

CAMERA

NONPROFIT

*Spotlighting community connections,
programming and benefits.*

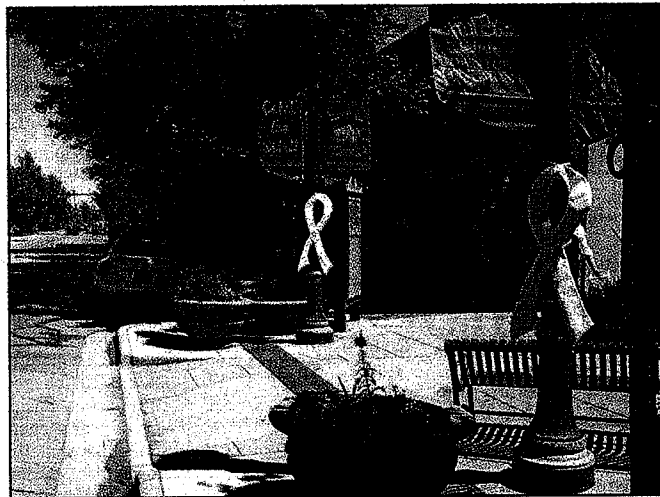
Longmont Ending Violence Initiative

Our Mission: The mission of the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI) is to establish a coordinated community-wide awareness of and response to domestic violence in Longmont. LEVI acknowledges domestic violence is a serious and prevalent social problem affecting the quality of life in Longmont. We desire to provide our residents with easy access to quality services as well as the tools to aid friends, relatives and co-workers when signs of domestic violence exist. We firmly believe that working in unison, we can work effectively to bring attention to the awareness of domestic violence in our neighborhoods, schools and workplaces.

We Serve: LEVI serves the entire Longmont community, specifically the boundaries of the St. Vrain Valley School District. We provide prevention/education, public information and referrals for friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers trying to assist a victim or offender of domestic violence.

Brief History: In 1998, the Longmont community had a series of particularly violent domestic assaults where victims had not sought help in leaving or changing long-standing abusive relationships. Five women and children died in those incidents that year. As a direct result, in 1999, several members of the community, including the chief of police, local women's shelter director and the Boulder County Domestic Abuse Prevention Project director, began to discuss the high level of domestic violence in Longmont. The group calling itself the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative began a comprehensive study in order to address the issue of domestic violence.

What started out as three agencies forming the LEVI group is now up to nearly two dozen agencies working together to streamline domestic violence prevention/education, access to resources and public information. LEVI consists of representatives from city and county government, criminal justice, social service, non-profit and for-profit agencies. We understand that one domestic violence



Longmont Ending Violence Initiative | Courtesy photos

Large white ribbons hang along Main Street in downtown Longmont earlier this month as part of LEVI's second annual White Ribbon Campaign, an effort of men working to end violence against women.



LEVI hosts four professional trainings each year on various topics as they relate to domestic violence. These trainings are free and open to all professionals in the community. This picture was taken from a training held during the LEVI White Ribbon Campaign in June 2008, titled "Men's Roles in Gender Violence Prevention."

agency alone can not resolve all domestic violence issues; we know we must all work together. Since the development of LEVI, our community has gone nine years without a single domestic-violence-related death. Research indicates that victims typically do not report the violence until they have been battered approximately 10 times. By building community aware-

ness around the dynamics of domestic violence and how a community member can help, and by centralizing a domestic violence referral clearinghouse, we believe that we can minimize the number of times a victim will be battered before he or she gets help, therefore reducing the probabilities of serious injuries and fatalities.

Proudest Accomplishment: LEVI's proudest accomplishment is the fact that we exist as a true collaboration of nearly two-dozen agencies in the community, all working together on the same goal of eliminating domestic violence. All LEVI agencies work together on re-framing domestic violence as a community issue versus an individual or police issue.

Our goal for victims of domestic violence is to keep them from "falling through the cracks" in the community when trying to access services. By collaborating together, LEVI agencies have been able to effectively help countless victims by addressing root causes and the "bottom line" of what it will take to truly help that victim find their way into a life free of abuse. In turn, all agencies work together to assist victims on the various aspects of their situations and empower those victims to move past the abuse and into a self-sufficient life.

Greatest Need: Our greatest need is the continued support of our community. LEVI welcomes donations in any amount so that we can continue to provide prevention/education, public information and easy access to services in our community. In addition, we need our community to accept responsibility for domestic violence. Specifically, we ask that residents "do something" to respond to domestic violence — whether that be to start a conversation with a victim or offender, call the police, talk to young people about healthy relationships, or any other action that can be taken to reduce and prevent domestic violence. Contact LEVI for more ideas.

Future Plans: Our future plans continue to focus on domestic violence prevention/education, public information and easy access to resources in the community. Specific plans include the White Ribbon Campaign and an educational event targeted at our elected officials.

Contact Information: Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI), 303-774-4534, www.LongmontDomesticViolence.org.

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