

Non-Profit Domestic and Sexual Abuse Agencies

Approved: Mike Klemp-North, PhD

Date May 4, 2015

Non-Profit Domestic and Sexual Abuse Agencies

A Seminar Paper

Presented to the Graduate Faculty

University of Wisconsin-Platteville

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Masters of Science in Criminal Justice

Nikki Gerdes

April 2015

## Acknowledgments

*Working toward the completion of this degree was both challenging and rewarding. It was a long road to completion that never would have been accomplished without the support of my loving husband and my understanding children. My family has supported me with the understanding and time that was needed for me to accomplish my academic goals. Without their beliefs and constant encouragements I would have never have been able to come as far as I am today. The professors in the Criminal Justice Department at UW-Platteville have created an environment that has inspired me to want to achieve more and learn at my very most abilities. They have made me want to strive for more, both in my academic as well as my professional careers.*

*First to my husband Travis. You are so intelligent and patient and your support and encouragements have helped me throughout this journey. All of those nights and weekends of taking the children out of the house and entertaining them all by yourself is soon coming to an end. You have never once complained or held me back from my dreams. You have provided me with the stability and support that I needed to achieve this dream and this goal and for that I am so thankful to you, I could not have done this without you. Thank you for being my rock.*

*To my children, Dylan, Trenton, Madyson, Jameson, and Kennedy. Every day that I get to spend with you is something special, it makes me appreciate life in ways you could never understand. For you, are the reasons that I am pursuing a Master's Degree and I want you to see that you should never give up, that you should always chase your dreams, and that nothing is unreachable as long as you always believe in yourself. I will always believe in you no matter what direction you choose to take.*

*To my parents, Janice, Fred, Charlie and Lynn. Mom you have been a never ending voice in my head making me want to do better for myself and encouraging me to never give up. Your support does not go unnoticed. To my stepdad Fred, your laughter and enjoyment of life has given me the courage to see things from a comical view and to never stress the small things. Dad, you and Lynn have showed me that life doesn't always start at the beginning, sometimes it takes some time and hard work to get to where you need to be, and sometimes life begins in the middle. Thank you all for having such high expectations of me.*

*To all of the instructors at UW-Platteville. You have provided me with so much knowledge and wisdom that I hope to someday be able to share what I have learned with others. I plan to take what I have learned and apply it to my personal and professional life and be confident that what I have learned is something very valuable and should be cherished. Thank you all for what you have done for me and what you do for other students every day.*

## Abstract

### Non-Profit Domestic and Sexual Abuse Agencies

Nikki Gerdes

Under the Supervision of Dr. Klemp-North

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control another (Creative Communications Group, 2009). The relationships considered in domestic abuse involve anyone who is in an intimate relationship; married, divorced, dating, bi-sexual, gay and lesbian couples. The definition of sexual abuse is, “the forcing of unwanted sexual activity by one person on another, as by the use of threats or coercion or also any sexual activity that is deemed improper or harmful, as between an adult and a minor or with a person of diminished mental capacity” (Farlex, Inc., 2014). There are non-profit agencies that house individuals in domestic and sexually violent relationships in time of crisis. These domestic and sexual abuse shelters are federally grant funded and provide crisis intervention, protection, as well as outreach services for the individuals and families who are being sheltered on a temporary basis. Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States and in 8 out of 10 rape cases, the victim knows the perpetrator (American Bar Association, 2014).

With all of the cases of domestic abuse and the increased number of cases each year found in domestic partners, you would be lead to believe that obtaining funding for domestic abuse shelters would be simple, this is not the case. There are many different areas that the federal government looks at in deciding where monies should be distributed. Some of the areas that are

considered include; geographical location, diversity, number of already established domestic abuse cases, size of the city or town that the shelter is located, and need for the shelter.

Many abuse cases are first recognized during an emergency room visit. Due to the lack of training or time restraints these patients are sent away without receiving the help they need. In many health settings, once a provider recognizes abuse, the patient is given a brochure or telephone number of a local domestic abuse agency and advised the patient to call after they return home, yet victims often do not call because they may lack a telephone, lack sufficient privacy, or the lack of necessary resolve to initiate the call, especially after the acute episode has resolved (Kransnoff & Moscati, 2002). In order to properly fund organizations such as domestic abuse shelters, it is important for immediate action to be taken. It is insufficient if a victim of domestic violence doesn't follow up with the proper agencies or groups affiliated for the purposes of helping them during the time of crisis, which in turn lowers the chance of receiving funding which again is based on numbers of cases being referred to the organization.

