



Indian Health Service 2012 NATIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

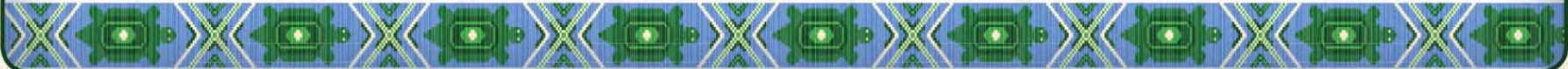
Welcome

“A Culturally Based Domestic Violence Prevention
Program Presentation”

Deborah Russell, LCSW and
Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital Domestic Violence
Task Force



Mobilizing Partnerships to Promote Wellness



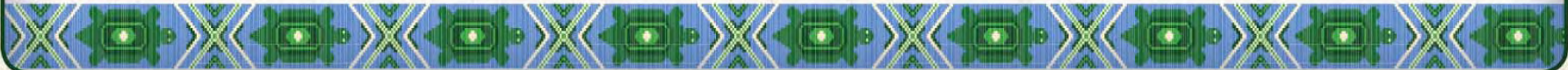
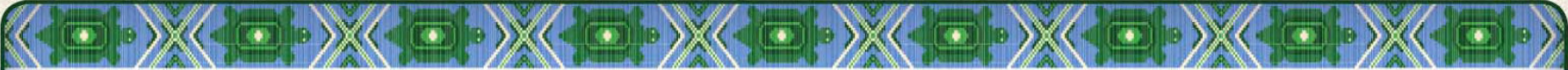


IHS

Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital Domestic Violence Task Force



Mobilizing Partnerships to Promote Wellness





“Life is a Sacred Journey”

It is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation, continuously expanding my vision of what is possible, stretching my soul, learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to my intuition, taking courageous risks, embracing challenges at every step along the way.....

I

am on the Path

Exactly where I am meant to be right now...

And from here, I can only go forward,

*Shaping my life story into a magnificent tale of triumph,
Of healing, of courage, beauty, wisdom, power, dignity, and love...*

