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Solving Safety Issues

Public Safety Chief: Criminal Justice System Needs Fixing

Everyday Terrorism

We Can All Fight This Form of Terrorism – Domestic Violence

The word “terrorism” evokes images of far-off, war-torn areas. We all believe terrorism is a global problem that looms large, but it is mostly hidden from our daily existence. Yet there is another form of terrorism that is hauntingly apparent here in Longmont: domestic violence.

By definition, terrorism is “the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce.” These 10 words also define the painful cycle of domestic violence. Terrorism works by creating a constant state of fear and submission. Domestic violence also works through the use of fear. Domestic violence robs victims of freedom, economic security, self-esteem, and peace of mind. Victims of terrorism share the same losses.

For some it might be a stretch to consider domestic violence “everyday terrorism,” but in our community, harsher language is appropriate. Domestic violence is still the number one public safety issue here in Longmont. In fact, more people in Longmont are injured as a result of domestic violence than any other crime. In 2010, Longmont had more than 700 domestic violence cases. In 22 percent of those cases, children witnessed the domestic violence, putting them at risk for a host of problems later in life.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, the perfect time to get informed and take action to end the violence in our community. LEVI (Longmont Ending Violence Initiative) and Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley offer several ways to commemorate the month:

- > Attend a documentary showing at the Domestic Violence Film Series.
- > Honor the victims in our community at the candlelight vigil.
- > Grab a book or materials at the special library display to educate yourself and others about the subtle warning signs of an abusive/controlling relationship.
- > Collect phones or funds for domestic violence victims.

We can overcome the “everyday terrorism” of domestic violence by accepting it as an “everybody issue” and working together to make Longmont safe for EVERYONE.

For more information on domestic violence and the events listed above, visit

www.LongmontDomesticViolence.org