

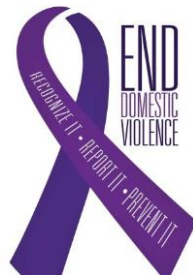
*People can change  
when they  
genuinely want to  
and devote  
themselves to doing  
so.*

*The big question is  
“How?”*

### **How can abusers change?**

- ◇ Admitting fully to what they have done
- ◇ Stopping excuses and blaming
- ◇ Accepting responsibility and recognizing that abuse is a choice
- ◇ Developing respectful, kind, supportive behaviors
- ◇ Carrying their weight and sharing power
- ◇ Changing how they act in heated conflicts
- ◇ Accepting the consequences of their actions (including not feeling sorry for themselves about the consequences, and not blaming their partner or children for them)

## **Equality Foundation** Seeking a “Win/Win Solution”



**Vision Statement: Violent free relationships and communities!**

**Mission Statement: To educate, advocate, and vigorously hold accountable men and women for their abusive behaviors.**



### **Contact Information**

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## **Equality Foundation** Seeking a “Win/Win Solution”



**For Violence Free  
Relationships**

***“We have an unshakeable belief that within us all, is the capacity to change.”***

## History of Domestic Violence

In 1980, in Duluth, MN after a particularly brutal “domestic” homicide, the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP), found a relatively receptive community willing to experiment with new practices to confront the problem of **men’s violence** toward their partners.

The project argued for practices that would hold offenders accountable and place the onus of intervention on the community, not on the individual woman being beaten. Ensuring **women’s safety** would be the community’s responsibility.

In the mid to late 1980’s a second generation of batterer intervention programs begin to emerge. By then most states begin to enact pro-arrest and prosecution policies regarding perpetrators of domestic violence. In some cases, these new policies were prompted by new laws that expanded police powers of arrest for domestic violence and even created liability for police who failed to protect victims.

While these protocols vary from state to state, they have in common the dual goals of protecting victims and increasing accountability for perpetrators. Police in many states are now required to advise victims of their rights, offer them assistance and referrals, and arrest the alleged perpetrator when there was probable cause to believe that domestic violence had occurred.

Many states and counties also adopted ‘victimless prosecution’ policies in which prosecution of the offender does not depend upon the testimony of the victim, thereby reducing the likelihood of retaliation to victims who testify against their abusers.

As a result of these new laws and policies, there have been a dramatic increase in the numbers of batterers who were arrested and prosecuted over the past 15 years.

## Batterer Intervention and Prevention Program

A Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) is different from other programs in that it centers around complete accountability, victim safety and education about abusive behaviors.

Men and women enter a BIP program for various reasons. Many are required by judges to attend as a condition of probation or as a part of a sentence. Others enroll at the request of community agencies to try to keep families together, while a very small percentage enroll voluntarily at the request of their attorneys to mitigate court ordered sanctions.

The Equality Foundation is a nonviolence program which consist of a repetitive 24-week program that teaches about abuse: the range of coercive or abusive behaviors,



common abusive tactics and the effects that abuse has on partners and families. Participants learn about healthy relationships and non-violent behaviors. The program also challenges pre-existing beliefs that abusive partners might have, such as entitlement/ownership and gender roles. The program is structured around a clear understanding that abusive behavior is chosen, and that while substance abuse and mental health issues can occur simultaneously, these issues may be addressed through separate services.

## Program Philosophy

It is our hope that this program will assist in the understanding of the complex nature of battering and of the people who batter—their thinking, the intent of their actions, and the impact of their violent behavior on the people they batter, their children, the community, and ultimately on themselves:

# KNOW MORE

- ◆ Why is she/he the target of your violence?
- ◆ How does your violence impact the balance of power in the relationship?
- ◆ What did you think you could change by hitting her/him?
- ◆ Why does you assume you are entitled to have power in the relationship?
- ◆ How does the community support your use of violence against victim?

