A National Initiative to End Domestic Violence Homicides

Research has shown that intimate partner domestic violence homicides are often predictable. and if they're predictable, they're preventable.

The Work of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

Since 1982, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has empowered individuals and engaged communities to end domestic violence. The Center provides free, trauma-informed services to adult and child survivors, using evidence-based and culturally responsive practices. Programs support survivors in healing and achieving independence through advocacy, counseling, and legal services. The Center delivers prevention programs in schools to promote healthy relationships and disrupt patterns of violence. Additionally, its state-certified Intimate Partner Abuse Education Program offers strategies for people who use violence to break abusive patterns and prioritize survivor safety.

A Call-to-Action Leads to a Groundbreaking Local Solution

In 2002, a client of the Center was murdered by her husband while their youngest daughter was on the phone with 9-1-1. Despite a long history of domestic violence, a protection order, and involvement with the criminal justice system, he shot her in the kitchen of their home before taking his own life. Dorothy did everything she could to protect herself and her daughters; she followed every safety recommendation, but the system still failed her.

Dorothy's murder led to the creation of the first **Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT)** - a multidisciplinary approach designed to identify and protect survivors at the highest risk of being killed. Grounded in the research of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN, on intimate partner homicide, the DVHRT Model turns research into action by closing system gaps and improving coordination among community partners. ,

To further strengthen law enforcement's response, the Center partnered with leading researchers to develop the **Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE)** - an 11-question, evidence-based tool that identifies high-risk victims, informs court decisions, and connects survivors to services.

Before the DVHRT, there were eight domestic violence-related deaths over a ten-year span in the Amesbury community. Since launching in 2005, the Center has supported over 200 high-risk cases—without a single homicide.

Local Solutions Lead to National Adoption

The success of this model has led the Center to train and support more than **350 jurisdictions across 48 states.** In 2024 alone, we provided over **40 trainings and received over 50 new requests for training and technical assistance** to communities nationwide. Over **82 communities have implemented the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT) Model, including 26 teams throughout Massachusetts**. The Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) is implemented in over **75 agencies throughout the country**.

The **U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women** recognizes the DVHRT model as a "successful homicide reduction model."

The Geiger Institute: Scaling the Work

In 2022, the Center launched the **Geiger Institute** to build the resources and infrastructure needed to scale this critical work. The Geiger Institute operates as a division of the Center, enabling the continuation and growth of domestic violence homicide prevention work nationally. Now, the Geiger Institute team is growing, building and strengthening partnerships, raising critical funding, and evolving their work to increase pathways to safety for those most at risk of intimate partner homicide.