The definition of non-profit organization or otherwise known as non-for-profit is, a business entity that is granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service, donations to a nonprofit organization are often tax deductible to the individuals and businesses making the contributions. Nonprofit organizations must disclose a great deal of financial and operating information to the public, so that donors can ensure their contributions are used effectively (Investopedia US, 2014). The STOP Violence against Women Formula Grants Program is a major federal avenue for supporting victim services (VS) programs serving women victims of violent crime. The funding stream has a number of long-term goals, one of which is to promote institutionalized system change throughout communities that results in supportive and effective responses from the criminal and civil justice systems, and other community agencies such as domestic violence

and sexual assault programs (Zweig & Burt, 2004). The Office on Violence against Women (OVW) currently administers 24 grant programs authorized by the Violence against Women (VAWA) of 1994 and subsequent legislation. Four programs are “formula,” meaning the enacting legislation specifies how the funds are to be distributed. The remaining 20 programs, including six formerly authorized programs that still have open and/or active grants, are “discretionary,” meaning OVW is responsible for creating program parameters, qualifications, eligibility, and deliverables in accordance with authorizing legislation. These grant programs are designed to develop the nation’s capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable. With proper distribution of funding, more domestic abuse agencies and organizations could be successful.

### **Methods of Approach**

Research for this study will come from a qualitative review of secondary sources. These sources will be acquired through accredited journals, textbooks, agency websites, and federal and government reports. Due to the lack of statistical data provided regarding federal grant funding, a theoretical approach will be reviewed to determine the importance of non-profit domestic abuse agencies. The key components of non-profit funding will be examined in both large and small agencies in comparison to each other and what the trends for the future are in these organizations.

### **Anticipated Outcomes**

Reviewing the trends of non-profit domestic abuse agencies will provide an outline of successful organizations that are utilizing the proper federal funding monies in order to obtain

more money year after year. This study will provide tips for other agencies to obtain the same type of accreditation in order to receive the same type of resources available through federal grants and other organizational grants distributed for domestic abuse violence shelters. Review of the feministic approach will help to better understand the changes in the trending for these types of facilities. In turn proper funding for non-profit organizations such as the one studied, domestic abuse agencies, will then open opportunities for more victims to receive the necessary help they require during their time of crisis, in hopes for them to live a long healthy life, one without violence.

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**I. INTRODUCTION: Funding Needs for Community-Based Non-profit Organizations to Include Domestic and Sexual Abuse Shelters for Victims of Abuse**

The importance for domestic abuse shelters is clear, studies and experts clearly show a strong correlation between domestic violence and homelessness. The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence examined the importance of domestic violence shelters, often the only refuge for abused women, by conducting a 24-hour census. Its study found that 64 percent of unmet requests from victims were for housing. Overall, 12.3 percent of the sheltered homeless populations are domestic violence survivors, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2010 annual homelessness assessment report (Betar, 2013). Often time's victims of domestic or sexual abuse have to leave their homes in an emergency. Shelters provide crisis sheltering, counseling and other community outreach resources for these victims. Domestic abuse shelters can often be life saving for victims, but budget cuts, overcrowding, and limited resources such as funding present stark challenges for their future. Funding for these nonprofit organizations is crucial to meet the needs of the community who house victims of this nature. It is important for federal and state funding programs to evaluate the need for granting monies to these organizations to keep them running, it could be life altering for victims who don't have a safe place to go when they find themselves in crisis. If the funding for these shelters and nonprofit organizations comes to an end, victims of domestic and sexual abuse will either end up homeless, staying in abusive relationships or worse dead. This is why it is so crucial for the funding to be examined and to continue.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The literature review section will be separated into five sections defining the different aspects of the nonprofit organizations associated with domestic violence. First, nonprofit organizations history will be examined with additional emphasis on identifying funding sources related to location of the facilities, the need for more organizations, and the support from communities. Second, what the purpose is of nonprofit organizations for domestic abuse and sexual assault victims will be reviewed, who is employed at these facilities, what roles they play, and what type of training is involved with the new employees. Next, a review of some of the United States most successful domestic abuse organizations will be studied for core principles and composition. Fourth, the Office on Violence against Women (OVW) will be reviewed from program emphasis and structure, this program is responsible for creating non-profit programs and agency parameters. The final section will review literature on the generational aspects related to nonprofit success and failures.

### **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION HISTORY AND FUNDING SOURCES**

Charitable, educational, and religious organizations are thousands of years old and were founded in Colonial times, these included; the Roman Catholic Church. “The concept of “nonprofit organizations” as a unified and coherent “sector” dates back to only the 1970s, over 90 percent of nonprofit organizations currently in existence were created since the 1950s”(Hall, n.d.). Nonprofits and NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) are the most rapidly growing types of organizations in the world and have only begun growing in the past thirty years. Nonprofit organizations are impossible to categorize, they vary in size and focus ranging from, informal grass roots organizations that have no assets and no employees through multibillion dollar foundations, universities, religious bodies, and healthcare complexes with thousands of

employees or members (Hall, n.d.). Many countries to include the United States permit organizations to provide services on a non-for-profit basis. Sources of revenue varies: some organizations work solely on donations and volunteers, some continue running based on the profit from goods and services sold or provided, and most rely on the revenue provided by the government.

