

OAP PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Offender Accountability Program (OAP) at the YWCA of the Tonawandas is a model that borrows from several different approaches. It is not an attempt at therapy, nor does it promise to change the behavior of an abuser. The goals of the programs are:

- To show abusers the effect that their abuse has had on their partner and/or their families;
- To hold the abuser accountable for their abusive behavior;
- Encourage the abuser to take responsibility for his behavior;
- To educate abusers on the elements of a healthy relationship;
- To teach the abuser alternative ways to handle conflict within his life.

Only when an abuser truly takes responsibility for his own abusive behavior, truly sees the long-term negative effects on his family, his partner and himself, and truly desires to change will he be able to make the behavior changes needed, and learn and apply alternative ways to settle conflict.

VICTIM SAFETY IS A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION OF OAP



YWCA of the Tonawandas
49 Tremont Street
North Tonawanda NY 14120

THE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (OAP)

OAP is a 26-week program. Most participants are mandated by the court system or by the Department of Social Services Child Protection Department, although the YWCA will accept voluntary participants. The cost is \$35 for intake/orientation and between \$15-\$35 (sliding scale) per session. Participants must schedule a registration appointment. All of the profits are used to provide services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and to promote awareness and educate people about domestic violence.

ABUSE IS ABOUT POWER & CONTROL

Domestic violence is always about power and control. When one tactic employed by abusers no longer works, they take it a step further. In most cases domestic violence begins with emotional and **psychological abuse**. Name calling, criticism, undermining a person and their abilities, behaving in overprotective manner, jealousy, isolating a person or making it difficult for them to see friends or family, and humiliating or embarrassing them in front of others are all aspects of psychological abuse.

Using coercion or physical force to get their partner to perform sexual acts against their will is not uncommon among abusers. Intimidating their partner by using looks, gestures, a loud voice, smashing things, and destroying personal property is almost always a precursor to **physical violence**. The intention of all of these behaviors is to establish and maintain power and control.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

TONAWANDAS

Offender Accountability Program (OAP)



Is your abusive behavior chipping away at the foundation of your family or of a relationship? If you are abusive it's only a matter of time before it collapses.



Member Agency
Of the United Way

YWCA of the Tonawandas

Tel: (716) 692-5580

Fax: (716) 694-4550

Are you Abusive?

- Do you often check up on your partner?
- Are you extremely jealous or possessive?
- Have you ever hit, kicked, shoved, grabbed, or thrown things at your partner?
- Do you often insult or criticize your partner?
- Do you become violent when you use drugs or alcohol?
- Have you threatened your partner or intentionally broken things in front of your partner?
- Have you threatened to hurt your partner?
- Have you threatened to hurt yourself if your partner breaks up with you?

If you answered yes to even one of the questions above; realize that you are inflicting emotional, physical, verbal, or psychological abuse on your partner. If you continue to act this way you will never have a mutually satisfying, healthy relationship. If you can recognize what you are doing is wrong, you can be helped.

What about the Children?

The effect of domestic violence on children is extreme. Children often experience health problems, sleeping difficulties, anxiety, acting out behavior, and feelings of guilt, fear, and powerlessness. There is a high correlation between growing up in an abusive home and teenage pregnancy, delinquent behavior, drug and alcohol use, and suicide. Boys who witness their mother being abused are at a higher risk of abusing their future intimate partner(s). 3.3 million children per year are affected by domestic violence.

LEARN ABOUT:

- Cues

- Progression of violence
- Escalation
- Self control plans – time outs
- Power & control wheel
- Culture wheel or male privilege
- Society and violence
- Choosing violence
- Faulty thinking
- Responsible, assertive communication styles
- Effects on children
- Effects of an abusive pattern of behavior on long-term relationships & the advantages of a healthy relationship
- Conflict resolution

FACTS

- An act of domestic violence occurs every nine seconds in the U.S.
- Battering is the major cause of injury for women between the ages of 14-45, causing more injuries than auto accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
- Between 50-70% of men who abuse their female partners also physically abuse their children.
- 30% of women that are murdered annually in this country are murdered by a current intimate partner or an ex-husband or an ex-boyfriend.
- One third of reported domestic violence assaults involve the use of weapons.

Instructors

OAP Program instructors are trained in the NY State Model for Batterer Programs, guided by the principles of the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Instructors utilize a variety of methods to educate participants about the impact of domestic violence. Accountability and victim safety are the primary goals.

**If you're a victim call 692-5643
Ask to speak with someone
about it**

Victim services are free and confidential



YWCA –
Working to
empower
women and
strengthen
families
since 1913.