



# Cost of Domestic Violence In *Benton Country*

## Victim Service Agencies Are Providing Quality Care.

During 2007-2008, 1777 unduplicated women and child victims were served by advocates at Anna Marie's shelter.

### Impact:

- 85% of women staying 30 days or more at Anna Marie's shelter indicated on a survey that being at the shelter has helped them to build confidence in their decision making.
- 75% of women indicated they are able to take action to leave an abusive relationship should one occur in the future.

*Anna Marie's Alliance is a community action program designed to provide support and resources for women and children affected by domestic violence. Anna Marie's Alliance offers services such as crisis support, advocacy, legal aid, children and youth services, criminal justice intervention, community education, and hospital based advocacv.*

## Estimated Yearly Cost of Domestic Violence In Our Service Area:

# \$6,097,655.15

*Thank you for believing in me and giving me a second chance at life. Without all the support this would not have been possible.*

*--Former Anna Marie's Shelter and Jill Eckhoff Transitional House resident*

### PROGRAM NARRATIVE:

In 2008, Anna Marie's Alliance served 1457 women as well as 1604 children. The fiscal cost of this violence is staggering.

After calculating medical costs and costs incurred from lost productivity (see chart on next page), each year domestic violence costs \$16,449.00 per woman abused.

Domestic Violence cost approximately \$6,000,000 dollars in Anna Marie's Alliance service area last year.

This number is a low estimate, as it does not include men, children, or secondary victims

*End it! I want to see women and girls unafraid. I want positive role models for boys. We need to investigate ways to break the cycle and get to the anger.*  
*--Paul M. Wenner, Ph. D. CentraCare Behavioral Health Clinic*

# Anna Marie's Alliance

## Cost of Domestic Violence Breakdown

### Tangible Costs

Productivity	\$1,117.00
Medical Care/Ambulance	\$456.00
Mental Health Care	\$119.00
Property Loss/Damage	\$57.00

**Subtotal Tangible**                    **\$1,749.00**

**Quality of Life:**                    **\$14,700.00**

**TOTAL COST TO**                    **\$16,449.00\***

### VICTIM

**TOTAL VICTIM COSTS**           **\$5,576,211**

### BENTON COUNTY

\*Miller, T.R., Cohen, M.A., & Wiersma, B. (1996), *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look* (NIJ Research Report NCJ 155282 & U.S. GPO: 1996-495-037/20041). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. Amounts are rounded and based on adult victimization and are in 2008 dollars based on the Consumer Price Index: ([www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm))

**Law Enforcement Costs:**            Benton County

LE Call Response                    \$4,560.00

LE Calls with Arrests                \$29,500.00

**Total Law Enforcement\***           **\$34,060.00**

**Total Probation Costs**                **\$100,634.15**

**Total Court Costs\***                    **\$386,750.00**

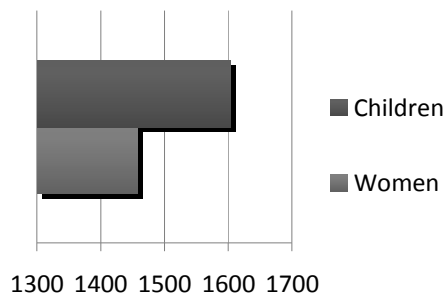
**TOTAL SYSTEM COST:**                **\$521,444.00**

\*Law enforcement calculations were determined by local and national data sources. See methodology document.

