

Hope Alliance

1-800-460-SAFE

Williamson County's Domestic and Sexual Violence Response and Prevention Program

1011 Gattis School Rd. #106, Round Rock, TX 78664 • Phone: 512-255-1212 • Fax: 512-255-7331 • www.hopealliancetxt.org

Our Mission

Developing partnerships and providing services that renew hope, highlight possibilities and change the futures of those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence.

Our History

Founded in 1984 as a rape crisis center, Hope Alliance celebrated 25 years of service to the community in 2009. The agency expanded to include services for domestic violence victims in the late 1980s and opened the 24-hour emergency shelter in 1990. Since then, it has established outreach offices in Georgetown, Cedar Park, Taylor and Hutto to facilitate the delivery of services across Williamson County. In 2004, a county-wide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) was established with Hope Alliance as a founding member. Also in 2004, collaboration with the American Housing Foundation resulted in the establishment of the 183 Corridor Transitional Housing program for victims of family violence. Today Hope Alliance is recognized nationally as a leader in caring for those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence. All services are free and confidential.

Our Objectives

Hope Alliance operates under the belief that physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse of one human being by another is unacceptable. We believe that all abuse diminishes or prohibits the full expression of life and growth that is every person's right.

Our primary objectives are to:

- Advocate for the creation of an environment where violence and abuse are not tolerated in the community.
- Provide education, violence prevention services and crisis intervention to victims of family and sexual violence.
- Seek the support and resources necessary to achieve the agency mission.

Our Locations

Hope Alliance's main offices and the emergency shelter are located in Round Rock, Texas. Outreach offices include the Taylor and Georgetown Police Departments, Williamson County Sheriff's Department, Cedar Park Health Department and LifePointe Fellowship Church in Hutto. For safety reasons, the specific location of the shelter is kept confidential.

Core Services

24-Hour Hotline

Crisis Intervention

Court Accompaniment

Transitional Housing

Community Education

Emergency Shelter

Counseling

Hospital Accompaniment

School-Based Services

Legal Advocacy

Support Groups

Law Enforcement Accompaniment

Professional Training

Highlights

- Hope Alliance serves more than 5,000 clients through our core programs each year.
- In 2009, 8,517 nights of shelter were provided to 354 women and children.
- Each year, over 2,500 hotline callers receive crisis intervention services, information and referrals from Hope Alliance.
- Volunteers provide Hope Alliance with nearly 3,500 hours of service each year.
- There is a growing need for emergency shelter in Williamson County. Hope Alliance has documented a 39 percent increase in the number of victims provided shelter during the last year and, for the last two years, has been forced to make referrals for alternative refuge for 10-15 families each month.

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24-Hour Hotline

Hope Alliance provides a 24-hour crisis hotline that provides crisis intervention, peer support, general information, shelter screening, and advocacy services related to issues of family and sexual violence. Calls are received predominantly from Williamson and Travis county areas, although the hotline can be dialed from anywhere in the United States. In 2008, Hope Alliance received more than 4,500 hotline calls.

Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing

Hope Alliance's emergency, independent living shelter houses women and children seeking refuge from family and/or sexual violence. The shelter accommodates up to 35 women and children and is the only shelter of its kind in Williamson County. The shelter represents a critical point in crisis intervention, alleviating the threat of imminent violence or homelessness and offering a temporary safe space where women can make decisions about their lives and access support. In 2008, Hope Alliance provided 9,725 nights of shelter to women and children.

Hope Alliance also offers a transitional housing program for those survivors that have recently received services from the agency. This provides a housing solution for those who have chosen to leave their abuser and as a result have been made homeless due to family and/or sexual violence. Shelter and transitional housing clients also receive case management and intervention services to ensure their long-term success and family stability.

Accompaniment and Advocacy Services

Hope Alliance advocates volunteer their time to accompany survivors to court proceedings, forensic medical exams and law enforcement meetings as a resource for support and comfort during challenging situations. Because of Hope Alliance's close working relationships with local law enforcement and hospitals, advocates are alerted when victims are brought to local hospitals for sexual assault exams and meet the victim and family members there as an immediate resource.

Hope Alliance also employs a legal advocate who works closely with clients concerning protective orders, crime victims' compensation, divorce and custody proceedings and other related issues. The legal advocate and volunteers are available to accompany survivors of domestic and sexual violence to court proceedings and help them to complete and file necessary legal paperwork.

Counseling & Support Groups

Hope Alliance provides individual and group counseling and support groups to adults, children and teens. The clinical team provides these services to help survivors, loved ones and family members move past the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. Groups have included Sexual Trauma, Adults Sexually Abused as Children, Adult Survivors of Abuse, Teen Sexual Violence Survivors, Child Survivors, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors, Parents of Sexually Abused Children, and Help End Abusive Relationship Tendencies (HEART) groups. In-school counseling is available for students affected by family violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, child abuse, and alcohol/drug abuse.

Education & Prevention

Hope Alliance is a leader in community outreach, education and prevention around domestic and sexual violence and works to engage the community around these issues. Continuing education, volunteer training, trainings for law enforcement and in-school presentations provide age- and audience-appropriate information designed to further its work to eliminate abuse in the community. Trainings on violence in the workplace and implementing/meeting OSHA standards are also available for local employers.

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1 in...

- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- 1 in 5 female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

Domestic Violence

- Each year, intimate partner violence results in an estimated 1,200 deaths and 2 million injuries among women and nearly 600,000 injuries among men.
- Females 20-24 years old are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children as adults.
- 30 to 60 percent of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.
- Almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.
- Family violence costs the nation from \$5 to \$10 billion annually in medical expense, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity.
- The annual cost of lost productivity due to domestic violence is estimated as \$727.8 million, with more than 7.9 million paid workdays lost each year.

Sexual Assault

- 17.7 million American women have been victims of attempted or completed rape.
- 60 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.
- College age women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted.
- 15 percent of sexual assault and rape victims are under age 12.
- Victims of sexual assault are 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs and four times more likely to contemplate suicide.

Abuse in Texas

- In 2006, there were nearly 187,000 incidents of family violence in Texas.
- 120 Texas women were killed by their intimate partner in 2006.
- More than 226,000 children and 104,000 adults become victims of sexual assault every year in Texas.
- Statewide 12,000 adults and 17,000 children received shelter from abuse in 2006.
- According to a 2002 study from the Texas Council on Family Violence, 74 percent of all Texans have either experienced family violence themselves or have a family member or friend who has experienced family violence.

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