



# The St. Paul and Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)



# MISSION

The Saint Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) is a grass-roots organization that exists to eliminate domestic violence, and the social and system responses that condone or allow its oppression.

Our organization believes that domestic violence is a crime and every victim/survivor has the right to access the criminal justice system, receive safety through the laws that are designed to protect them, and obtain the critical support and services they and their children deserve.



**WE FURTHER BELIEVE** that no one has  
the right to abuse anyone and no one  
deserves to be abused regardless of



SPIRITUAL BELIEF

MENTAL OR  
PHYSICAL ABILITY



RACE



AGE

IMMIGRATION  
STATUS

SEXUAL  
ORIENTATION



PARTNER/MARITAL  
STATUS

GENDER

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND



# THE PROBLEM WE ADDRESS

*Domestic violence dangerously impacts our community  
24 hours a day and 365 days out of the year*

Across the U.S.-

1 in 4 women are beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood;

2.3 million people are raped and/or physically assaulted each year by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, and

Hundreds of lives are lost due to perpetrators' need to isolate, intimidate and control their victims.

Domestic Violence accounts for 25%  
of all violent crime victims in MN.



# In Order To Wholly Address This Serious Issue, We:

- ❖ Provide a continuum of culturally and linguistically appropriate crisis intervention and transitional services;
- ❖ Facilitate the systems' response to domestic violence;
- ❖ Provide education, prevention and outreach to victims of and the community at large, and
- ❖ Cultivate a community-wide response to end domestic violence.



Annually, we serve over 5,900 victims and their children, and receive 8,000 calls for support and information on our crisis line.

Our confidential, 24-hour crisis and transitional services are available -free of charge- to ensure victims and their children receive the protection and support they need to live free from violence.



## Our diverse direct service staff is comprised of:

- African, Latin, European and Southeast Asian American ethnic backgrounds, and
- Elders, people of different abilities, lesbians, immigrants and domestic abuse survivors.
- By which English, Spanish, Hmong, French, Somali and basic sign languages are spoken.

And Specific programming is available to serve monolingual Spanish, Somali and Hmong speaking participants, and older victims.



# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

I. Acute Intervention Program- Provides crisis intervention, advocacy and **increased protections for over 4,350 victims** each year immediately following an assault, and throughout the entire legal process.

II. System Advocacy Program- Works effectively with the criminal justice and government systems to improve responses to domestic violence; promote policies to protect the victims and their families. The creation of the *“Blueprint for Safety”* is one example of this collaborative work.



**III. Hospital/Clinic Services-** Works with the medical community in educating health care staff and annually serving over 400 patients who are deliberately abused.

**IV. Latino & Immigrant Family Violence Program-** Annually serves over 600 Latina and immigrant victims.

**V. Transitional Services –** Provides critical short and long-term services to 4,900 victims and their children. These can range from ongoing safety planning and obtaining orders for protection, to securing long-term medical care and safe, affordable housing.

**VI. Children's & Adolescent Services-** Provides advocacy annually to over 1,400 children of the victims we serve and over 350 female adolescents who are primary victims.

**VII. Southeast Asian Services-** Provides culturally and linguistically appropriate advocacy to 580 SE Asian victims each year.

**VIII. Older Battered Women's Program-** Annually serves over 350 older battered women, meeting their unique safety, emotional and transitional needs.

**IX. 24 Crisis-line-** Handles an estimated 8,000 victims calls each year.

**X. Bridges to Safety (BTS)-** SPIP acts as a lead partner and administrator for the collaborative “Victim Service Center”, that serves over **1,400** victims and their children each year.

**XI. Community Outreach Programming-** Provides education, outreach and networking sessions to ensure services and protections are available to all victims and children – with a focus on reaching under-served/marginalized communities.

**XII. Muslim Battered Women’s Outreach Program-** Serves over **200** Muslim victims each year.



# SPIP 2017 STATISTICS

Total number of victims served: 5,998

## Participants' geographic location

St. Paul: 4,890

Suburban Ramsey County 1,090

Other counties: 18

## Income levels

Below 100% Poverty: 88%

Between 100% and 200% Poverty: 10%

Above 200% of Poverty: >1%

Income Unknown: <1%



## Participants' race/ethnicity

Hispanic/Chicano/Latino: 12%

African: 4%

African American: 34%

American Indian: 2%

Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islander: 10%

European American: 32%

Multi-racial: 3%

Other: 1%

Race/Ethnicity Unknown: 2%

19% Identified as New Immigrants (Somali, Hmong, Latino, Karen, Russian, Burmese, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Liberian, Eritrean, etc.).

