

BREAKING THE SILENCE



Domestic Violence Task Force of Iredell





Overview:

- Formed in November, 2012 by Daniel Miglin (Statesville Police Department), Patti Wiley (Victim Advocate at My Sister's House) and Patti West (Executive Director- 5th Street Ministries)
- Meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm @ DSS in Statesville.
- Initially, 10 agencies represented; primarily law enforcement / courts; Now, 50 agencies involved; primarily victim service providers.



Purpose:

Multi-discipline, coordinated community response created to:

- Increase awareness of domestic violence in our community;
- Increase coordination & efficiency of domestic violence response between partnering agencies;
- Increase safety & resolve of victims and improve their access to needed services;
- Increase offender accountability & reduce recidivism;
- Reduce exposure of children to domestic violence.



Focus Groups:

In addition to the monthly task force meeting, sub-committees, or “focus groups” meet independently to address specific related tasks:

- Victim Outreach
 - Training Development
- Special Events & Public Relations
 - Resource Development
- Domestic Violence Tracking
- Offender-Based Services
 - Youth Outreach



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Police officer and wife die in murder-suicide, Iredell officials say

Posted: Dec 14, 2010 8:52 PM EST
Updated: Jan 14, 2011 8:49 PM EST

By Tom Roussey - bio | email & WBTV Staff

IREDELL COUNTY, NC (WBTV) - Authorities in Iredell County believe a Statesville police officer shot and killed his estranged wife and then turned the gun on himself outside his home Tuesday night.

Captain Darren Campbell with the Iredell County Sheriff's Office said deputies were called around 6 p.m. Tuesday to a home on Whitetail Lane which has a Statesville address.

When deputies arrived, they discovered the body of 39-year-old Robert Przasnski and his wife, Heather, in the driveway, Campbell said.

Initial autopsy reports released on Wednesday indicate that Heather Przasnski died from multiple gunshot wounds. Evidence at the scene also indicates that Officer Przasnski died from a self-inflicted gunshot.

The couple's two sons were at the home when the shooting occurred. Sheriff's officials, however, are not sure if the boys, ages 7 and 4, were inside the house or in the doorway when the shooting happened.



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Wake Up Calls:

- December 14, 2010: Statesville Police Officer shoots his estranged wife to death in driveway, in front of their two small sons, before committing suicide;
- Between 2010-2012, Statesville (population @ 24,000+) averaged 450 cases of domestic violence per year;
- In 2013, Iredell County (overall) averaged nearly 8 cases of domestic violence per day (2,832 total reported);
- Domestic violence is 3rd most frequent call for service in our area (Larceny #1; Breaking & Entering #2)



In Addition...

National studies show that:

- Most domestic violence incidents are never reported;
- One (1) in 4 women in the US will experience domestic violence in her lifetime;
- The average victim is abused 5 times before police are ever called;
- The average victim is abused 7 times before they ever leave;
- Every year, 1 in 3 women who is a victim of homicide is killed by her current or former partner;



And...

- Every year, more than 3 million children witness domestic violence in their home;
- Children who live in homes with domestic violence also suffer abuse or neglect at higher rates (30%-60%) and have higher rates of physical & mental health issues;
- Without support, girls who witness domestic violence are more vulnerable to abuse themselves as teens & adults;
- Without support, boys who witness domestic violence are far more likely to become abusers to their partners and/or children as adults thereby continuing the cycle of violence into the next generation;

Now 1 ½ Years Later...

- Proactive, strong community collaborative in place;
- Public awareness efforts via radio, newspaper, TV, and social media;




Web site: Domesticviolenceiredell.com

- Two year grant received by NC Governor's Crime Commission which supports training, supplies, and a Domestic Violence Specialist position (new. sworn) at the Statesville Police Department (in addition to another DV investigator at Iredell County Sheriff's Office);

That's Not All...

- Produced & disseminated 4,000 copies of our resource guide, which provides readers with current contact numbers for needed services, instructions for obtaining a DVPO and developing a safety plan, and much more.
- Brought significant amount of training to Iredell County by NC CADV, John Guard (Pitt County Sheriff's Office), Council for Women, eNOugh, and the NC Department of Public Safety.



**Domestic Violence
Information &
Resource Guide
for Iredell County**

Provided by the Domestic Violence Task Force of Iredell in an effort to reduce domestic violence in our community.

24-Hour Crisis Lines: (Local) 704-872-3403 * (National) 800-799-SAFE * (Spanish) 704-880-1042

This project was supported by Award #PROJ008989 awarded by the Violence Against Women Act, US Department of Justice, through the NC Department of Public Safety / Governor's Crime Commission

2014 Iredell Symposium on Domestic Violence

- Held May 7-8, 2014 at the Statesville Civic Center; 1st event of its kind in Iredell County;
- Nearly 400 people in attendance;
- Featured speakers included John Guard, Johnny Lee (Peace at Work), Amily McCool (NC CADV), Tim Ellenberger (High Point Police Department), and other local & regional speakers;
- 37% of the attendees were from outside Iredell County;
- 40% of attendees were from law enforcement community; 54% were from service providers;
- Outstanding reviews received by attendees!



In The Works:

- June 2, 2014: Iredell County law enforcement community will begin warrantless arrests for violation of pre-trial release conditions;
- Summer, 2014: Resource guides being translated into Spanish version;
- Implementation of consistent, comprehensive tracking of domestic violence cases using VAWA annual report as template;
- Develop and implement consistent, uniform DV response protocol / policy for all Iredell County law enforcement officers to follow



In The Works (cont.):

- Ongoing: Development of a “speaker’s forum”;
- 2015 Iredell Symposium on Domestic Violence and other training opportunities coming to Iredell County;
- 2015: Creation of a Domestic Violence Specialist position at Mooresville Police Department;
- Fall, 2014: Offender-based domestic violence notification meetings (a/k/a “call-ins) to begin in Statesville; replicating High Point Police Department model.



Future Call-ins...

- ✓ Must be at least 18 years of age;
- ✓ Must be on active probation;
- ✓ Must have at least two (2) prior domestic-related arrests involving violence against an intimate partner; or
- ✓ Violated pre-trial release conditions for previous domestic violence offense.

NOTE: Offenders with 3 or more domestic violence arrest, or have an extensive history of violence including domestic violence, or violated a 50 B order; or is a convicted felon, or used a weapon in an act of domestic violence are not eligible.

Questions???

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