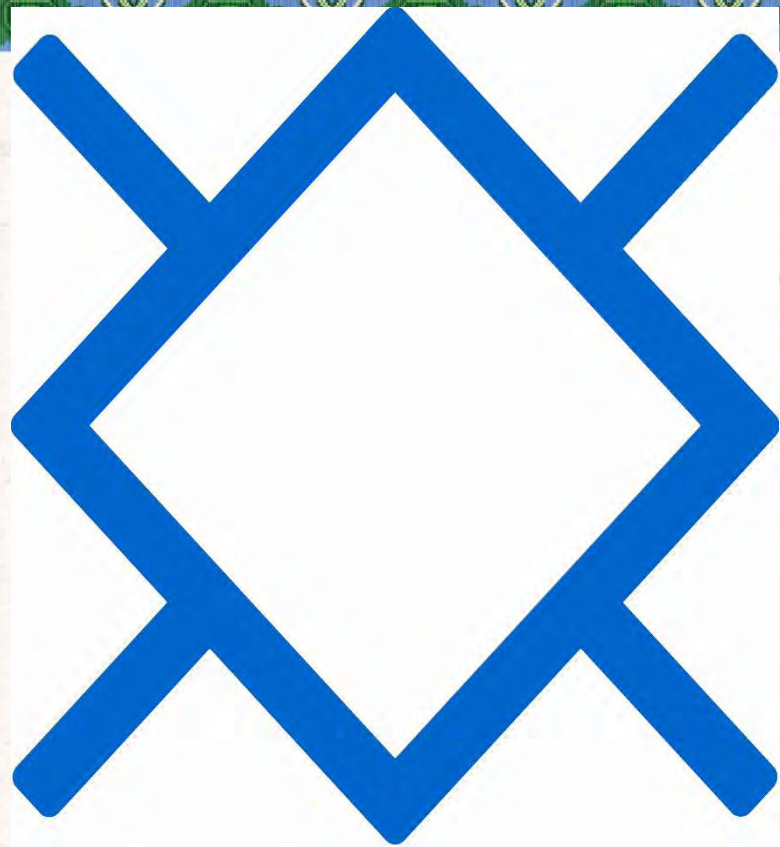
-Caroline Joy Adams -



Crow Tribe

- Sun Rays (clans)
- Sweat Lodge
- Tobacco Society
- Peyote Drum
- War Bonnets
 - Mountain Crow
 - River Crow
- Rivers
 - Big Horn
 - Little Horn
- Mountains
 - Wolfs
 - Pryors
 - Big Horns



