



DVRC Housing
Programs and
Crisis Line



Housing Programs Overview

- 3 programs: emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing
- Low barrier shelter/housing programs that are open to DV survivors of all backgrounds and identities
 - Low Barrier: “an approach to meet people where they are at.” Low barrier shelters ensure access by eliminating barriers such as sobriety standards, pet restrictions, entry based on income, need for identification, citizenship, and background checks.
- Clients may enter one program and move on to another (e.g. emergency shelter to transitional program) or enter a single program through an outside referral if space is available.
- All housing programs provide case management and advocacy services, Rent Well classes, financial education, support accessing necessities like food, hygiene supplies, clothes etc. but the amount/frequency varies by program
- Volunteers support all programs with activities, donations, yard work, room sponsorship, furnishing and moving assistance, etc.
- Referrals are received from Community Connect, Intra-Agency, Community Partners, and crisis line.

Housing Program Goals and Expected Outcomes

Goals

- Break the cycle of violence
- Develop self-sufficiency
- Increase resource knowledge
- Supporting healthy relationships and interactions

Expected Outcomes

- Better understanding of Cycle of Violence
- Develop connections and have a sense of community
- Reestablish healthy bonds

Common Housing Barriers

- **Safety**
- **Children and Pets**
- **Current Lease/Landlord Situations**
- **Evictions**
- **Debt and bad credit**
- **Documents and accounts**
- **Lack of long-term options/Housing scarcity**
- **Leaving home and belongings**
- **Inability to obtain employment**

Monika's House at a Glance

- Type: Confidential Emergency Shelter
- Founded: 1979, moved to current location in 1999
- Named for Monika Voits, victim of DV homicide
- Capacity: 7 rooms holding 7 Heads of Household (HOH) and up to 16 dependents
- Staff screens for new placement once room becomes available.
 - Referrals through crisis line, intra-agency, community partners
 - Call to Safety will post on their "Shelter Space"
- Staff:
 - Housing Director
 - Housing Coordinator
 - Case Management/Children's Advocate
 - Employment and Housing Coordinator
 - Shelter Support/Overnight Shelter Support

Monika's House Program

- Length of Stay: 1 week to 90 days, typical base stay of 30 days extended to 60 with case management participation/program compliance and extended to a max stay of 90 days with proof of pending housing, no stays over 90 days
- Screening Criteria: Domestic violence with incident in the past six months, high lethality, no other safe place to stay, appropriate for communal living, need for confidential location
- Services: case management, safety planning, general advocacy (e.g. financial assistance, transportation, childcare assistance), crisis line advocacy, prosocial activities and groups
- On-site Supplies: Communal pantry/food boxes, hygiene supplies, clothing closet, medication/first aid supplies

Children's Program

- Rooted in the belief that every child has a right to shelter, food, safety, peace and to be nurtured.
- Children's Program Goals:
 - To provide a safe environment, free from violence
 - To provide support throughout the transition of shelter
 - To assess needs and provide appropriate referrals
 - To provide support to parents in dealing with domestic violence and the affects it has on their children
 - To provide education on domestic violence focusing on these main points:
 - Violence is not their fault
 - Violence is not okay
 - They are not alone
 - They have a right to be safe

Children's Activities at Shelter:

- Youth and You
- Homework Club
- Holiday/birthday celebrations

Monika's House Animal Sanctuary

- Opened in 2015 to address a major barrier to survivors fleeing high lethality DV
- Updated in 2023 to include fenced access to a play area, wash rack, mud room and pet "lounge," where people and pets can spend time together.
- Companion and service animals are generally housed inside with families following a quarantine period. Non-service animals are to stay in clients' rooms unless leashed, and kept separate from potentially allergic housemates.
- Partner with local veterinary clinic and non-profit to provide care and supplies, as well as training and support.

Mary Mac House at a Glance

- Type: Transitional Housing
- Founded: 2015, provided by local church. DVRC does not own this property.
- Named for Mary McIntyre who fled a 25-year abusive marriage
- Capacity: 7 rooms holding 7 HOH and up to 8 children
- Staff:
 - Housing Director
 - Housing Coordinator
 - Housing and Employment Coordinator
- Referrals: Community Partners, Intra-Agency.

Mary Mac Program

- Length of stay: 1 year
- Screening Criteria: low-moderate lethality, IPV history, appropriate for communal living, ready to work on employment and housing, can stabilize within a year
- Services: case management with an emphasis on employment and housing stability, general advocacy and connections to resources, financial planning savings program. Clients work with Housing and Employment Specialist

Sojourners House at a Glance

- Type: Scattered Site Permanent Housing
- Funders: Washington County and HUD
- Founded: 2019
- Capacity: up to 20 independent apartment units
- Staff:
 - Housing Director
 - Housing and Employment Coordinator
 - Case Manager x2
- Referrals: Via Community Partners, Intra Agency

Sojourners House Program

- Length of Stay: 1-2 years
- Screening Criteria: Low barrier/housing first model targeting survivors who are housing unstable due to a history of DV, able to live in an apartment with limited case management
- Services: case management (monthly)
- How it works: Clients complete a Washington County screening to be approved for the program, then DVRC housing staff help them to locate and apply for apartments at a pre-set rent level, the apartments run their own background checks and the lease is made directly with the client. The client pays 30% of their income and the county pays the rest. The rent support is determined a year at a time, up to two years, at which time it is hoped the client can be self-sufficient.

Case Management Philosophy

- Person-centered services
- Person-in-environment framework
- Strengths based perspective
- Collaborative approach
- Human dignity and worth

Common Case Management Goals

- Permanent Housing
 - Section 8
 - Supported Housing Programs
 - Increase Income and obtain public benefits
 - Employment or SSI/SSDI
 - Education
 - TANF/SNAP
- Medical Care and OHP Access
- Obtain affordable childcare
- Replace identification documents
- Safety
 - Criminal Justice System advocacy
 - Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)
- Financial assistance
 - Opening accounts
 - Paying down debt

DVRC/Washington County Domestic Violence Crisis Line

- Run out of Monika's House and staffed by Shelter Support
- Crisis Line has been in operation 24/7 since 1982
- Provides safety planning, crisis management (followed by referral to clinical services), information about DVRC programs, referrals and resources related to DV, and housing screening and resources
- Non-DV related calls are provided referrals within their community
- Does NOT provide in person services/response or clinical services

Types of Crisis Calls

- Common Call Types:
 - DV Victims
 - Family/Friends of DV Victims
 - Service Providers
 - Housing Related
 - Folks Struggling with Mental Health
 - Perpetrators and Problem Callers
 - Shelter Seeking (Non DV related)

Questions and Contact Information

- Questions?
- Feel free to reach out any time with questions, feedback, or referrals.
- Crisis Line: 503.469.4580