Funding provided by donations and volunteers often struggle, it takes many hours and charitable time from volunteers to achieve enough funding to run a successful agency. Community involvement is crucial in a foundation that receives little or no help from revenue provide by other sources. Many times a combination of payer sources are used in the help to organize and run a nonprofit agency. A nonprofit agency may rely heavily on its volunteers and donations but may also accept grants given from the government to fund a certain number of employees throughout the year as well as for maintenance and up-keep of the building. They may also sell good through bake sales or auctions in order to raise money throughout the year to be used in conjunction with the other pay sources.

The Office of Violence against Women (OVW) provides a variety of grants focused on different areas of agency requirements:

#### **FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS OVW**

Administers four formula grant programs and distributes funds according to the enacting legislation.

- STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
- Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program
- State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program
- Grants to Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program

#### **DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS OVW**

Administers 14 discretionary grant programs, and is responsible for creating program parameters, qualifications, eligibility, and deliverables in accordance with authorizing legislation.

- Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies
- Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program
- Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program
- Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program
- Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations
- Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program
- Grants to Support Families in the Justice System
- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program
- Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Assistance Program
- Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Program
- Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities Grant Program
- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault Program
- Tribal Governments Program\*
- Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

(US Department of Justice , 2014)

## **Purpose of Nonprofit Organizations for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Victims, Employee Roles and Training**

As defined by the United States Department of Justice (2014), domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Nonprofit organizations established for domestic abuse and sexual assault victims are found all over the United States. A victim isn't always the person who is being affected directly by the abuse, it can also include family and friends of the victims who have witnessed or been involved in a case of someone they know being abused. Children are often times witnesses of a mother who has been abused on a regular basis in their home. Nonprofit agencies/organizations established for the housing and community outreach of these victims, will work closely with everyone involved in the case, even if it isn't the person immediately affected.

Safe Horizon is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the United States, according to Safehorizon (2015), nonprofit organizations dedicated to the crisis intervention of domestic violence victims, provides 700+ beds throughout New York City, domestic violence counseling, legal representation, housing and employment assistance as well as childcare. Safe Horizon and other organizations employ individuals with the experience, training and dedication to assist victims. These areas may include; providing them with a safe temporary living arrangement, for them and their dependents, counseling or connections to resources for parenting skills, mental health and financial counseling, as well as any other counseling services needed. The staff will provide legal representation in the form of legal counseling, education and direction as well as connecting the client with resources for fair court representation such as an attorney. The staff will also assist the client with help finding employment in the community as well as childcare for their dependents while they attend counseling and their employment. The purpose of these agencies is to help the client have a safe and secure place for themselves and their dependents to reside while they are attempting to provide their own safe and secure housing. This can take anywhere from a day to three months depending on the severity of the case.

Several different areas of employment are involved with a nonprofit domestic violence shelter. All of the employees working directly with the clients are called Victim Advocates. These advocates are educated in the Human Services fields and can provide peer counseling on an empowering scale to the clients over the phone or in person, for a short period or long term basis. The advocates will mentor, counsel, and provide outreach assistance to the clients. The advocates will also build a case management plan for each individual housed in the shelter in order to make sure every need is met and the treatment plan is established in a timely manner, this helps the client stay focused and on track with the necessary things that need to be accomplished for them to live a safe and fulfilling life beyond the violence.

Advocates include; a sexual assault advocate who works primarily with sexual assault victims, a child advocate that works directly with the children and with the family as a whole, and a legal advocate who helps to assist the client with all areas of the legal aspects involved in their case. A 24-hour crisis line is available for counseling and outreach assistance as well, the phone representative will be available at any time to talk with the client, screen them for needs and admit them to the shelter if needed. These representatives are also trained to know and evaluate if law enforcement needs to be involved, given the nature of the call.

Training doesn't only involve the employees of an organization, training is also extended to the community. Some of the areas provided in the training include; overviews of domestic and sexual violence, anger management, crisis intervention techniques, conflict resolution skills, self-esteem building, gender roles and stereotypes, and the relationship between domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. Training can range from a one-time, hour long session to a five-week mini-course (Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc., 2015). Members of the community educated according to Domestic Abuse Shelter (2015) include; Law Enforcement, Healthcare Providers, State

Attorney's Office, Officers of the Courts, educators, social workers, teachers and clergy, schools, civic organizations, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, clubs, businesses, and programs for troubled youth. Community education is also provided through the media, included; television, radio, and newspapers. Participation in health fairs and other community-sponsored events provide further educational and outreach opportunities. All advocates are specially trained in their area of expertise and do yearly continuing education in order to keep up their skills to better help the agency. Much of the training is funded by grants and charitable donations given to the agency. Some of the most successful nonprofit organizations utilize the resources above if they are able too with the funds they have available.

### **The Office on Violence against Women (OVW)**

The largest organization in the United States in the defense of women against violence is called, Violence Against Women (OVW), in 1994 congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the law and organization were created in recognition of the amount of crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. "Created in 1995, OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking" (US Department of Justice, 2014).

