse. Shelters provide a temporary respite and opportunity for families to heal. In 2007 DAAP-funded programs provided 96,172 nights of shelter to 5,117 individuals. Compared to 2006, this is an increase of 8.79% in the number of shelter nights provided. However, the number of individuals sheltered has decreased from 5,601 in 2006, which caused the average number of nights an individual resides in shelter to increase by 15.6% from 42 in 2006 to 50 in 2007. Programs report that more individuals request shelter for longer periods of time due to the lack of available affordable housing in many communities.

Twenty-eight DAAP-funded programs in Colorado have residential shelter and the remainder provides limited shelter through temporary motel stays. On average, victims spend 50 nights in shelter. During this time they must secure all the economic resources necessary to live independently. In 2007, 6,341 individuals were turned away from shelters in Colorado due to a lack of capacity, a 7% increase from 2006, where 5,886 individuals were turned away. These figures are part of a growing trend, which has seen the numbers of individuals turned away from shelters steadily increase over the past several years, while many programs increase the number of beds available in their shelter or open new shelter facilities in communities previously lacking a shelter. Victims of abuse often report that they return to an abusive situation because they cannot find affordable long-term housing.

Year	Number of Individuals Turned Away from Shelter
2004	2,793
2005	2,537
2006	5,886
2007	6,341

Monica's Story

Monica, who spoke very little English, called the local domestic abuse program to seek support with the ongoing criminal prosecution of her partner for assaulting her. The bilingual staff of the program was able to inform Monica about the status of the criminal case and connect Monica to resources such as the Victims Compensation Fund. With the program's support, Monica was able to relocate to another state, where her family resided. Monica reports that she is strong and safe.

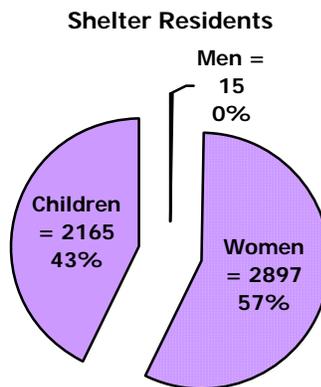


Marie's Story

Marie came to the local domestic abuse program after six years in an abusive relationship. Marie tried to leave her abusive partner five times throughout the years, and this was the first time Marie sought the safety of a shelter. The domestic abuse program helped Marie see the impact the abuse had on her infant son and that she deserved better for herself. The program was also able to help Marie in developing her financial goals, which led to employment, housing, childcare and other resources. As a result of the domestic abuse program, Marie connected with community resources that aide her developing a permanent safety plan.

Individuals residing in shelter programs received a wide range of supportive services, including individual and group counseling, and general advocacy. In 2007, DAAP-funded programs provided:

- 74,218 individual counseling sessions to 3,898 victims, an average of 19 sessions per victim;
- 29,911 group counseling sessions to 3,586 victims, an average of 8 sessions per victim; and,
- advocacy 40,621 times to 3,982 victim, an average of 10 times per victim.



Nearly half the residents in shelter during 2007 were children, age 18 and under (43%). Advocates for children provide counseling (individual and group), opportunities for child-centered play and respite care for mothers in counseling. Children who are exposed to domestic abuse feel safe at shelter and learn healthy ways to communicate about the abuse.

In 2007, DAAP-funded programs provided transitional housing to 296 women, a 22% increase compared to 2006 when 232 women received services through transitional housing programs. Transitional housing programs provide housing for about 18 months, allowing families an extended period of time to receive supportive services to heal from abuse and secure the economic resources necessary to live independently.

Other Services

In 2007, DAAP-funded programs answered 38,863 emergency crisis intervention phone calls. For many victims, a crisis line is their first link to resources to assist in attaining safety. All DAAP-funded crisis lines in Colorado are answered 24-hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Crisis line workers engage victims in safety planning and provide appropriate referrals to community resources. All domestic abuse services are confidential and free of charge.