# A Community Response to Domestic Violence

## *“Cultivating True Partnerships”*



The city of Saint Paul and Ramsey County are considered national leaders in confronting the serious issue of domestic abuse.

From the creation of the *Blueprint for Safety* to the opening of *Bridges to Safety*, our community's holistic, collaborative approach has transformed justice systems, medical protocols, spiritual practices, funding streams, educational systems, and individual attitudes and behaviors.





City of Saint Paul  
COPP Funding  
Plays a Significant Role  
In the Provision of  
Transforming and Life-Saving  
Acute Intervention and  
Transitional Services







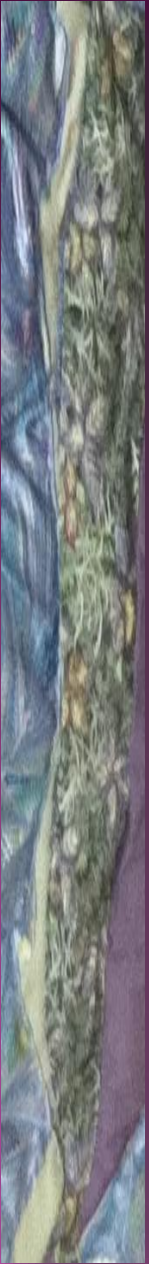
# THE ISSUE

Domestic violence is a complicated crime, and a holistic response must take into account its many roots - how we regard and value women in our culture (as well as in other societies); the intersectionality of gender, race and other biases that marginalize victims; perceived entitlement, and the belief that one person has the right to oppress and control another.



When a victim attempts to leave an abusive situation, they are at a 75% greater risk of being murdered.

During the six months following a violent episode, 32% of battered women are victimized again.



Isolation and the real fear of homelessness, deportation, no financial security, and ultimately continued threats of violence, silences and entraps victims - preventing them from accessing the help and protections they desperately need.





SPIP advocates ensure victims have access to immediate protection and ongoing safety-planning, and SPIP's array of programming and services.

Our advocates strive to ensure that the crisis and transitional services offered are relevant and sensitive to the culture, age, language, spiritual belief, lifestyle, sexual orientation, and mental and physical abilities of the victim.





In the past two calendar years, at least 42 people in Minnesota have died due to domestic violence.

In 2017, there were six domestic related homicides in Ramsey County, five of which were in St. Paul. Four of the six people murdered were helpers or family members of the victims.

Too often, domestic homicide victims had left or were attempting to leave the abusive relationship before they were murdered.



## Acute Intervention Services are at the Heart of our Agency.

That first contact with victims sets the foundation for an ongoing relationship of advocacy and support, which will encompass the entire legal process, their and their family's crisis needs, ongoing safety planning, and a range of critical transitional services.

### SPIP Works To Insure –

Victims and their children can remain safe in their own homes, schools, places of employment and communities, and

That the violent behaviors of the perpetrators are curtailed before the same or new victim is again assaulted.

# ACUTE INTERVENTION SERVICES



Upon contact a  
legal advocate  
contacts the  
victim



When a domestic  
assault occurs and  
there is police  
involvement, our  
agency is contacted  
immediately, 24-  
hours per day,  
seven days a week

The advocate  
ascertains safety  
needs and conducts  
a protection plan,  
need for emergency  
medical attention,  
possible emergency  
shelter, whether or  
not all the injuries  
were documented at  
the scene, and  
victim's crisis needs

Once the victim's immediate situation has been considered - the advocate will inform the victim of their rights, what will transpire in court the next day, the services of our agency and what information they would like us to share with the courts the next morning.



This is often the first contact a victim has with support services. SPIP is the only domestic violence program in St. Paul which reaches out to victims during the initial crisis.