US Department of Justice (2014), states that OVW currently administers four formula-based and 20 discretionary grant programs, established under VAWA and subsequent legislation. The four formula programs include STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors), SASP (Sexual Assault Services Program), State Coalitions, and Tribal Coalitions, there are 20 discretionary programs that work to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable through promoting a coordinated community response (US Department of Justice, 2014). The OVW is not only the

main funding source for other agencies, it is also a training facility for agencies that are interested in smaller communities.

The OVW since the starting has issued over 6 billion dollars in grants, these grants are distributed to agencies that prove to need the funding the most. Some of the smaller agencies keep record of how many people they serve at their shelters, what types of funding they have provided themselves through charitable events, and what types of services they provide at their facilities. The grant funding amount for each agency may differ each year depending on the needs of each facility. Most of the agencies depend on this form of grant funding in order to continue employing their advocates and to keep up the services they provide to their clients. Without the help of the grants provided by the OVW, many agencies would not be able to continue with the business that they provide. Charitable donations from the community members and volunteers are crucial in the funding of these programs but are not enough to keep it running.

OVW doesn't only fund domestic violence agencies, they also use monies to fund training programs for things such as; direct services, crisis intervention, transitional housing, legal assistance to victims, court improvement, and training for law enforcement and courts. According to the US Department of Justice (2014), they also work with specific populations such as elder victims, or persons with disabilities, college students, teens, culturally and linguistically specific populations and if funding allows, OVW funds special initiatives in response to areas of special need. The OVW is one of the largest most successful organizations that enable smaller organizations and agencies to continue operating in smaller communities due to their charitable funding.

Many other organizations were created in order to protect specific groups of domestic violence in women these groups were founded off of the basis of OVW and receive some or most of their funding from OVW.

### **United States Most Successful Nonprofit Organizations Non-Discriminatory**

Domestic violence does not discriminate against race, religion or sex. Domestic violence can happen to anyone and due to that, different organizations have been put into place in order to accommodate to all types of individuals or groups. Some of the most profound organizations in the United States include:

Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence: The API institute is a national resource center focused on gender based violence in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. This group focuses primarily on the issues involved within this population of sex trafficking and violation of non-citizen exploitation. Many of the individuals both male and female involved in this exploitation were brought to the United States with the sole purpose of being exploited for under age sex, based on the high profit for this type of sexual exploitation. The API aids in the surrender of young individuals and works with them to help return them to their families or become protected from the dangerous happenings in these circles. The organization offers housing, job searching, and mental health outreaching for these individuals. They also work with immigration offices to protect the victims from any type of legal offenses that they could face for being in the United States illegally (API IDV, 2010-2011).

INCITE! Women of Color against Violence, a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and our communities. The organization works with groups of women of color and their communities to

develop political projects that address the violence women of color may experience both with their communities and individual lives. INCITE paired with the Institute of Domestic Violence in the African American Community work together in geographical locations where African Americans are the dominant race. Higher populated locations with higher poverty rates and lower income neighborhoods have the most need for these agencies (INCITE-National.org, 2014).

Jewish Women International: JWI seeks to empower women and girls through economic literacy, community training, and education about healthy relationships. The organization aims to end violence against women by advocating for policies focused on violence prevention and reproductive rights, developing philanthropic initiatives along similar lines and inspiring “the next generation of leaders” by recognizing and celebrating women’s achievements (Jewishwomen.org, 2014).

Manavi: Which means “primal woman” in Sanskrit, is a woman’s rights organization committed to ending violence and exploitation committed against South Asian woman living in the US. The organization provides direct services to survivors of this specific group (Manavi.org, 2015).

Mending the Sacred Hoop: MSH works to end violence against Native women and children “restore the sovereignty and leadership of Native women.” They seek to do so through technical assistance projects and organizing Native women to advocate for the end of violence (MShoop.org, 2011).

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (ALIANZA). This is a network of organizations addressing the needs of Latinos/families and communities by

promoting understanding, dialogue, and solutions that aim to eliminate domestic violence in Latino communities (National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence, 2009).

The Northwest Network: Founded by Lesbian survivors of domestic, the NW Network works to end abuse in Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and to support and empower all survivors through education and advocacy. People involved in this group of domestic violence need to speak out and advocate for themselves due to the communities unawareness given this group of individuals. It is important for the community to understand and support the awareness of this group (nwnetwork.org, 2011).

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN): Nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. Operates the National sexual Assault Hotline (800-656-HOPE) and operates the Department of Defense's Safe Helpline. This is one of the largest organizations against domestic violence. This organization does not discriminate against age, race, or ethnic background. They will aid in the outreach to other more appropriate organizations as they see fit and in the meantime provide protection and education to help support the safety and well-being for the individuals looking for help (rainn.org, 2009).