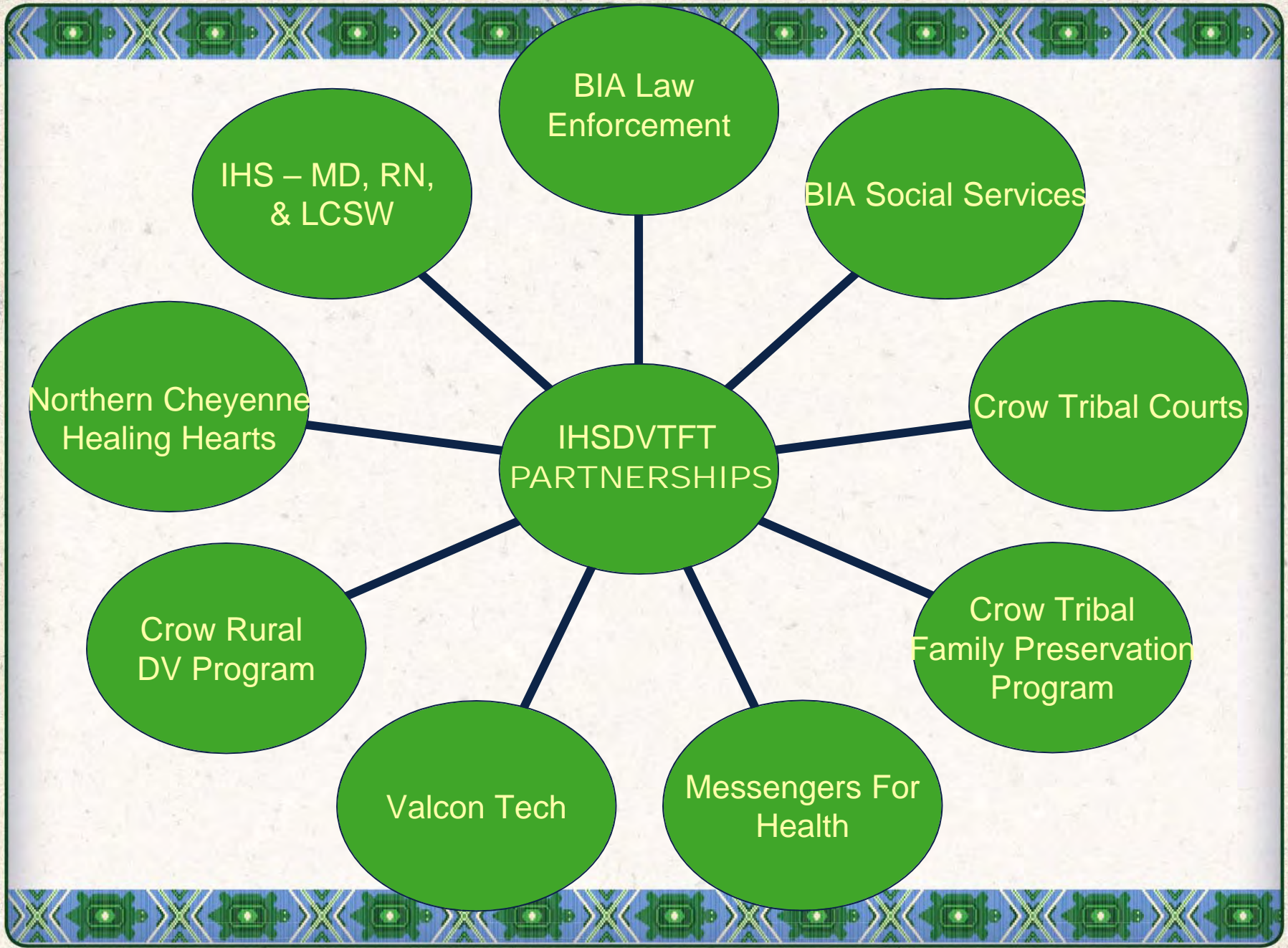


Northern Cheyenne

- Morning Star
- Chief Dullknife who in 1878-79 led the “fighting” Cheyenne from one of the largest manhunts in the nation.
- Symbol seen as vision of hope and the ability to conquer all obstacles.
- Star guided the people towards their homeland.

IHS DV TASK FORCE

- Created in 2002 by Dr. Deborah Sogge-Kermani
- Started with caring, compassion, and concern for domestic violence patients.
- Invited agencies – IHS, Law Enforcement, Courts, Local DV Program
- **Team Approach**
 - Create mission/vision statement
 - Identify barriers and or obstacles



IHS – MD, RN,
& LCSW

BIA Law
Enforcement

BIA Social Services

Northern Cheyenne
Healing Hearts

IHSDVTFT
PARTNERSHIPS

Crow Tribal Courts

Crow Rural
DV Program

Crow Tribal
Family Preservation
Program

Valcon Tech

Messengers For
Health

Our Vision Statement....

- “we believe that through community efforts, we can provide protection and relief from violence and abuse for families and thereby elevate the health and well-being of the community.”

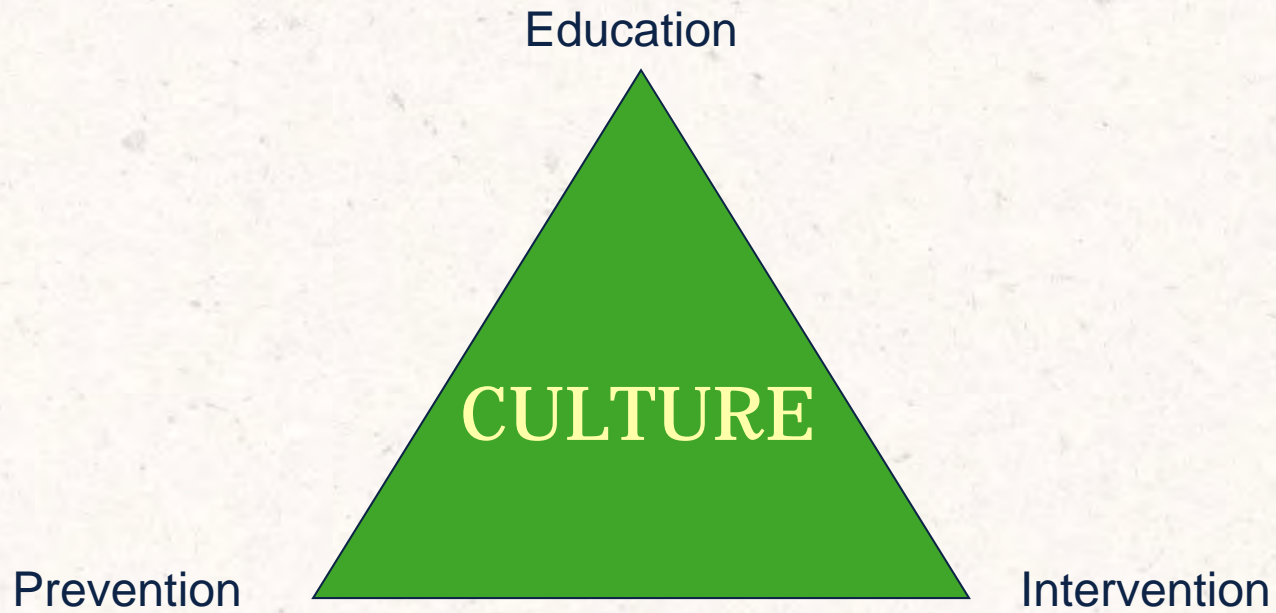
Our Mission Statement....