*On a daily basis, SPIP advocates work within the criminal justice system to ensure victim's rights are upheld, and their voices are heard by the system.*

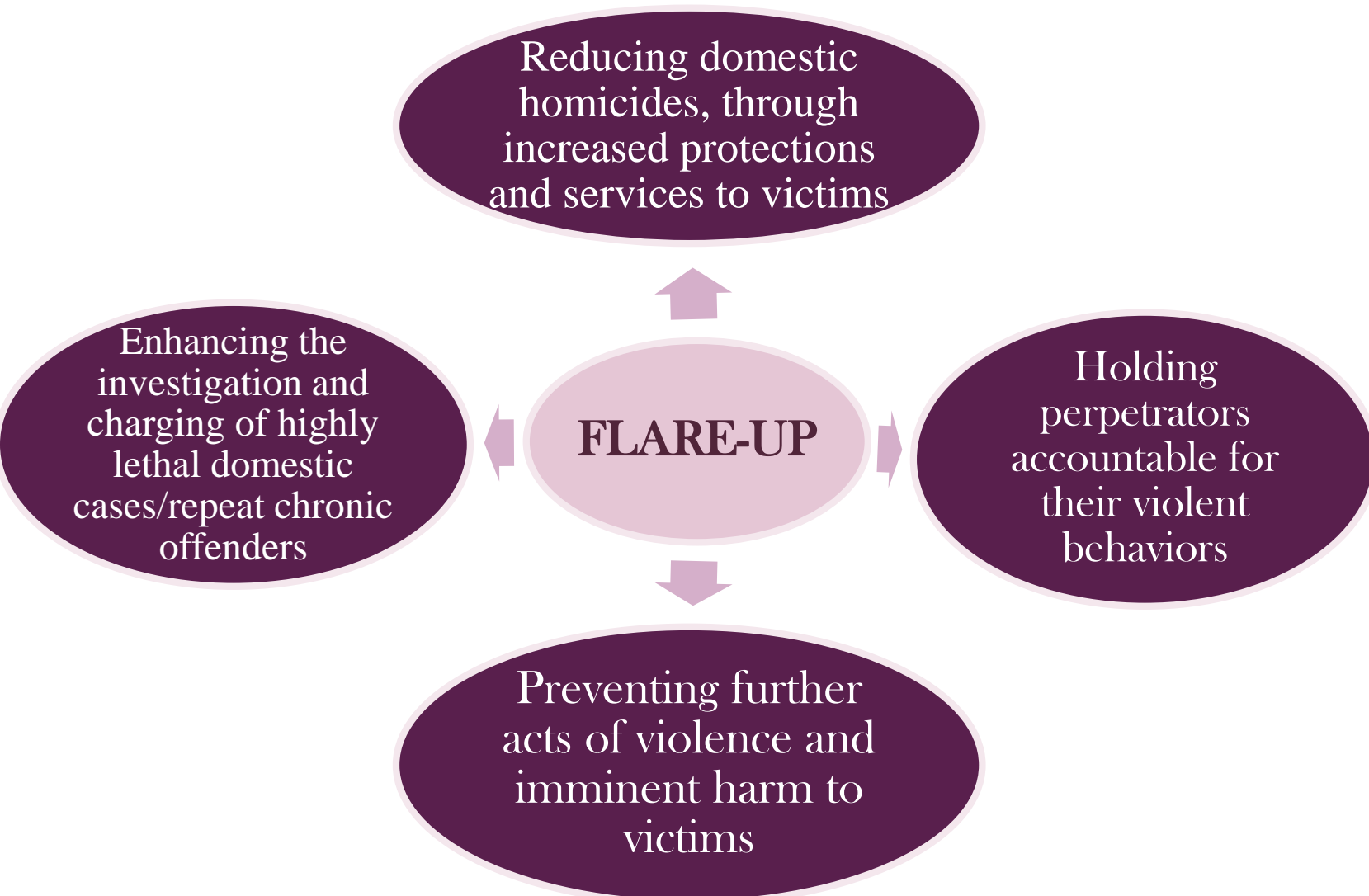


*SPIP consistently monitors judicial policy and procedural practices, and provides domestic violence training to systems personnel.*

# FLARE-UP PROGRAM (DV-CAR)

*First Light, Accountability, Response & Enforcement United with Prosecution*

*(Domestic Violence Cop Advocate Response)*



# DV-CAR/FLARE-UP PROGRAM

- Advocate and Investigator Unite
- Identify highly lethal cases
- Victim safety 1<sup>st</sup>; Case 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Immediate Home Visits
- Monitors Victim Safety
- Closely Connects with the other Partners: SPIP, St. Paul Police Department, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, Ramsey County Community Corrections and Ramsey County Attorney's Office.