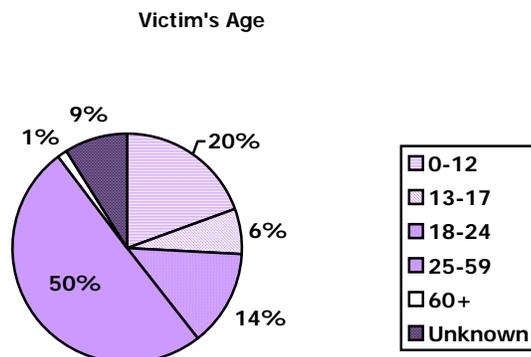
Victims and their children often need long-term supportive services beyond what is provided during a short-term shelter stay and for victims who either live too far from the nearest shelter or are turned away from shelter due to a lack of capacity receive a wide range of services. These services can be the key to attaining safety. Many programs provide teen dating violence education, parenting education, court-based advocacy, and other necessary programming. Most programs have bilingual and bicultural staff and all programs have access to interpreters. One Front Range domestic violence program has started a support group

specifically for friends and family of victims of abuse. Another has a legal services program to assist immigrant victims in obtaining visas.

In addition to crisis line calls and shelter-based services, DAAP-funded programs provided individual and group counseling and advocacy/supportive services to 19,132 individuals not residing in shelter programs. Programs provided 29,521 sessions of individual counseling to 7,128 victims, 24,732 sessions of group counseling to 3,597 victims, and advocacy 55,274 times to 15,052 victims.

Victim Age

Victims of abuse can be of any age. Children who are exposed to domestic abuse often become targets and are significantly impacted. Teenage victims need safety planning and supportive services to help develop new and healthy dating relationships. Victims of abuse in later life are often subject to financial exploitation or neglect from those who are caring for them. 50% of victims in 2007 were between the ages of 25-29, and 20% were between the ages of 0-12.



Rural Victims of Domestic Abuse

Colorado is world renown for its impressive mountains and natural beauty. Colorado's geographic diversity is an asset to many, but becomes a barrier to safety for many victims who must travel a great distance to reach the safety of a shelter or the supportive services of an advocate, leaving their employment, support system and children's schools. Poor weather and adverse road conditions restrict victims' access to help. In demonstrating greater efforts to reach rural victims, many programs have two or more office locations in remote areas. In 2007, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 8,497 victims residing in rural communities.

GLBT Victims of Domestic Abuse

In 2007, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 162 individuals who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT). This number is nearly double the number of GLBT victims served by DAAP-

Nicole's Story

Nicole lived in a domestic abuse transitional housing unit for two years after leaving her husband who was verbally and physically abusive to her and her son. Nicole is also faced with other obstacles such as a learning disability, and with the support of the transitional housing program Nicole was able to find a job, which helped increase her self-esteem and confidence. She is able to financially support herself and her son, remain safe and will be attending college.



Sara's Story

Sara came to the local domestic abuse program after her partner stalked her, following her down a winding road to her remote home. After her partner found her in the safe shelter, she was relocated to another shelter. Although Sara returned to her abusive partner, she once again was determined to remain safe and sought services a second time after her partner stole her money, wouldn't allow her to work, see her adult children or have any interests outside their home. This time Sara received support with filing an order of protection and was given a cell phone to call 911 if her partner stalked or harassed her. Sara has successfully moved to another community to remain safe from abuse.

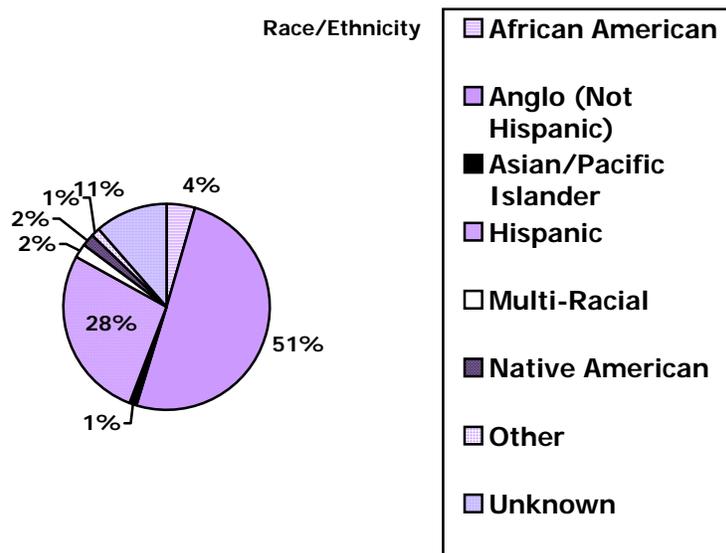
funded programs in 2006, reflecting the increased ability of programs to outreach to the GLBT population. GLBT couples experience domestic violence at the same rate as straight couples. However, GLBT victims faced additional barriers in coming forward to report the abuse.