- “To establish an on-going coordinated community response to protect and assure safe family life for our people.....”

Guiding Principles

- Advocate on behalf of victims of Domestic Violence and their children.
- Respect the integrity and authority of each victim of DV over her own life choices.
- Regard the safety of victims and their children as a priority.
- Hold perpetrators responsible for the abuse and for stopping it.

Creating Balance



Our Wish List.....

1. For our BIA Law Enforcement Officers to write orders of protection and serve TRO's on the perpetrators of PFM crimes in an expedient manner.
2. To ensure safety and well being to DV Victims of crime.
3. To continue this collaborative safety effort amongst all entities of interest to DV Victims.
4. For all agencies to do their jobs.

Hard Leg Work

- **Assisted and Advocated** for Crow Community to pass DV Law (2005);
- Same year, Chairman Venne declared October as Domestic Violence month in Crow country.
- Crow/NC Hospital to incorporate DV Screening Policy (2005) and
- Workplace Violence Policy related to DV (2006).

The Bear Story



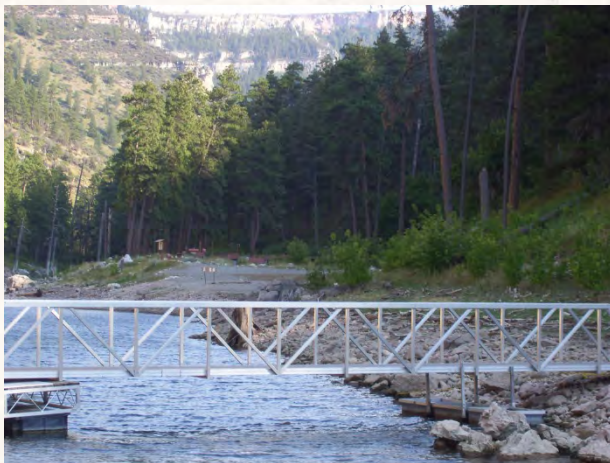
- IHS DV Task Force Retreat
- Plan – To identify strengths/weakness/obstacles/barriers for our Task Force in a “Natural Setting”.
- Warning Signs Displayed
- NO SAFETY PLAN

Core Team

- Once upon a time.....



Lessons Learned



Our 1st Project



Crow/Northern Cheyenne
Hospital
Domestic Violence Team
P.O. Box 9
Crow Agency MT 59022
(406) 638-3323
Designed by HealthStraps Productions

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE!

If you know someone who is
being victimized:

DON'T blame her for his violence.

DO believe her. Reassure her that it
is not her fault, and that she doesn't
deserve it.

DON'T tell her what to do.

DO give her information and support.
Respect her choices, even if she
chooses to return. She has the most
information on how to survive.

DON'T minimize the danger to her.

DO encourage her to think of a
safety plan.

DON'T do nothing.

DO tell her there is help available

IF YOU WITNESS VIOLENCE:

- 1) CALL 911
- 2) REPORT IT.

Victims call:

Crow Victims Assistance
638-3924 or 638-3921

If an emergency
call Crow Police at
638-2631

They will contact program
advocates.

National Hotline 800-799-7233



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Hospital
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P.O. Box 9
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(406) 638-3323

Honoring Victims

- On Thanksgiving Day in 2003, K.D. & L.B.L. were found brutally beaten.
- One year later, articles appeared in the Billings Gazette.
- Thus, re-traumatizing the community and making people depressed.
- Team did some brainstorming – Family Fun Nights was originated.



