

## About SVA

In the early 1980s, communities in Scott and Carver counties did not have any direct services for abused women. To fill this void, a local victim of spousal abuse and a group of community volunteers joined together to raise awareness about domestic violence and offer support services to victims. Southern Valley Alliance received its 501(c)3 nonprofit designation in 1984.

Today, we continue to be the only domestic violence agency located in Scott and Carver counties. Since its founding, the organization has assisted more than 20,000 women, men and children as they try to live healthy, violence-free lives.

## Mission and Goals

The SVA mission and vision is to assist victims of domestic violence and end domestic violence in the local community. Our goals are to:

- Empower individuals to reclaim control over their lives and stop abuse,
- Protect victims and their children from domestic violence and related issues,
- Promote reporting of domestic violence and assist all affected family members, and
- Educate individuals in our community to recognize and prevent violence at home.

## Get Involved

Whether you support us with your time, talent or treasure, your partnership helps victims of domestic violence and their families in Scott and Carver counties. Together, we can create communities where relationship violence no longer exists.

### Volunteer

SVA is successful in victim support and advocacy because of our talented, passionate volunteers. There are a number of opportunities available. We provide comprehensive training and welcome your participation. Please visit our website for a list of volunteer positions or to submit an application.

### Donate

As an SVA supporter, you make things happen! Meeting our annual fundraising goal is not possible without the support from individuals, businesses, faith communities and civic organizations. Please visit our website to learn more about how to donate a financial gift.

### In-Kind Donations

SVA frequently assists victims with household and personal care products, as well as toys at the holiday season. Please visit our website to see an updated list of current high-need items.



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# Our Programs

SVA provides direct assistance to victim-survivors, makes referrals to other support services, and conducts community education across Scott and Carver counties.

## 24-hour crisis line

The SVA 24-hour CONFIDENTIAL crisis line is staffed by trained advocates available to listen and help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The crisis line telephone number is 952-873-4214 or email [crisis@svamn.org](mailto:crisis@svamn.org).

## Crisis intervention and advocacy

Our advocates are here for individuals who call the crisis line and who are referred by law enforcement following a domestic assault call. They work one-to-one with victims, helping them to identify needs and assess options. Advocates may help arrange a safe place to go, assist with filing Orders for Protection, accompany victims to court hearings, help obtain domestic violence waivers at workforce centers, and make referrals to other services.

## Legal/court advocacy

We support victim-survivors as they navigate the overwhelming civil and criminal justice systems. Although we don't offer legal advice, we partner with attorneys and other community agencies to advocate for and empower individuals during stressful, traumatizing times.



## Support groups

In confidential meetings with peers, survivors begin the mental, emotional and physical journey out of domestic violence. Trained facilitators, who are sometimes survivors themselves, lead discussions, address common misperceptions about domestic violence, and offer insights and support. For many participants, this is the first time they break the silence that surrounded their abusive relationship. They begin to feel less isolated, clarify feelings, and identify strategies to remove themselves from violence. Free onsite childcare is available at support groups.

## Children's Visitation Center

The SVA Children's Visitation Center is a safe, child-friendly environment where children can visit their non-custodial parent(s) when supervised visits or exchanges are requested. The Visitation Center is open to any family where there has been domestic violence and/or conflict around visitation. For more information, contact the center at 952-873-4216.

## Community Engagement and Education

SVA partners with many other organizations to support victim-survivors and increase awareness about the effects of domestic violence. We provide resources to the community, strive to reduce the incidence and stigma of domestic violence, and empower victim-survivors and their families. SVA is committed to educating professionals (law enforcement, legal, judicial, medical, education, social service, business and faith communities) about the cycle of domestic violence. Contact us today to learn more about booking a presentation at your location.

