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4 Ways YOU Can Help End Financial Abuse

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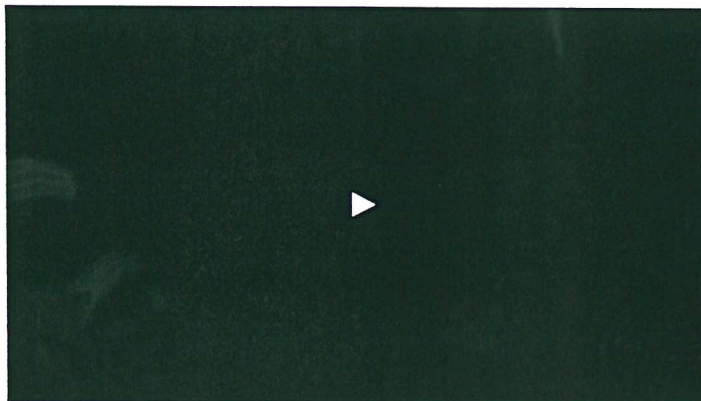
Financial Abuse is when an abuser prevents their partner from having financial freedom. This can mean that the abuser has control of the bank account, that the abuser does not allow the victim to get a job, or that the victim has no transportation to and from a job. There are many ways that this type of abuse can manifest, just like other types of abuse.



A lack of money is a very practical reason for a victim to stay in an abusive relationship, but in some ways, it can be the most terrifying. These victims realize that they want to leave, need to leave, and they are unable to do so. It is also overlooked when we discuss the different types of Intimate Partner Violence because it is not as tangible as a bruise from physical abuse or the screaming of horrific words of emotional abuse. Financial abuse is the #1 reason that victims of Domestic Violence are not able to leave their abuser, and the Purple Purse

Campaign was designed to change that.

The Allstate Foundation has been raising awareness and funds to fight Financial Abuse through the Purple Purse Challenge since 2005. This year, there are 500 organizations competing for the top prize of \$100,000 for their own organizations. Each organization can recruit smaller organizations to join their page and earn extra cash prizes for their own organization from Bonus Challenges throughout the fundraiser. This year marks the 3rd year that Kerry Washington has designed a Limited Edition purple purse to raise money for the campaign. She has appeared on talk shows, starred in PSA's about the campaign, and has been essential to spreading the word about this campaign and publicizing Financial Abuse.



There are a lot of ways that YOU can fight Financial Abuse. Here are 4 ways that you can make a difference, regardless of how much money or influence you have.

1. Donate to the Purple Purse Challenge (and support The Women's Center, too...)

Okay, this one was obvious, but donating to the Purple Purse Challenge is the most direct way to help a victim walk away from an abusive environment. A small donation can pay for transportation or a counseling session. A large donation can pay for a deposit on an apartment or a car payment. Please be generous and donate through The Women's Center to help us earn some cash and make a world of difference to one or a few victims of Domestic Violence at <https://www.crowdrise.com/womenscenter-purplepurse2016>. (<https://www.crowdrise.com/womenscenter-purplepurse2016>)

2. Spread the word

Did you check out the link? You can help us spread the word and share that link on social media to watch it ripple across your social group. Who knows what connections your friends and family might have? All it takes is a little concern and a personal referral.

3. Attend our open house

This year's Open House will be October 24 from 5:30pm-7pm at our Administrative Building. We will have a silent auction off the exclusive, Limited Edition Purse as well as a Lavender Vera Bradley purse donated by The English Garden in Danville (thanks Abbey!). You can also purchase a tassel to show off your support of the campaign. Join us for refreshments, good company, and the chance to win a designer accessory!



4. Start a conversation

One of the scariest things about Financial Abuse is that most people don't know that it exists. Casually mention it to a friend, share a PSA on Facebook, start the conversation. Let's end the silence about Financial Abuse; raising awareness saves lives!

Sources:

<http://purplepurse.com/> (<http://purplepurse.com/>)

<https://www.crowdrise.com/womenscenter-purplepurse2016> (<https://www.crowdrise.com/womenscenter-purplepurse2016>)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbAT3zzB2pE> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbAT3zzB2pE>)

After reading the Education Page, please fill out the information below to count it as 30 minutes toward your additional educational training.

Services at The Women's Center

The Women's Center offers educational trainings on sexual assault. To schedule any of our trainings please contact the Education Department at 570-784-6632.

If you are a victim of domestic violence and sexual assault and want to know the resources that are available to you, then you can always reach out to The Women's Center at 570-784-6631 or toll-free at (800) 544-8293. All of our services are free and confidential.