



THURSDAY DAILY TIMES-CALL

No. 158

LONGMONT AND THE ST. VRAIN VALLEY, COLORADO

Open Forum

Message for men

It's time we spoke up and took a stand against domestic violence in our community. For too long, we've sat on the sidelines thinking this is a woman's issue, but it's not. It's a community issue. There is more battering perpetrated against the women in our community by their husbands and boyfriends than all the other violence in Longmont combined. This type of violence sadly continues at an alarming rate despite police, courts and advocate group efforts to stop it.

We turn a blind eye to our neighbor's abuse against his wife, thinking it's none of our business. It is our business, and we need to stand up and tell the world we're not going to tolerate it anymore. The future of our community and our families are at stake.

So what can the average man do to make a difference? Start in your own family and community. First, if you're an abuser, stop abusing and get help.

Second, model a respectful behavior toward women to your children, especially your sons.

Third, talk to your sons and teach them to be respectful toward women and tell them that they should never hit a woman or girl. If you're a coach, teacher or scout leader, do the same with the boys and young men you mentor.

If you see another man abusing a woman or child, do something about it! Intervene or call the police. Your actions could stop the abuse or prevent it from occurring the next time.

Join me and other men in the Longmont community who are taking a stand against domestic violence during the White Ribbon Campaign, June 10 to June 24, by wearing a symbolic white ribbon and attending the "Voices of Men" event at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 18, at LifeBridge Christian Church.

CRAIG EARTHART
Longmont Police Department