### **Making the Connection between Funding Sources**

The size of the organization will determine the amount of grant funding available. National agencies are more likely to receive larger grant focus and funding, if they have built up a significant amount of surplus or reserve, grant funders may be less likely to fund these organizations. Even though non-profit agencies do not discriminate, they do however pick and choose who they are willing to fund. Other smaller agencies will have to depend more on loan financing, volunteering and trading. Each organization will have to apply for grants a year in

advance to review the budget for the upcoming year. Some grants are on-going such as the ones which are intended for use by states; state, local, and tribal courts; Indian tribal governments; units of local government; and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs (LaneJudson.com, 2014), and the Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program which is also administered by the Office on Violence Against Women in the U.S. Department of Justice. SASP was the first federal funding stream dedicated to the provision of direct services to victims of sexual assault, this grant program is used across the country and is not dedicated to the largest communities only, this program funds every state, territory and tribe to support efforts to provide services to adult and minor sexual assault victims and their families. The grants given by this program can also be used for general intervention and advocacy, especially accompaniment through medial and criminal justice systems. It is up to the nonprofit organization to develop a strategy to seek funding, if they cannot provide enough information to the OVW, to prove the need for funding, then the funds will be distributed to the larger agencies with a higher need for the monies.

Domestic violence organizations get their funding sources from many different areas to include federal and state grant programs, charitable donations, and volunteer services. These organizations don't discriminate between who they offer services too and they provide the outreaching of community assistance as they see fit given the individual circumstance. Each organization is limited in the services that they can provide but they are equipped with the knowledge to reach out to other organizations that can offer the help. There are certain organizations that are more knowledgeable in the different areas of aid needed. The organizations for different cultural groups are limited but they do exist in the United States. Other domestic shelters will also provide services to any race or ethnic group on a temporary

basis until they are able to reach out for the more appropriate services. There are trends that emerge between successful programs in communities that have one and the unsuccessful organizations or the communities that don't have one. Review of how nonprofit domestic abuse programs and agencies aid in the growth and strengthening of communities is important when determining funding programs for that geographical location.

### III. THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Understanding the feminist approach regarding nonprofit domestic abuse organizations is important in recognizing the views that organizations take into consideration when assessing the needs basis for the agency within a community. How the community supports the use of violence within a relationship is reviewed when looking into the feminist theory and how the justice system plays a role in removing these societal obligations to allow the issues involving power and equality to remain one sided. Feminist theory is easily adaptable to the nonprofit organization environment for the correlation with the need for domestic abuse programs to be allowed in all communities regardless of the size of the community but rather instead due to the need for a sanctuary of all victims of domestic violence.

#### **Feminist Theory and the Shift of Dominance**

Western feminist theory tells a story on its own in comparison to feminism throughout the world. As a developmental narrative, where we move from a preoccupation with unity and sameness, through identity and diversity, and on to difference and fragmentation. These shifts are broadly conceived of as corresponding to the decades of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s respectively, and to a move from liberal, socialist and radical feminist through the black feminist

critiques and 'sex wars' of the eighties, and into the 'difference' nineties and beyond, charts the story as one of progress beyond falsely boundary categories and identities (Hemmings, 2005). Society has a different view as a whole when it comes to the view of women; there is still the belief that women should be the more docile species. This causes issues when related to issues involving domestic abuse as to where a woman has rights and what their societal place is within the community. Society today puts women in a tough predicament, they are taught to be strong and self-sufficient both in the business world as well as child rearing. It has been difficult for women to find that difficult balance that can be both rewarding and socially acceptable at the same time. The history of feminism has pushed women to become more independent which leaves men confused as to what the place for women should truly be. There is a war going on between women and men in the dominance role. Men traditional have been the bread winners and the rule makers for the family, in today's society, women are now taking this control and men are having some difficulties following along with these changes, even though the changes have been ongoing over the last several decades, little progress has been made in respect to the political and cultural shifts. This is why the needs for domestic abuse shelters have become more prevalent over the years. The need has always been there but woman haven't always been willing to stand up and speak out due to the fear of retribution from their partner and little guidance and support from their community. With the uprising of women understanding their rights, domestic abuse shelters have seen a significant shift in the need to empower women to stand up for their rights and in turn help them in the difficult process of standing their ground in the sometimes very difficult shift in dominance.

## **Examination of Feminist Theory Definition of Feminist Theory in Relationship to Nonprofit Organizations**

Feminist theory in domestic violence emphasizes gender and power inequality in opposite-sex relationships. It focuses on the societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships (Pence & Paymar, 1993). Feminist theory views aggressive behavior in an intimate relationship the root cause of a society that condones aggressive behaviors perpetrated by men while women are taught to be the more docile of the human species. Women have been known to also be abuse in an intimate relationship however, society does not view women being abusive as being as serious of a social problem as abusive men, and therefore, society does not see that as being an issue or deserve the same amount of attention or support as violence against women (Kurtz, 1997).

