

Abuse is never deserved nor acceptable! Whether it's coming from a man, a woman, a teenager, or an older adult, everyone deserves to feel valued, respected, and safe.

### NO ONE DESERVES IT!

**Healthy Relationship** - When both people give and receive safe and open exchange of ideas, feelings and thoughts; both have the freedom to respectfully challenge, confront, and strengthen one another.

**Abusers Choose to Abuse** - Violent and abusive behavior is the abuser's choice. Violence and abuse is not due to the abuser's loss of control over his behavior; it is a deliberate choice made by the abuser in order to control the victim. When at work or other environments he cannot control, he is able to behave well and fit in for long periods of time. However, when home or in his comfort zone, he is free to abuse physically and emotionally with use of dominance, humiliation, isolation, threats, intimidation, denial, and blame. Offentimes an abuser will embarrass or humiliate his partner in public.

**Abusers Motives** - Abusers want to gain and maintain total control over their victims and/or exhibit an attitude of entitlement. An abuser doesn't "play fair." Abusers use fear, guilt, shame, and intimidation to wear a partner down and keep her under his thumb. An abuser may also threaten or hurt his partner and/or those around her, even pets.

Domestic abuse occurs when one person in an intimate relationship tries to dominate or control the other one. This includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic, spiritual or psychological actions or threats that influence the partner; behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound.

### WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

### A FEW FAVORITE SCRIPTURES:

**Psalms 55:12-13:** *"For it was not an enemy who insulted me, then I could have endured it. Neither was it he who hated me who raised himself up against me, then I would have hid myself from him. Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend."*

**Romans 12:10:** *"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7:** *"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."*

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

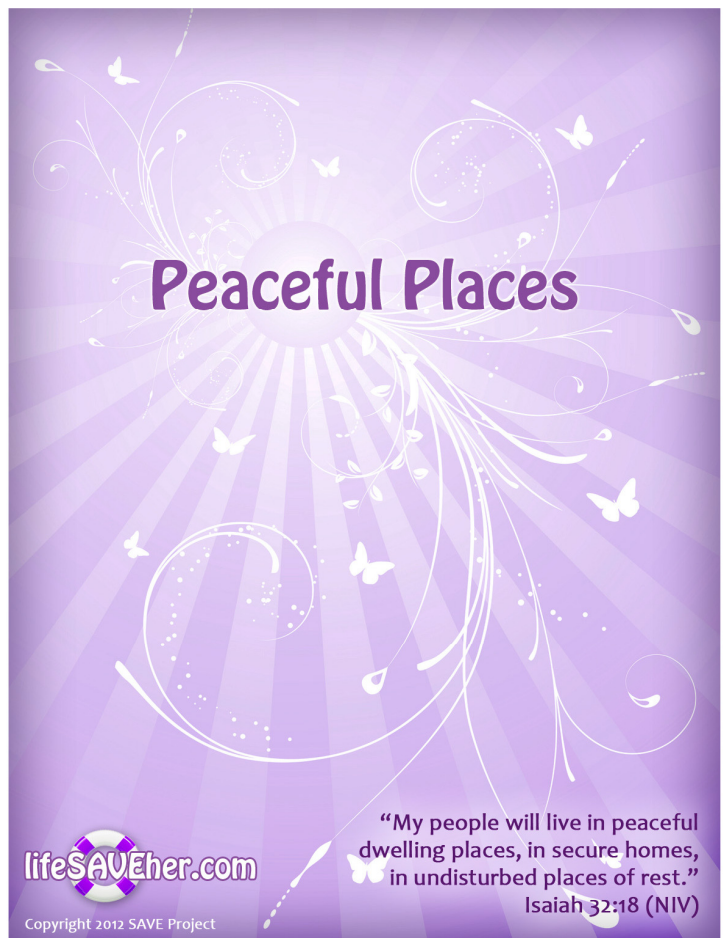
**LifeSAVEhers - Provide contact info for your church or SAVE Group here.**

- More at [www.lifesaveher.com](http://www.lifesaveher.com)
- YMCA National Safe Place: [www.nrscrisisline.org](http://www.nrscrisisline.org)
- Alabama Child Abuse Prevention: [ctf.alabama.gov](http://ctf.alabama.gov)
- Danger Assessment: [www.dangerassessment.org](http://www.dangerassessment.org)
- National Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)
- Alabama Hotline: 2-1-1 [www.acadv.org](http://www.acadv.org)

### RESOURCES:

- \* *Statistics from Atlanta Centers for Disease Control and American Bar Association with Bureau of Justice Statistics*
- Children in these families have lower ability to achieve; negative outlook on life; more likely to become an abuser; and some go to jail.
- **Domestic violence contributes to the breakdown of the family unit.**
- **No one excluded:** All ages, races, and genders (95% female; 5% male).
- **3.3 million children witness violence** toward their mothers as teen pregnancy and attempted suicide.
- **Abused girls are more likely** to experience other risky behaviors such as teen pregnancy and attempted suicide.
- **40%** know another girl who has been abused by a dating partner.
- **1 in 5 high school girls** reports being physically and/or sexually abused
- **#1 reason for work place deaths** is violent spouse or boyfriend.
- **3 or more women murdered** by husbands/boyfriends every day.
- **30% of first-time abuse** occurs during pregnancy.
- **Every 9 seconds** a woman is beaten or assaulted.
- **4 million American women** are assaulted by a partner every year.
- **37% of women seeking emergency care** is for violence related injuries.
- **Leading cause of injury** to women ages 15 to 45 is abuse.
- **#1 health problem** for women in America is abuse (1 in 4 women).

### ALARMING FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE IN AMERICA



lifeSAVEher.com

Copyright 2012 SAVE Project

"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest."  
Isaiah 32:18 (NIV)

