

September NewsLetter

Bolton Refuge House, Inc

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A Conversation on Sexual Assault

Today, conversations around domestic violence are more open than ever before. Intimate partner violence used to be a taboo topic that was never discussed in daily conversation. Thankfully, that has changed to where many people can talk about the issue of intimate partner violence and the needs of survivors openly. Unfortunately, that is not the case with conversations about sexual assault.

Many people see sexual assault as a forbidden topic with no place in everyday conversations. Yet, we know sexual assault is just as big of an issue that impacts just as many individuals as intimate partner violence. Still, sexual assault is seen as something that can't be talked about. Why?

Individuals can avoid talking about sexual assault because they think it is about sex. It is not. Sexual assault is about power and control. Just like with other forms of violence, sexual assault is one party taking power over another party in a violently traumatizing way that will cause long-term traumatic consequences for the survivor. Not acknowledging or talking about sexual assault can feel to the survivor that what they experienced wasn't traumatic or that they somehow had a role in the violence that happened to them.

Another reason people can be afraid to talk about sexual assault is because they are afraid to say the wrong thing. It can be terrifying for someone to share that they have survived sexual violence, especially if they don't know how the other party will react. For survivors, negative reactions to disclosing can greatly exacerbate the trauma they have already experienced. This can be a huge barrier for survivors reaching out for support. The most important thing is to listen, believe what they have said, and assure them it was not their fault. This can be:

"I believe you."

"I am so sorry that happened to you."

"It's not your fault."

"That should have never happened to you."

Bolton Refuge House is dedicated to offering support and services to all individuals affected by sexual assault. To create whole community change, everyone has to commit to supporting all survivors of sexual violence. Talking about sexual assault is the first step.

Upcoming Events!

Golf Outing Fundraiser, Sept. 16th at Wissota Golf & Events. Our goal is to raise \$10k towards support services.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Phoenix Park Bridge will be lit Purple. If you would like to sponsor a night for \$100, please connect with us!

Purple Porch Project, decorate purple on your porch and be put in a drawing for a purple basket at the end of October.



Star Walk for Day of Unity, starts October 6th and goes through the end of the October. Along the sidewalk by the phoenix park bridge will be star decals with names of victims who have lost their lives to domestic violence, including Officer Rober Bolton.



LAP Data

Total Calls: 7

High Danger: 7

Not High Danger: 0

The Lethality Assessment Protocol, or LAP, is a tool that helps police officers and other crisis responders to put victims in contact with us almost immediately after a domestic violence incident. Officers or responders use the lethality assessment to determine how much danger the victim is in in their current situation. If they conclude that the risk of lethality is high, the responder will call us and an advocate will speak with the victim, inform them of our services, and set up a time to call back for a more in-depth conversation.

The most common actions that customers take on your listing

1 month

Total actions 325