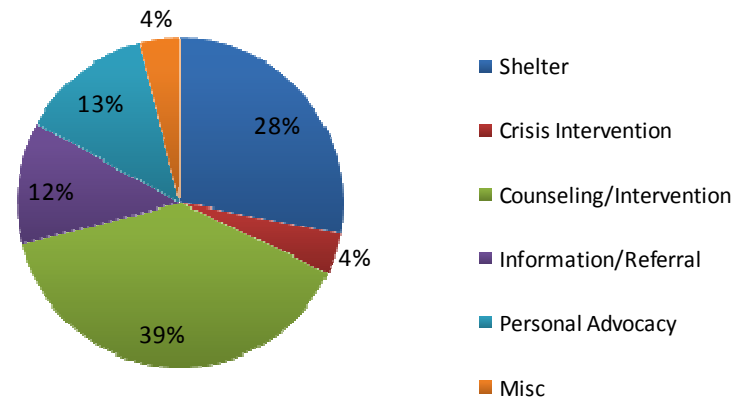
\*Probation costs were determined by local and national data sources. See methodology document.

\*Court costs were determined by local and national data sources. See methodology document.

### 2008 Service Numbers



### Services Provided



### Anna Marie's Alliance is Cost Effective and Efficient:

Anna Marie's Alliance uses community volunteers, collaboration, private donations and creative community partnerships to keep expenses down and service quality high.

### In 2008:

- Community volunteers contributed over 12,884 hours totaling \$250,722.64
- The Anna Marie's Alliance received over \$253,015 in private foundation and individual contributions

# METHODOLOGY

## COSTS OF VICTIMIZATION

### Service Numbers:

The number of people who were victims of domestic violence was taken from the Anna Marie's Alliance State fiscal Year 2008 service numbers. The victims served may or may not have reported their abuse to law enforcement. Anna Marie's shelter, located in St Cloud, serves a nine county region. The numbers of victims served by the shelter include women and children who resided at the shelter as well as women who came to the shelter for services but were not residents. The number of woman victims served by the organization from Benton County only was 339 which was used to calculate cost to Benton County.

### *Methods used for estimating costs of domestic violence in Minnesota*

- When possible, cost estimates were collected from state agencies. When Minnesota data was not readily available, national studies were used and adjusted for inflation. Most costs not directly available from Minnesota Sources came from a national study of domestic violence costs (CDC, 2003) or from *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look* (Miller, Cohen, and Weirsma, 1996)

### Intangible and Intangible Costs:

MCBW used the most recent comprehensive analysis of the cost of crime per criminal victimization incident. These numbers are an underestimation of costs, but do provide us with a starting point to understand the devastating economic impact of domestic violence. Tangible costs include medical care, property damage or loss, reduced productivity at work, home and school. Intangible costs include non monetary losses - such as fear, pain, suffering and lost quality of life. The costs are based on a detailed estimate of victimization cost per crime incident. These costs are averages and include crimes that have minimal impact on victims as well as extremely violent crimes that result in long hospital stays and devastate victims' quality of life for years to come. (Pgs 9-10, Miller, T.R., Cohen, M.A., & Wiersma, B. (1996)

## SYSTEM COSTS

### Law Enforcement

Police salaries, including fringe benefits and do not include all possible police costs. For example, the cost of injury incurred by police officers during investigation of incidents of violent behavior is not reflected here

### *Methods used for estimating law enforcement costs:*

- Law enforcement responses to domestic violence calls with no arrest were multiplied by the average response time of 1 hour times the average law enforcement salary of \$60.00.
- Domestic violence arrests were calculated by taking the number of domestic violence arrests times the average cost of processing an assault \$500.00. (or average time spent on investigation of DV calls with arrest) from *Understanding and preventing Violence: Consequences and Control, Vol. 4.*

### Court Administrative Costs:

Court administrative costs were calculated by utilizing national estimated cost for state court time, about \$4 per minute in 1982 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1988d:123) adjusted for inflation (based on the consumer price index) which is \$8.50 per minute. \$8.50 per minute was multiplied by the average minimum time spent of 3.7 hours (250 minutes) from *Understanding and Preventing Violence: Consequences and Control, Vol. 4.*

### Probation

Probation costs were calculated by multiplying the number of offenders on probation with a domestic violence offense in the given service area times the cost per day for probation times 365 days. The American Probation and Parole Association estimates the cost of probation/parole as \$3.10 per offender per day.

# REFERENCES

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