Planned, coordinated, collaborated, and executed yearly

“Family Fun Nights”

for the Crow community.



Family Fun Nights

- Games for families
- Bingo
- Food
- Prayers
- Storytelling
- Role playing
- Jail time for non participators
– lecturers, education
- Tribal leader involvement
- Smudging
- Cultural games
- Elders telling stories
- Elders making crafts
- Family Communication
- Family Fun
- Honoring Victims &
Survivor Families
- Tai Bo
- Candle Making

- Years 2004 – 80 participants,
- 2005 – 400+ participants, and
- 2006 & 2007– 600+ participants.



A Collaborative Event

- What do you want to promote or educate?
- How do you want to help the community?
- What program can sponsor what?
- Assigning tasks
- Comparing costs
- Seeking volunteers
- Accepting donations
- Educating your community



Gung Ho Work

- In 2005, “Healing Ourselves, Our Families, Our Communities, and Nations – A Celebration of Wellness” 3 day conference which drew 400+ participants.
- **Guiding Principles:** *To Promote Healing in Community; To Honor Survivors; and To Promote Cooperation and Networking.*

“Health Cares About DV Day”



2004



2005



2007

Organized HCADVD

2003/2004/2005/2006/2007/2008

Billings Gazette Article 10/11/07 “Health Cares About DV Day”



“Health Cares About DV Day”

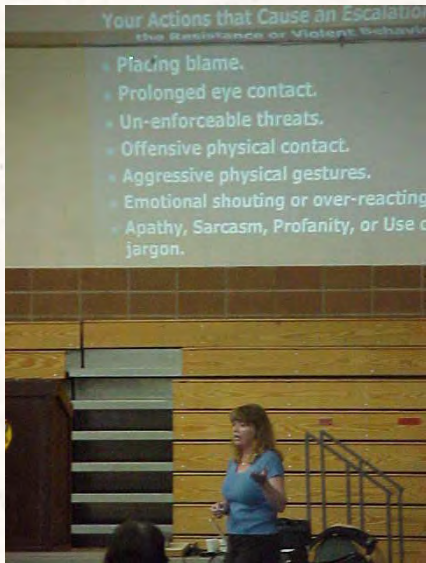


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Crisis Response Training



**Rae Forseth,
*Master Hitman
Instructor***

Helena, MT 59602

- 8 hours of classroom training for 25 students
- Self defense training
- Invitation to tribal workers, IHS staff



Purple Feather Campaign



- Original idea by FBI Agent John Oliveros.
- Idea – For a woman to show “a badge” that documented her order of protection on one side and her perpetrator’s picture on the other side on a durable plastic card.
- This badge would enable her to obtain groceries, gas, and motel rooms while “on the run”.
- State of Montana is now incorporating this idea into reality.

