



STOPDV Winter 2023 Newsletter



WHAT IS STOPDV?

STOPDV is the first domestic violence specialty court in Arkansas that provides not only court advocacy, safety planning, and support to domestic violence survivors, but also free legal services such as representation for eligible petitioners in active order of protection hearings in Faulkner County. Based in Conway, Arkansas, STOPDV was initially funded on October 1st, 2019. We eagerly serve clients in person or via telephone, email or Zoom from the Faulkner County Justice Building, where we primarily operate as a fully functioning court project.

STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

"1 IN EVERY 6 WOMEN AND 1 OUT OF 19 MEN IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN STALKED IN THEIR LIFETIME."
-NCADV

@stopdvproject

During January, we highlighted facts about stalking to spread awareness of how stalking impacts victims.

OUR STORY

STOPDV was initially founded over twenty years ago by Judge H.G. Foster. While working as a deputy prosecuting attorney, Judge Foster realized that there was a need in the community to help victims who "couldn't hit back". Thus, STOPDV was born, with our name being credited to Judge Reynolds.

Our board consists of a legislator, city council and a quorum court member, an attorney, and other community members who are committed to helping survivors of domestic violence. In our first year, we were able to assist 883 clients, far exceeding our set goal of fifty clients. We always look forward to continuing to serve our community.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence (DV) is a pattern of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse, including threats, intimidation, isolation, and/or economic coercion. Domestic violence is used by one person to exert power and control over another in the context of a dating, family, or household relationship.



**Follow us on Instagram
@stopdvproject to see weekly updates!**

What's Happening?

ON THE BORDER FUNDRAISER



Pictured: Faulkner County Sheriff's Office at STOPDV's
On the Border fundraiser

In October of 2022, STOPDV hosted a fundraiser through On the Border, and by the generous donations and support of our community partners and volunteers, we were able to go above and beyond our goal during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Pictured: STOPDV team, board members and supporters
at STOPDV On the Border fundraiser
PC: Jerry Boyer

OUR IMPACT IN 2022



In 2022, we have been utterly blown away by how many individuals we were able to reach in the Faulkner County community. Domestic violence is a prevalent issue among us, but providing free and confidential services to those in need of them has encouraged survivors of domestic violence to choose what is best for them and their situation.

Our STOPDV team believes that knowledge is power, and the more that a survivor of domestic violence is informed of what options are available to them will aid them in staying safe and living a life free from abuse.

This past year, STOPDV has provided advocacy and legal services to over twelve hundred individuals. This includes crisis intervention & safety planning services, court accompaniment, Spanish translation, attorney services/referrals, and child advocacy services. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and help put a stop to domestic violence.



SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Appreciation Corner



SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RANDY HIGGINS



Randy Higgins has been a long-time resident of Faulkner County. He has been married to his high school sweetheart Verna for 41 years and they have two sons, Matt and Mitchell, both graduates of UCA. He has two grandchildren as well, Maddox, 7, and Avery, 4.

Randy and his family are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier for nearly 30 years. He graduated from the Faulkner County Sheriff's Reserve Training program in 1995 and had served as a reserve law enforcement officer in Faulkner County for 28 years; 16 years with the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office and currently 12 years with the Greenbrier Police Department. He is also a graduate of the class of 2007 Faulkner County Leadership Institute.

Randy recently completed his 6th two-year term on the Faulkner County Quorum Court representing his hometown of Greenbrier in JP District 2. He is the past president of the Arkansas Association of Quorum Courts and completed a two year term on the executive board of the Association of Arkansas Counties.

In 2021, after a 35 year career in the fire protection systems business, Randy retired from Johnson Controls, Inc., as the Regional Business Operations Manager for the eastern United States. After two years he decided to come out of retirement and again serve Faulkner County on the staff of county judge Allen Dodson as the Faulkner County Administrator.

We are so grateful for the time and effort Mr. Higgins has put towards advocating for the services we provide to residents of Faulkner County and for his determination to make Faulkner County a safer place for survivors.

MARCUS VADEN



Based in Faulkner County, Attorney Marcus Vaden has been assisting victims of violent crime for decades and shown support for STOPDV since the very beginning.

Mr. Vaden has provided pro bono attorney services to assist STOPDV clients needing legal services outside of representation for orders of protection. In other words, instead of victims of DV spending money that may otherwise keep them afloat financially, Mr. Vaden has offered services to clients free of charge, as his caseload allows. We are so thankful for Mr. Vaden's support and for the selfless hours and effort he has put in for survivors.



Useful Info & Resources



AMAZON WISHLIST



If you are looking for an easy way to support the clients we serve, how does shopping our Amazon Wishlist sound? This wishlist contains items that are not typically covered by grant funding. Altogether, this is a great way to help us maintain our efforts and help us continue to serve the Faulkner County community.

Please visit our website at wecanstopdv.org/amazon-wishlist to find out more.

LOCAL PHONE RESOURCES

AR State Police: (501) 618-8000
AR Coalition Against Sexual Assault: (800) 656-4673
AR Coalition Against Domestic Violence: (501) 907-5612
AR Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, & Domestic Violence: (501) 661-7975
The Rise House Crisis Hotline: (866) 358-2265
Women & Children First: (800) 332-4443
The Safe Place (Morrilton): (888)-554-2501

SAFETY PLANNING AFTER ABUSE



NATIONAL PHONE RESOURCES

National Dating Abuse Helpline:
(866) 331-9474
National Domestic Violence Hotline:
(800) 799-7233
(Text 'LOVEIS' to '22522')
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence:
(800) 537-2238
National Network to End Domestic Violence:
(202) 543-5566
Love Is Respect:
1-866-331-9474, 800.787.3224 (TTY)
The Trevor Project:
1-866-488-7386



Contact Us & More



@stopdvproject



@StopDV



www.wecanstopdv.org

The Rise House of Conway 24-Hour Hotline: (866)358-2265



Staff Contact Info (left to right)

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Cristal Ramirez, Compliance Court Advocate, (501)764-6195,
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How Can You Support STOPDV?

Donate to STOPDV by texting 'STOPDV19'
to 44-321, OR

Square:

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML6G3YW9FZBB7/checkout/BWPIVRF5PRTHSEDN4TXSBDW2>

PayPal:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?
token=pq08kbZamMzxvO36M03Xqj0f-
YIEmpaaYfvgH0y0v14Qfeo750bC-
Yjmdierrs1zB9HHkfWrZSS7Np-](https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=pq08kbZamMzxvO36M03Xqj0f-YIEmpaaYfvgH0y0v14Qfeo750bC-Yjmdierrs1zB9HHkfWrZSS7Np-)



Arkansas Victim Rights

Arkansas legate law (Act 873 and Arkansas Victim Rights Law/Act 1262) provides these protections to victims:

- As a victim of a crime, you are entitled to specific information about the criminal case and the legal process involving the criminal case.
- During criminal proceedings, you have the right to be present and be provided with a separate waiting area away from your abuser.
- You have the right to make an impact statement in person or in writing, detailing how the crime against you has affected your life.
- Once the criminal proceeding is finished, you have the right to have a post-conviction no contact order.
- If your abuser is found guilty and the judge's sentence includes incarceration, you have the right to be informed thirty days prior to the release, parole, furlough, pardon, plea, bail or at the time of escape through notification programs such as VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, funders, volunteers, board, staff members, and community partners.

None of this would be possible without you!