### **Treatment Approach**

The "Duluth Model" represents the dominant treatment approach aligned with feminist theory. This model was created following a serious domestic violence homicide that took place in Duluth, Minnesota (Pence & Paymar, 1993). The "Duluth Model" looks to answer the following questions: *Why is she the target of this violence? How does his violence impact the balance of power in their relationship? What did he think could change by hitting her? Why does he assume he is entitled to have power in the relationship? How does the community support his use of violence against her?* (Pence & Paymar, 1993, p.xiii). The intent of the model is to involve courts, police services, and human services agencies. The "Duluth Model" revolves around the power of dynamics inherent in opposite sex relationships and the way that men and women are viewed within society and the balance issues involved in inequality. The goal of this

approach is to educate men on societal roles and how societal messages and attitudes that support patriarchal privilege is an unhealthy way to relate to women.

### **Study Based on Feminist and Nonprofit Organizations**

The study *Transformative Learning in Nonprofit Organizations: A Feminist Interpretive Inquiry* involves 8 women, in their 20s to 60s, who work or volunteer in feminist nonprofit organizations. Particular emphasis is placed on their experience of transformative learning in these organizations; the linkages with the theory of transformative learning; the factors that affect their learning, either positively or negatively; and the implications for practice and theory (English & Peters, 2012). This article gives stories of women who have been transformed through participation in the movement. Responding to calls for renewal this article describes how participation in grassroots feminist organizations effects the “habits of minds” of women leaders, staff and volunteers, the conditions that sparked these realizations and enabled them to live out their new identities in organizations for and about women’s equality (English & Peters, 2012).

### **Framework**

The framework for this study draws from two main bodies of literature: feminist theory and pedagogy and transformative learning. The first of these, feminist theories looks at how women are viewed in society, how they learn and succeed and how their outlook shifts based on the struggles that they endure. There are waves involved in feminism; the first wave includes the struggle for suffrage and basic human rights for women. The second wave characterized the era of the 1960s and 1970s, where feminists focused primarily on empowering women both individually and collectively, lobbying for changes in conditions that determined women’s

quality of life, and often doing this through active protests as well as through consciousness raising groups. The third wave is the feminism of difference and inclusivity, a somewhat fragmented feminism that keeps an eye to including a wider cross section of feminists and which admits of great pluralism. This includes women of color, women of various ages, and women of various political stripes and commitments (English & Peters, 2012). We have now entered the third wave of feminism where not one group is segregated when reviewing the issues concerning things such as domestic abuse. Empowering women through knowledge has been a proven successful tool to movements in feminism. Giving women the tools to learn that they are not the weaker sex has enlightened women from all over the world to stand up against domestic violence. This article involves the educational enlightenment of women in order to empower them through a feminist approach towards domestic violence.

### **Methodology, Questions, Participants, and Data Collection**

This was a qualitative study conducted by the influence of both theoretical and methodological concerns and the theory of transformative learning; potentially interested women were identified through the use of organizational directories and the snowball technique. The participants were 8 feminists who represent a variety of feminist organizations, including resource centers, policy networks, and feminist antiviolence organizations. They included organizational founders, long-standing members, and new members affiliated with grassroots feminist organizations in western Canada. Their involvement ranged from 1 year to more than 20 years, and organizations were a mixture of very recent (1 year) and long established (40 years) (English & Peters, 2012). Following feminist interviewing techniques, they used open-ended questions to ask about the quality and depth of their organizational experience as well as

the transformative dimensions of that experience and the factors that contributed to the transformation.

### **Findings**

There is a need to recognize that structures, practices, and skills can promote dialogue and help resolve conflicts, which are important to a transformative journey. In collecting feminist interview texts and analyzing them, we can see how their transformations occur, the factors that enhance or limit them, and also the implications for feminist organizations that see themselves as sites for transformative learning. Their spaces need to be open to difference, negotiation, and above all provide support. This study furthers our understanding of transformative learning by focusing on a particular group of feminist participants in the nonprofit world. It suggests that some factors such as the body, relationships, and experience may be especially important for women's transformation. It also suggests that since disorienting dilemmas, a centerpiece of work, are seemingly not an integral dimension of these women's experience of transformation (English & Peters, 2012). The study helps to show how education can be the key to success in the way that women view themselves and how they incorporate themselves into society against the typical beliefs, this is how they empower themselves and move away from the historical views of how a woman should behave. This allows women to make a stand against domestic violence and stand up for themselves instead of remaining silent and afraid. Nonprofit organizations have the ability to help women in cases of domestic violence to gain the courage and education to do just that in order to empower them to live a more successful healthy life.