Victims with Limited English Proficiency

Many programs have made incredible strides in serving monolingual, non-English speaking victims. In addition to assisting monolingual, Spanish-speaking victims, programs assist victims whose primary languages were Arabic, Japanese, Korean, German and Russian. Although most programs have bilingual staff, many communities lack bilingual attorneys, therapists or law enforcement officers. DAAP funds provide one program with services to victims seeking self-petitions and U-Visas under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and report a 95% success rate in obtaining legal permanent status for their clients. Many communities in Colorado have an agriculturally based economy, which results in a large number of migrant workers from Mexico. In 2007, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 2,052 victims with limited English proficiency.

Victim Race/Ethnicity

Victims of domestic abuse cross all racial and ethnic lines. DAAP-funded programs are equipped to address abuse in a diverse setting. Programs diversify staff to reflect the make-up of their communities and provide services in culturally and linguistically appropriate settings. In 2007, over 50% of the victims served by DAAP-funded programs are Anglo (Not Hispanic) and nearly 30% are Hispanic.



Victim with Disabilities

In 2007, DAAP-funded programs provided services to 1,540 victims with a known disability, a 6% increase compared to the 1,451 victims served in 2006. Disabled victims face additional barriers to safety as they are often physically unable to leave an abusive partner and are reliant on their partner for care. Most shelters in Colorado are fully accessible to disabled victims and advocates are trained to provide a full-range of services to disabled victims.

Community Involvement

DAAP-funded programs are reliant on the support of community volunteers who answer crisis line calls, provide advocacy to victims, and offer a wide range of supportive services to program staff. In 2007, 3,102 volunteers provided 305,341 hours of community service to programs. Their support is crucial to victims' ongoing efforts to reach safety.

Community Education & Technical Assistance

Many domestic abuse programs focus their prevention efforts on community education. Their work includes outreach to the general public to change societal perceptions regarding the acceptance of violence. DAAP-funded programs target a wide range of audiences such as students, businesses and civic organizations. In 2007, they provided 2,994 presentations to 96,084 individuals.

In addition, DAAP-funded programs provided 659 training and technical assistance presentations to 11,266 individuals. These presentations target law enforcement, clergy, medical professionals and others who encounter victims in their professions.

Batterer Intervention Services

DAAP funds a program that provides services to abusive men. DAAP funds the portion of the program that offers victim advocacy to the partners of men who attend the batterer intervention counseling. The confidential victim advocacy provided allows victims access to information about their partners' or ex-partners' progress in treatment.

Contact DAAP

The Domestic Abuse Assistance Program
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman Street, 3rd Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-2855
Fax: (303) 866-5488
www.domesticabusefund.org

Pam's Story

Pam was married for 23 years to a man who was an alcoholic and abusive. Over the years she learned that she could not leave her abusive husband without support and called the local domestic abuse crisis line. She started counseling and attending a support group. Eventually, she found the strength to safely leave her husband and found a job to support herself and her two children. Although she struggles as a single parent, she is safe and knows that her children will have a better life.



Tammy's Story

Tammy came to the local domestic abuse shelter after being physically and emotionally abused by her husband, who also abused her son. Tammy eventually transferred to a transitional housing unit and has received services from programs such as financial education, individual counseling, counseling for her son, legal rights clinic, and parenting education. While living in the transitional housing unit, Tammy is able to save money to eventually move into her own apartment. The support of the transitional housing program has given Tammy the recognition of her own gifts and talents as a mother, employee and community member.

Other Resources

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(303) 831-9632
1 (888) 778-7091
www.ccadv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Provides crisis hotline assistance for domestic violence victims across the country.

1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233) or 1 (800) 787-3224 (TTY)
www.ndvh.org

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline

1 (866) 331-9474
1 (866) 331-8453 TTY
www.loveisrespect.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund

www.endabuse.org

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence

www.dvalianza.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence

www.nnedv.org

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.ncadv.org