

CELEBRATION OF HOPE

HELP STOP ABUSE AT DVSN'S MONTE CARLO NIGHT ON MAY 7



Domestic Violence Services Network, Inc. (DVSNI) is holding a “Monte Carlo Night” fundraiser in Lexington on Saturday evening, May 7, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 117 Bedford Street, Lexington. The evening includes a \$1000 bankroll for the casino, buffet, raffle, cash bar, DJ, and more. This annual “Celebration of Hope” fundraiser allows DVSNI to assist survivors of domestic abuse in Bedford, 10 surrounding towns, and Hanscom Air Force Base.

Domestic abuse is prevalent in all towns and all economic brackets. In 2015, the Bedford police responded to 44 domestic abuse calls, many of them at homes of people you probably know. In 2016, similar calls to the Bedford police have nearly doubled. The mental and physical abuse occurring daily behind closed doors remains a secret, because the target is ashamed and afraid, and the abusive partner wants it that way.

Do you have a friend who doesn't socialize with you as much as she used to, or who breaks dates at the last minute? She may be in an abusive relationship. When you do get together for coffee, she frequently has no money. Her partner may control all of her funds. Has she lost her confidence? Does she seem worried? She is probably being told every day that she is stupid and incompetent. Does she have frequent unexplained injuries and bruises? She may tell you that she is clumsy, but it is more likely that her partner causes the injuries. You suspect something is wrong, but you don't know what to do. How can you help? Learn more about the dynamics of domestic abuse. Volunteer to become a DVSNI advocate. Consider supporting DVSNI with a financial donation.

DVSNI follows up on all incidents of domestic abuse reported to the Bedford Police Department. Highly trained, confidential volunteer advocates reach out to survivors to help them stay safe, put them in touch with appropriate resources, and offer non-judgmental support so that they can tell their stories without shame. Often this is the first time the person has been able to share their story. Being heard, believed, and validated helps empower a survivor to begin to retake control. They no longer feel so alone.

You can support DVSNI's vital work by attending the “Monte Carlo Night” on May 7 and inviting your friends to join you. The suggested donation is \$50/ticket with pre-registration, which includes \$1,000 bankroll for the Casino and a buffet, and \$60 on the day of the event. Space is limited. Reserve your tickets now. Send your name, address, phone number, email, and number of tickets requested with a check payable to DVSNI, P.O. Box 536, Concord, MA 01742. Or visit DVSNI at www.dvsn.org and click on “Tickets”. For more information, call 978-318-3421. Please join us and help stop domestic abuse.