There are many different ideas within feminist theory of domestic violence, but M. Bograd in *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse* has identified four common strains. These are: 1) That as the dominant class, men have differential access to material and symbolic resources and women

are devalued as secondary and inferior 2) intimate partner abuse is a predictable and common dimension of normal family life 3) women's experiences are often defined as inferior because male domination influences all aspects of life 4) the feminist perspective is dedicated to advocacy for women. Society has made some advancement regarding movements towards how a man and a women's roles within a relationship are viewed, but it is still not perfect and society still has a need for domestic abuse shelters more today than ever before in in the past. This can be viewed throughout the trends noted throughout history which also leads into successful and unsuccessful organizations depending on the geographical territory throughout the United States depending on the communities that are able to find funding for these types of agencies.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND EMERGING TRENDS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic disputes are some of the most common calls for police service. Many domestic disputes do not involve violence; in the United States, domestic violence accounts for about 20 percent of the nonfatal violent crime women experience and three percent of the nonfatal violent crime men experience (Sampson, 2006). New trends are emerging in the face of feminism and the belief that domestic abuse shelters are primarily needed for women and children only. According to (Sampson, 2006) and surveys provided, there is a significant change in traditional domestic violence trends. NCVS suggest that intimate partner violence in the United States is extensive. However, NCVS trend data through 2001 shows that partner violence between current and former intimates has declined significantly. From 1993 through 2001, the rate of reported intimate violence dropped by about 50 percent in the United States (Sampson, 2006). It is extremely important to understand why there has been a drastic drop in domestic violence crimes reported. Questions can be formed as to whether this decline is due to the power struggle

between men and women that is finally coming to an end? Sampson, 2006, suggests that the decline in homicides may be evidence that abused women have developed legitimate ways to leave their relationships (e.g., divorce, shelters, police, and courts).

## **Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence Abuse Trends**

### **Causations of Domestic Violence**

Factors do not automatically mean that a person will become a domestic violence victim or an offender. Also, although some risk factors are stronger than others, it is difficult to compare risk factor findings across studies because of methodological differences between studies (Sampson, 2006). There are multiple risk factors associated with domestic abuse and individuals who have more than one risk factor are at an even higher percentage of risk for domestic abuse. Females ages 16 to 24 are at the highest risk of domestic abuse victimization, these are typically undergraduate students who have not made a marital commitment. Socioeconomic status is also a risk factor, even though abuse can happen in a wide range of income brackets, it is more common for the poor who rely on the police for intervention to have a documented case of domestic abuse. Race also plays a factor when looking at what contributes to domestic abuse statistics. Overall, in the United States, blacks experience higher rates of victimization than other groups: black females experience intimate violence at a rate 35 percent higher than that of white females, and black males experience intimate violence at a rate about 62 percent higher than that of white males and about two and a half times the rate of men of other races (Sampson, 2006). Repeat victimization, incarceration of offenders, termination of a relationship, and pregnancy are all causations associated with domestic violence. Those who have a combination of the factors above are at an even higher risk of being a victim of this type of victimization.

How trending factors are reviewed increase the knowledge of the need for domestic abuse shelters and agencies. Certain questions need to be reviewed in order to understand the need.

### **Asking the Right Questions**

Critical questions should be asked when analyzing your community's domestic violence problem, even if the answers are not readily available. Who are the stake holders? In addition to criminal justice agencies, the following groups have an interest in the domestic violence problem and ought to be considered for the contribution they might make to gathering information about the problem and responding to it (Sampson, 2006):

- domestic abuse protection, counseling, and advocacy organizations
- medical providers
- public health agencies
- employers
- schools (if school-aged children are affected)
- university faculty and research staff
- clergy

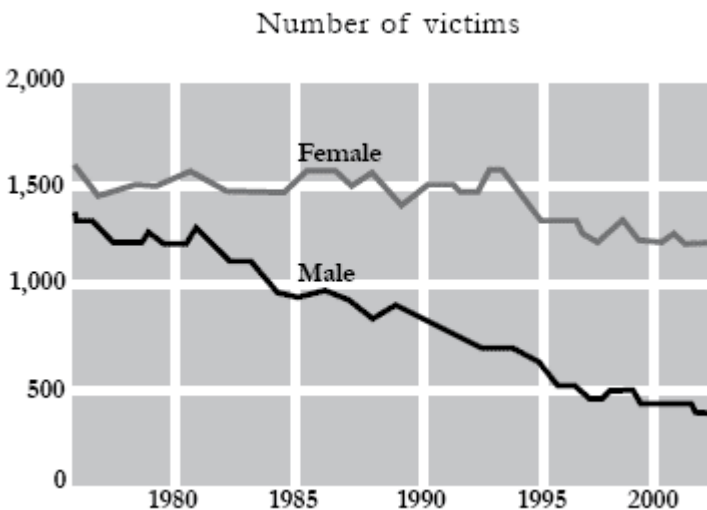
Aggregate data is an important source for analyzing your domestic violence problem, but it is useful only if domestic violence incidents are properly investigated and documented. It is important for investigating officers to understand the context and history of domestic assaults to determine if the incident is part of a series of abuse the victim has sustained and if it's likely to recur or escalate to more serious violence. For instance, in assessing individual incidents it is important to find out how long the abuse has been occurring, the frequency of the abuse, if the abuse is escalating, specific threats (even threats of suicide), whether threats can be carried out or

there is an indication that they will be carried out, and whether victimization also involves other criminal behavior (i.e., harassing phone calls, vandalism, theft, burglary). You should analyze a variety of data sources such as calls for police service relating to domestic disputes, offense/incident reports of domestic violence, and databases from domestic abuse social service agencies (Sampson, 2006).