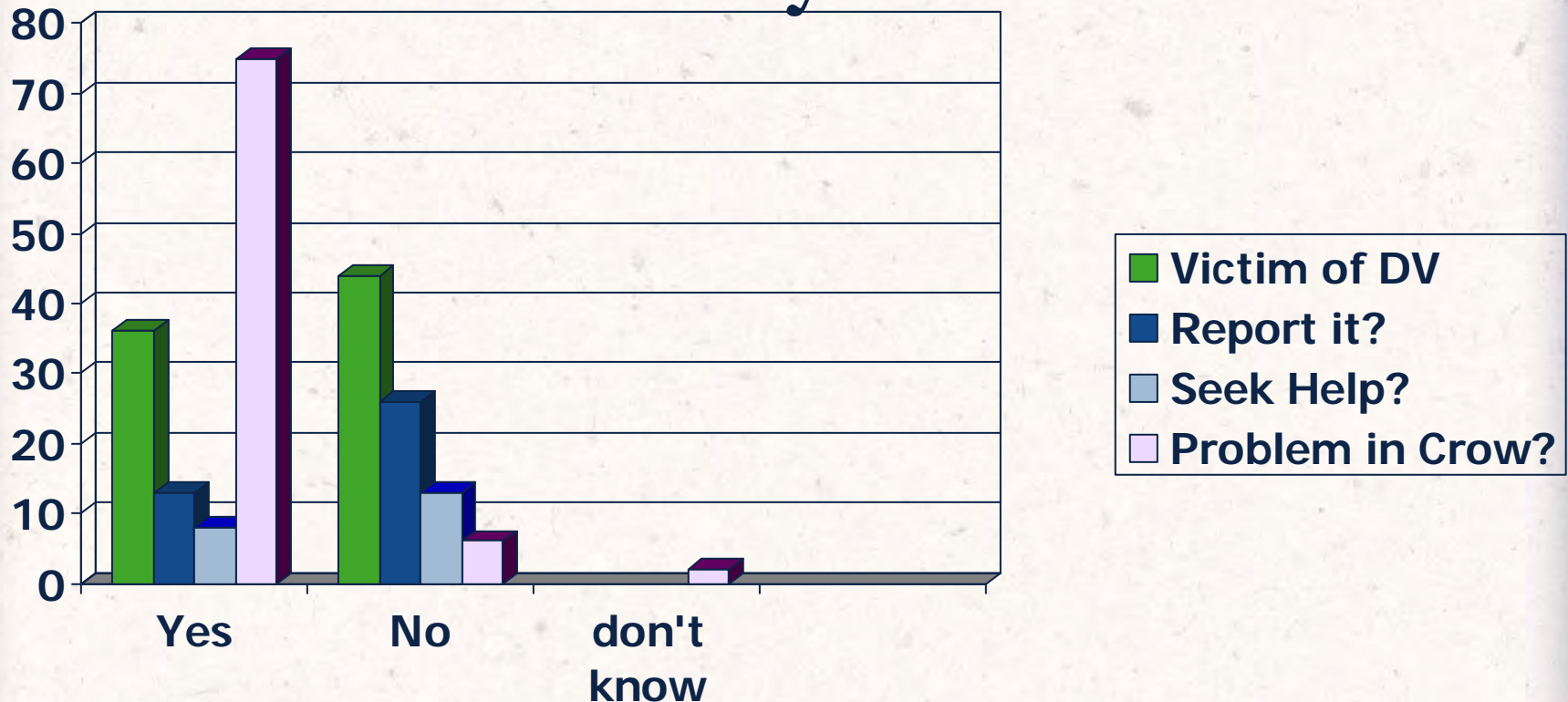
SANE TRAINED



Woman's Empowerment Retreat

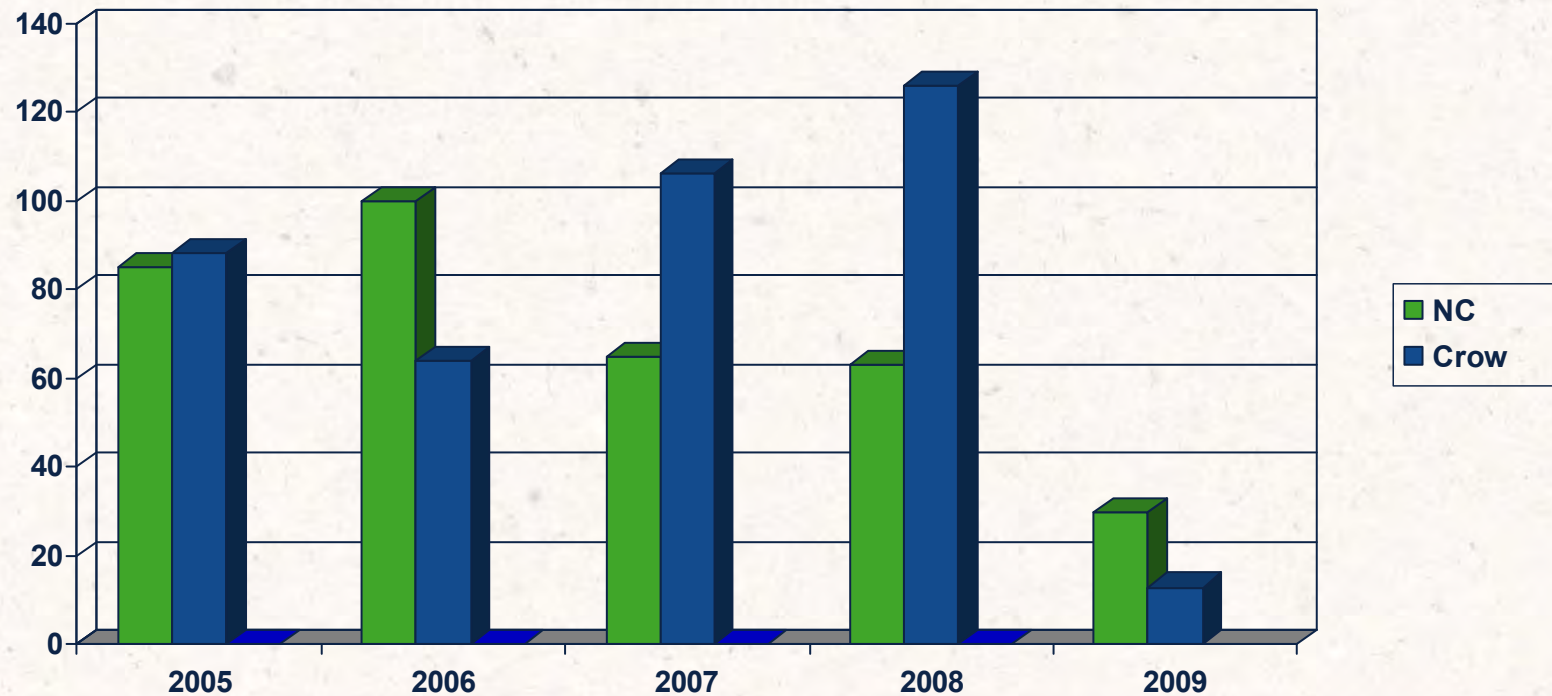
- Northern Cheyenne Community
 - Ice Breakers
 - Talking Circles
 - Fringing
 - Lunch ingredients discussion on how each ingredient helps us and why it was chosen
