

Prevention

"The future depends on what we do in the present." ~Mahatma Gandhi

How can violence be prevented before it begins?

To guide our prevention work, we are inspired by the [Prevention Institute](#) to define prevention as "building resilience to take action and end violence before it begins." To shift our perspective to prevent violence before it begins, we focus on rethinking and reframing our anti-domestic violence work through individual practice and collective efforts.

Domestic violence is a serious public health issue that calls for individual, relational, community, and societal approaches to stopping violence before it starts. By shifting our lens and focusing on community organizing, developing an understanding and awareness of intersections of oppression, examining and working to shift social norms, and progressing towards a culture of reflection together we can move forward to a domestic violence free Wisconsin.

Our Prevention Team has encountered and envisions programs and projects that rethink and reframe intervention approaches to encompass prevention. Examples could include a financial literacy skills-building program that includes all women, not solely survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and public media campaigns that focus on what we want in the world instead of what we want to stop. At the core of prevention we seek to engage everyone in making change, reaching all aspects of our communities in addition to advocates and survivors. Promising prevention strategies work with people and systems to challenge gender, race, and class stereotypes and oppressive norms while defining new ways to be a more positive, equitable and just society.

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