

Envision a World without Violence
Creating Sister Space


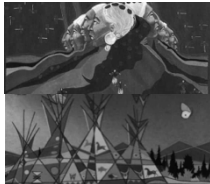


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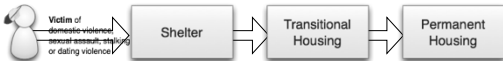



Women surviving

Every day, women survive physical or sexual violence. Some survive as a result of services they receive in the after-math of the abuse.
 (Postmus, Severson, Berry, & Yoo, 2009)

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Understanding the difference




Purpose	immediate response to the violence	Providing homeless victims/survivors with longer-term support	long-term stability
Length of stay	short-term a few days to a few months	usually 6 months to 24 months	on-going
Activities	crisis response advocacy	advocacy with safety, economic, personal/family and housing planning/support	usually no programming involved

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Survivors' Needs

- Time to get on their feet
- A time and space to make decisions, explore options with privacy and respect
- An environment that supports individual decision making




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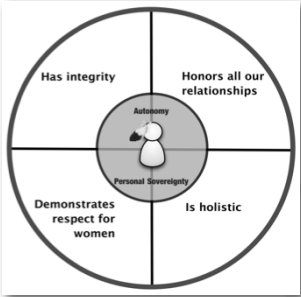
Guiding Principles

- Victim/survivor-centered
- Provides strict confidentiality
- Centralizes victim safety
- Voices of victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence



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Sister Space

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Values	Actions
Honors all our relationships	<i>Will recognize the interconnected relationships victims/survivors have. Will make sure families as identified by the victim/survivor will be recognized and supported</i>
Is holistic	<i>Will work to address the complex needs a victim/survivor has. This will include the journey of personal healing toward reaching living their lives as they desire</i>
Demonstrates respect for women	<i>Every level of the program will demonstrate respect by the rules, policies and practices that are put in place, the actions of staff, and the environment created that respects a woman's ability to make decisions and guide the direction of their own lives</i>
Has integrity	<i>Rules, expectations, program supports that are offered will be clearly communicated and will be demonstrated in the actions of program delivery provided by staff</i>

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Challenging issues

- ❑ Alcohol and drug use
- ❑ Victims that are immobilized
- ❑ Attitudes and resistance

Develop a response to challenging issues. This might include working in a different manner, identifying alternative resources, developing new partnerships, putting in place specific training, etc.

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Window of opportunity


- ❑ Build a space to support women on their journeys
- ❑ Determine the tone and nature of our work
- ❑ The rules and policies put in place are guided by what we are trying to accomplish/create, by the funding sources we use, tribal and/or local laws and our guiding beliefs.
 - ❑ Are we creating an environment that helps to embrace a woman?
 - ❑ Are we creating a place where we work to manage a woman?

"...the main thing [is] to look at everything we do, and everything we expect of our clients, and see how that measures up." (Taufest)

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Working in Sister Space



- Has an ability to recognize how what they are doing will have an impact on women's lives
- Able to put themselves into the lives of the women whom they are working with
- Able to offer a supportive, compassionate and patient process
- Assists a victim/survivor to explore their options while balancing their survival skills

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Making it happen

- Internalizing policy and practice
- Educating staff on the why's and how's
- Creating forums for practice and exploration
- Revisiting and revising your policies
- Monitoring to see that the desired result is being achieved

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I love to go home

"Our home may be modest, we may not have the best designer furniture, but when you come into our home you feel like [you are] a part of the family, you feel alive, you feel the people's strength."

(Looking Horse, 1995)



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