 - Key note speaker, “Cecilia Firethunder”
 - Collaborative Event

Domestic Violence Is a Community Problem



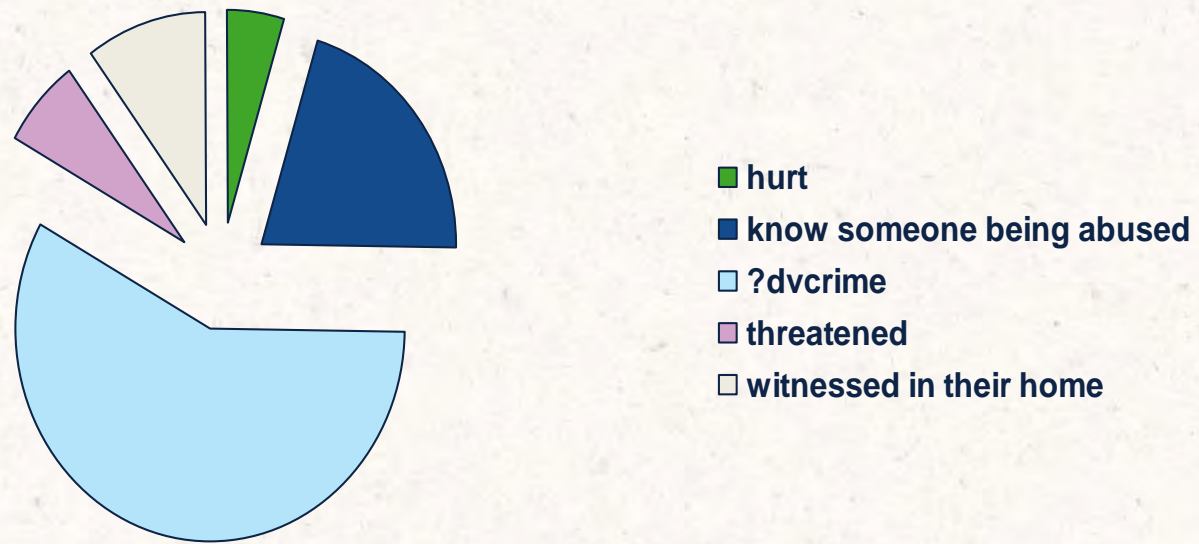
➤ Crow Police Department est. that they receive **12 -15** cases of Partner Family Member assault per month.

