

**WE BELIEVE THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY ANYONE.**

**WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

Domestic Violence is the physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse of a partner, ex-partner or family member.

**WHO IS AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

Domestic Violence can affect both men and women although in 92% of cases it is directed towards women. Children may also be victims either by being abused themselves or by witnessing abuse within the family home. In 90% of cases children are caught up in the violence, usually trying to protect their mother.

Domestic Violence cuts across ALL of society affecting people regardless of age, ability, gender, sexual preference or cultural norms.

Latest statistics show that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience some form of domestic violence at some time in their lives.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

It is important that the whole issue of Domestic Violence is brought out into the open within our local communities and that people are seen to be actively campaigning to stop it. Domestic Violence is a crime and cannot be tolerated. The Friends of North Dorset Women's Refuge exist to combat this crime and want you to join them in the task.

**NORTH DORSET WOMEN'S REFUGE**

was opened in November 2002 and can offer shelter and protection for 10 families at any one time. Each family has its own flat with kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedroom. Most importantly, each woman has her own front door key once she is safely within the Refuge.

During the past 2 years 160 women have used the Refuge. Where there are school aged children, these have been found places in schools as soon as possible so that some normality can be brought into their lives.

In the same 2 years 434 children have not been able to be accepted into the Refuge because it has been full.

**THE REFUGE OFFERS**

- ☺ A place of safety and security
- ☺ Time to think through the implications of leaving home
- ☺ 24 hour support and care
- ☺ Key working, personalised support from a named worker
- ☺ Information about DSS and other helping agencies
- ☺ Advice with legal problems, housing benefit.
- ☺ Assistance with securing school and nursery placements
- ☺ Education
- ☺ A 24 hour helpline
- ☺ Outreach support service
- ☺ Support groups

**FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*Please print clearly!*

NAME AND ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL:

Membership is open to any individual over 18 who is prepared to make an annual donation. Companies and other bodies and associations may also join. It is requested that annual donations are made by bankers order whenever possible. The amount of the donation is left to your discretion, although we suggest at least £10 – the cost of fruit provision for a week. A Gift Aid declaration will help the Friends to recover tax – *please do use this!*

**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

I wish all payments made or to be made by me to the Friends of the North Dorset Women's Refuge to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and will inform you if I cease to be such.

Signed:

Date:

*Please continue overleaf for your Bankers Order Form*

