The Silent Witness Exhibit

~ Honors those who died from intimate partner violence

~ Tells true stories of Illinois women killed through domestic abuse

~ Raises awareness of the loss we all suffer when lives are taken senselessly

Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence

NCJ
National Council of Jewish Women
Chicago North Shore Section
National Council of Jewish Women
Silent Witness Exhibit

The silent Witness Exhibit provides a powerful visual impact of the real tragedy of loss of life and the effect on family and community. Life-sized red female figures bear shields that convey the life and death of women who have died from acts of domestic violence. Blue male figures symbolize the small but real number of male victims and small white figures signify the children left when their mothers were killed. The NCJW Exhibit includes 40 females, 2 males, and 10 children and is available for use in the Chicago area.

Since it was launched in 197 by NCJW, the Silent Witness Exhibit has been viewed by thousands of people at venues such as schools, courts, malls, churches, synagogues, marches and vigils. Our goal is to promote peace, healing and responsibility in adult relationships. The exhibit is a witness to hope, heath and healing of family violence in our communities.
What People are Saying About the Exhibit

“The Silent Witness display provided a very tangible image of violence and its devastation.”

“From an emotional sense, I found it very profound to be standing “face-to-face” with a person and her only way to speak was through a placard on her chest. She was telling me to become angry at the tragedy of her death and make something happen!”

“Powerful exhibit that impresses upon me the necessity of collective action to keep these silent ranks from growing. Speak out, yell loud, and stop the violence!”

“One picture is worth a thousand words. The pictures of women’s lives presented by the Silent Witness appeared to facilitate a dialogue about painful family relationships that for many never existed before.”

“Attendees at our events have expressed surprise when they read a shield of a women who lived in their community, and [they] can no longer say ‘domestic violence doesn’t happen in my neighborhood.’”

“We read statistics about domestic violence all the time, but I think the Silent Witness Exhibit helps make the statistics real.”

“It is interesting to watch as the realization overcomes people that this silhouette was actually once a real person whose life was cut short by domestic violence.”
Sheri Scherer
Age 40
Naperville
July 9, 2002

Sheri was stabbed to death in her home apparently by her ex-husband who took their 6-year-old daughter Rachel and fled. The next day he deliberately drove his SUV into an oncoming semi-trailer truck on a rural road in Iowa, killing himself and their daughter.
Higher Ground: NCJW’s Campaign against Domestic Violence is a national effort to end power-based personal violence and increase survivors’ autonomy by improving the economic status of women. Grounded in the understanding that economic security is critical to women’s safety, Higher Ground educates and mobilizes advocates, community members, and decision makers to promote progressive policy solutions that champion economic justice.

Locally, the Chicago North Shore Section offers various services, including speakers, advocacy on legislative issues, community action such as cell phone collection, Luggage for Freedom, a community service project that provides needed luggage, linens and toiletries to women and backpacks to children leaving shelters, and a volunteer Domestic Violence Court Watch program.
The Silent Witness Exhibit is available for your use!

Contact NCJW for more information at 847-853-8889 or visit our website at www.ncjwcns.org.

Other Illinois Silent Witness Exhibits:

Alton:  * Oasis Center
Belleville:  * Violence Prevention Center of SW Illinois
Chicago:  * Chicago Police Department  
* Chicago Abused Women Coalition
Elgin:  * Community Crisis Center
Homewood:  * South Suburban Family Shelter
Jacksonville:  * Crisis Center Foundation
Macomb:  * WIRC-CAA Victim Services
North Chicago:  * Great Lakes Naval Training Center
Springfield:  * Sojourn House  
* Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Waukegan:  * A Safe Place

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works through a program of research, education, advocacy and community service to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.