

This is DSVS

Founded in 1999 on a belief that everyone deserves healthy relationships, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services serves Carbon and Stillwater counties by providing life-changing services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault while supporting violence prevention through instruction and mentoring for middle school-aged children through *Power Up, Speak Out!*

DSVS provides immediate and lasting support to 150-200 survivors a year, and all services are confidential and free of charge. In the 2020-21 school year, *Power Up, Speak Out!* was taught in schools across Montana and in 22 other states.

Our mission:

To empower those impacted by violence and foster healthy relationships

Our Vision:

DSVS strives for the day when violence is no longer part of our lives



Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

P.O. Box 314/1119 S. Broadway
Red Lodge, MT 59068

A Home of Their Own

Lina and Brandon had been dating only a couple of months when Lina and her two children were evicted from their rental. She was grateful when Brandon offered to let them stay with him, but it wasn't long before the dynamics of their relationship changed. It started with off-hand remarks about her and her son and daughter. Then it escalated to more cutting digs and overt emotional abuse. Their fights were becoming more frequent and intense as well, and he threatened to hurt her several times. Lina was fearful every time she had to leave her kids with Brandon to go to work.

Her greatest fear was that he would throw her and her children out.

Domestic violence is a primary cause of homelessness for women and children, and housing is one of the many reasons why people have a difficult time leaving their abusers. If she left Brandon, Lina and her children would be homeless. With nowhere to turn, she called DSVS.

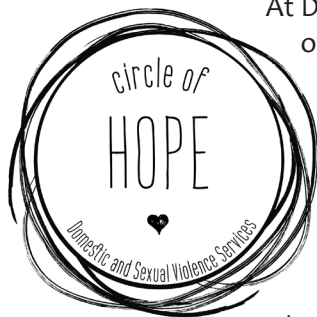
DSVS advocates helped with safety planning and emotional support. Due to her circumstances, Lina qualified for the Temporary Assistance Program at DSVS, which helps survivors pay for housing and utilities for up to two years.

It wasn't easy finding housing for Lina and her children, but her DSVS advocate was persistent. Finally, after several weeks of searching, a small, two-bedroom rental was found. She could move in immediately! When Lina told Brandon she was leaving, he didn't put up a fight. Now, Lina and her children are starting over in a home of their own where they are safe.

***Thank you for supporting Lina and her children.
Together we are making a difference!***

May 2022

You Can Provide Hope for Survivors



At DSVS, hope is our specialty. While our basic services – advocacy, safety planning, shelter – are fairly straightforward, what’s not easily measured is the hope survivors find as they realize a better, safer future for themselves. Hope is what truly changes people’s lives!

You can be a part of this transformative work by joining the Circle of Hope monthly giving program.

Monthly giving is easy and convenient for you. If you’ve decided that you value our work at DSVS you can sign up once and know your support will continue automatically. The online form takes two minutes to fill out, and you’ll receive one statement at the end of every year for your taxes, which helps you avoid clutter and saves us staff time and postage.

Monthly giving is great for DSVS too. It provides a sustainable source of revenue, which helps us ensure the future of our programming. Monthly giving decreases costs associated with fundraising, giving us more time and resources to meet our mission.

Most importantly, monthly giving creates a meaningful connection with you – creating a Circle of Hope. We can spend more time sharing with you how your giving is making a difference.

We have a goal this year to add 50 new donors to our Circle of Hope. Will you help us reach our goal? Scan the QR code to be taken to the DSVS online donation page. Signup is quick and easy, and even the minimum donation of \$10 a month is a significant gift by the end of the year. If you have questions feel free to reach out to us at 406-446-2296 or info@dsvsmontana.org.

Scan to give



During Experience Yellowstone 2019, students stopped for a moment to write in their journals on a bluff overlooking the Lamar River in Yellowstone National Park. Power Up, Speak Out! will be returning to Yellowstone with a new group of students this year after a two-year break.

Power Up, Speak Out! Heads into Summer

As summer approaches, the Power Up, Speak Out! education team is closing the books on another outstanding school year and looking forward to a busy, fun-filled summer.

This summer, Power Up, Speak Out! Educator Hayden Ramsey and DSVS Co-Director Libby Johnson are partnering with Lynette Two Bulls, founder of Yellow Bird Lifeways to host Experience Yellowstone. It’s a four-day excursion into Yellowstone National Park for middle school students, and the entire trip is paid for by an anonymous donor. This year, students from Yellow Bird Lifeways will be joining Carbon County students for the adventure, which will include sightseeing during the day and fun, interpersonal skill-building activities in the evenings.

Several trainings are on the calendar as well. Hayden and Libby will be attending a weeklong Conscious Discipline training in June that will deepen their skillset as they continue to teach free parenting classes. They’re also training teachers to use Power Up, Speak Out! in their schools, and will be traveling to Kalispell to teach Power Up, Speak Out! to children in the Flathead City County Health Department summer program.

Give today to support our healthy relationships programs

Become a DSVS Volunteer Advocate

Have you ever wanted to help someone who was in an unhealthy relationship but didn’t know what to do?

Do you know what you would do if someone shared with you that they were sexually assaulted?

Learn how you can support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by becoming a DSVS Volunteer Advocate. Volunteer Advocates learn valuable crisis communication skills, help foster healthy relationships, build awareness in the community, and assist in staffing the DSVS 24-hour helpline.

Many of our helpline volunteers say it is one of the most rewarding things they do, but the training is not just for potential helpline volunteers. Anyone interested in learning more about DSVS and the issues surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault in our community is encouraged to attend. The trainings include 20 hours of instruction and are offered several times a year.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Advocate, please contact DSVS at info@dsvsmontana.org or call 406-446-2296. We are in the process of planning the next training.

Volunteer spotlight: Lauren Emineth



When someone calls the DSVS helpline, they are usually in a crisis, and sometimes it is their darkest hour. When Volunteer Advocate Lauren Emineth answers, her voice is steady and calm as she draws on a personal well of strength and stability.

“I see it as an opportunity to lend some of that strength and stability to others,” Lauren said.

Lauren was nervous at first, but leaned on the skills she learned in the training and the support she received from the DSVS staff. It wasn’t long before she gained confidence, and she is now one of DSVS’s most reliable volunteer advocates.

Thank you, Lauren, for your dedication to DSVS and the people we serve.