# BLUEPRINT FOR SAFETY

The *FLARE-UP Program* provided the foundation for the creation of the *Blueprint for Safety*.



# TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

Transitional services to victims and their families address the barriers that prevent them from leaving a violent situation and securing a safe, long-term living environment.

SPIP services include securing emergency shelter, 911 phones, basic needs, housing, medical services, financial assistance, household security, legal representation, childcare, education and employment opportunities, counseling and support services, and Support/Education Groups (in English & Spanish, and for older and incarcerated victims).





## EACH YEAR, THROUGH OUR ACUTE INTERVENTION & TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

- Over 4,300 victims receive crisis legal advocacy and critical support services immediately following a domestic assault
- Over 3,200 victims receive civil and family court advocacy services and information
- Over 600 victims are assisted in securing Orders for Protections (OFPs)
- Over 3,200 victims receive crisis services/safety planning for their children
- Over 350 female adolescent victims receive crisis and transitional advocacy services
- Over 3,400 victims receive legal advocacy services throughout the entire criminal justice system process
- Over 1,000 victims receive assistance in obtaining legal representation, advice and resources
- Over 8,000 victims are served through our 24-hour crisis line

## EACH YEAR, THROUGH OUR ACUTE INTERVENTION & TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

- Over 900 victims participate in our education and support groups
- Over 1,200 victims receive financial assistance/budget planning
- Over 600 victims receive educational, employment and housing assistance
- Over 400 hospital/clinic patients receive advocacy services and increased protection
- Over 4,900 victims receive on-going transitional services (victims and their children)
- Over 400 FLARE-UP home visits/enhanced contacts are conducted with victims of highly lethal offenders
- Over 400 highly lethal perpetrators are prevented from committing further acts of violence

# BRIDGES TO SAFETY (BTS)

- SPIP acts as fiscal and administrative body for BTS (collaborative victim safety center), and provides advocacy services at the center to over 1,000 victims each year.
- PDAS partners provide on-site (free) services at the Center, or in linking their programming and support with on-site services to ensure all victims receive the services they need.

## ON-SITE SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Crisis, safety planning, legal and personal advocacy services
- Legal consultation and representation
- Law enforcement assistance
- Order for protection writing/filing
- Supervised play for children
- Access to safe child visitation services
- Assistance for shelter, and advocacy follow-up for obtaining basic and transitional needs.

# IMPACT OF COPP FUNDING

COPP funding supports our agency's goal to ensure victims of domestic abuse:

- a) Receive individualized safety plans and support that take into account their and their children's immediate and long-term safety,
- b) Have access to and knowledge of protections through the justice system;
- c) Will benefit from the range of vital programming, services and community resources we offer, and
- d) Develop the skills, support and resources needed to survive their dangerous situations, and move forward and live free from violence.

# IMPACT OF COPP FUNDING

From Our Victim Surveys And Focus Groups:

- 98% of the victims felt our services were welcoming for their cultural/ethnic background, 93% felt safer; 99% felt they were treated with dignity, and 97% were satisfied with our services.
- Many of the victims stated they did not feel they would be alive today if not for SPIP advocates.

Our ability to reach and effectively serve traditionally underserved populations is supported by victim demographics and surveys. SPIP outreach, presentations and trainings have consistently received the highest participant evaluations.



# St. Paul COPP Funding Has Been Instrumental In Changing The Way Our Community Responds To Domestic Violence



- 🌍 It Has Enabled 24-hour Crisis Intervention, Legal Advocacy And Holistic Transitional Services For Victims Of Domestic Abuse.
  - 🌍 It Has Annually Enabled Over 4,890 St. Paul Residents To Attain Safety From Abuse, And Began To Move Past The Dangerous Barriers They Face To Live Free From Violence.
  - 🌍 It Has Enabled Us To Create And Sustain Programming That Has Been Significant In Reducing Domestic Homicides In The City Of St. Paul, And Obtain One Of The Highest Success Rates In Reducing The Recidivism Rate Of Highly Lethal Offenders; And
- ...It Has Literally Saved Lives.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead