

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
Sample Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

City of Anytown
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS

The family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community. It is a goal of this administration for our communities to be safe;

WHEREAS

The problem of domestic violence affects all citizens of Minnesota crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups;

WHEREAS

At least 20 women, 11 children and two men in Minnesota died last year as a result of domestic violence, according to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's 2006 Femicide Report;

WHEREAS

Domestic violence is an immense problem in our state, where in 2003, almost 65,000 primary victims received services from Minnesota's battered women's programs and 6437 women and 6,578 children were provided with emergency safe housing;

WHEREAS

Batterers of women are highly likely to abuse their children: 49% of batterers abuse their children, whereas only 7% of non-abusive partners perpetrate violence against their children, according to a national study by Murray Strauss. The batterer's behavior often undermines the relationship between a mother and her children.

WHEREAS

A Wilder Foundation study found the most common reason for women to seek temporary shelter in Minnesota is to flee an abusive partner. Thirty-one percent of all women surveyed in 2003 were homeless, at least in part, because of domestic abuse in the last 12 months. In addition, 34% of homeless adults reported that they had stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live;

WHEREAS

Domestic violence is widespread, including one in three Americans who have witnessed an incident of domestic violence and with an annual cost to U.S. companies of \$3.5 billion in lost work time, increased health care costs, higher turnover, and lower productivity;

Now, THEREFORE

In recognition of the impact that domestic violence has on the health and well being of our community, I, John Jones, Mayor of Anytown, Minnesota do hereby proclaim October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Further, I reaffirm the commitment of the State of Minnesota to reducing violence in our homes, as well as on our streets. I urge all citizens to participate in the activities planned by battered women's programs and community organizations during this month. Citizens should also take this opportunity to educate themselves about the impact of domestic violence in Minnesota and to become familiar with resources and programs available. This month let us remember the victims of domestic violence, celebrate the survivors, and work together to eliminate violence against women and children from our community.