### **Trending Difficulties for Non-Profit Domestic Abuse Shelters**

Statistics show the decline in domestic abuse victimization, and the feminist theories point to an increase in the empowerment of women which causes difficulties for non-profit organizations to prove their need in a community, which ultimately provides difficulties in obtaining the funding needed to have successful properly functioning facilities. As you can see in Figure 1 over the past several decades' domestic abuse for both males and females is on the decrease.

**Homicides of intimates by gender of victim, 1976-2002 (Figure 1)**



(Fox & Zawitz, 2006)

The decline in victimization of domestic abuse is not seen as a failure, in fact it is seen as a success to those invested in working towards the elimination of intimate partner abuse, but it however serves to be a difficult factor in the concerns that non-profit organizations face in the upcoming years with providing enough proof to state and federal funding programs. The need for these programs have not been completely eliminated and based on the factors listed above; age, race, socioeconomic standing, needs may be more prevalent in specific geographical areas and these need to be considerations when funding is involved.

### **What the Future Holds for Non-Profit Organizations**

Prevention techniques can help in the decline in domestic of abuse statistics. Prevention efforts targeting potential victims should focus on those at higher risk, such as young women ages 16 to 24, as they experience the highest rates of intimate violence. Special efforts should be made to reach the poorest women in this age group as they are at an even higher risk. In addition, some recent immigrant communities, depending on the laws and privileges in the home country, may show a high level of domestic abuse, particularly if there is a lack of familiarity with assault laws in the adopted country (Sampson, 2006). Non-profit organizations associated with domestic violence are making attempts to engage in the upcoming trends associated with all of the factors that increase the risk of domestic abuse, but there are many variables that make reaching the targeted population difficult. Language barriers for immigrants make it difficult to effectively educate this population with their rights in regards to victimization. Other factors may include the low level of reporting. In regards to young women in the targeted age group of 16-24 they may have outside pressures from family and friends that prevent them from reporting incidents of abuse, this ultimately limits the ability for organizations to help in the prevention

and education of domestic abuse victimization rights. In regards to the decline of reported domestic abuse cases, it provides difficulties for non-profit domestic abuse shelters to obtain enough community especially in smaller communities to provide the requested documented need for these facilities in certain areas.

### **Recommendations for Non-Profit Longevity**

Recent studies point out there is a Non-Profit worker burn-out and emerging leader deficit. Low salaries, long hours and never-ending to do lists plague the non-profit sector (Royer, 2014). There is a limited amount of evidence that can be researched on what will help to maintain and increase the usage of non-profit organizations including domestic abuse shelters. Studies have been conducted and suggestions have been made but only the future can hold the truth of what will become of non-profit organizations. One suggestion made is to combine service with business, it is one way to look at becoming a social enterprise: a non-profit organization that generates earned income to support its social purpose. Earned income is revenue that's received in exchange for products or services (Royer, 2014). Social enterprise should participate in the Experience Economy. This is sometimes not easy to do when we are talking in terms of a domestic abuse shelter because the experience is not a good one, but shelters could consider an eco-tourism, travel, direct service opportunity and experiential events as new fundraising mechanisms (Royer, 2014). For example, domestic abuse shelters could reach out to the minority groups by hiring a bilingual employee to better eliminate the language barrier so that the client feels more comfortable with coming to this facility versus another that does not offer this option. Fund raising tactics should also be considered. Instead of the usual bake sale or picnic/raffle, why not give the community something to look forward too, something they would

enjoy spending their money on in order to help support the funding for a cause. This could be done through wine and music for example, or an art exhibit. These may be solutions that would not be costly but could benefit in the department of raising money for this type of cause. Making the fundraising event an annual one also helps to bring in tourists from other areas, the more fun the event, the more likely you will have people willing to travel a distance to attend. Non-profit organizations do not need to be eliminated because there is still a proven need for them, they need to adapt to our growing technological society and find ways to continue operating on these changing trends.

## **V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Domestic abuse even if on the decline, is still a prevalent issue in the United States. The reasons as to why there is a decline could be in part due to the organizations that are already present or due to the increase of educated victims, no longer taking the abuse but rather stepping up and speaking out, the evidence is not clear. Researchers fear that non-profits are not in the future due to the low pay and the high risk of burn-out in this field, but studies have shown that due to the changing of society, non-profits must also do some changing as well. Utilizing community techniques to engage society into wanting to fund through education and awareness is key to the success of these much needed organizations. If there are no longer non-profit organizations the trends of decreasing domestic abuse may begin to rise again and at that time there will be no shelters for victims to escape the abuse, no education from advocates to help communities will have to begin all over again in the areas of helping victims learn how to stand up for themselves and become self-sufficient. Without non-profit organizations and domestic

abuse shelters there will no longer be safe havens for the abused to utilize when they have nowhere else to turn.

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