DV Statistics from LE



Our Latest Survey...

- 44 Lodge Grass Students
 - Snapshot of Crow Teenagers ages 12-18



**Strong Spirits
Empowerment Walk**

Lodge Grass – Tuesday,
December 6th, 2011

Pryor – Wednesday, January
11th, 2012

- Reason
- Invitations
- Networking

- <http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/Lodge-Grass-Community-Walk-135386343.html>

On Front Of White T-Shirts

Encouraging Wellness
Empowering Strength
Enticing Challenges
Educating Community

Strong spirits Empowerment

Wellness Walk

- Law Enforcement
- Behavioral Health
- Domestic Violence
- Tribal Court
- FBI
- County Court
- Tribal Leaders
- County Commissioners
- Spiritual People

On Right Sleeve



On Left Sleeve



**Strong Spirits Empowerment Walk – “Burning
the Cedar – Lodge Grass”**



The words ‘Strong Spirits’ speaks to the resilience of the Crow people, especially after what has been a tough year for the tribe. “It shows that each and every one of us has strength in us and that we have the power to make a difference,” said Russell.

Community Strong Spirits



Pryor students encouraged to shun violence, embrace Crow identity – Strong Spirits Empowerment Walk



“Raise your hand if your against violence”

- Utilizing community events
- Partnering with U.S. Attorneys Office and the FBI.
- Parades
- Getting people to acknowledge their feelings about this social ill.



“Raise your hand if your against violence”

- Community conscious
- Self conscious
- Awareness
- Values
- Attitudes
- Belief system
- Inward thinking
- Outward thinking



Neighborhood Watch

- “Lodge Grass residents look for answer to keep store open” – Billings Gazette, 5/21/2012
- Presented 5 kits to Lodge Grass community to assist them in creating a safer community.



Honoring Couples – “Love Without Fear”



- 2nd Annual
- Invitation to 10 experienced couples and 10 couples who are struggling to stay together.

Honoring Couples – “Love Without Fear”



- Encouraging
 - Cooperation
 - Problem solving
 - Friendship
 - Laughter
 - Love
 - Romance
 - Renewal
 - Spirituality



Honoring Couples

- Brainchild of the DV Task Force to utilize the wisdom of the elders to teach younger couples who are struggling with their relationships.
- Newlywed game
- Potatoe Dance
- Puzzles - communication
- Lifesaver with toothpick
- Candlelight dinner
 - Steak, potatoes, strawberry shortcake
 - Exchange of gifts
 - rose/chocolate
 - Dancing/fun/relaxing

Honoring Couples – “Love Without Fear”

- Best dressed
- Longest married
- Shortest married
- Drawings
- Contests
- Dancing contest
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd place



Healthy Dating

- DV 101
- Statistics
- Warning signs
- What to do
- Who to talk to
- Examples
- Discussion

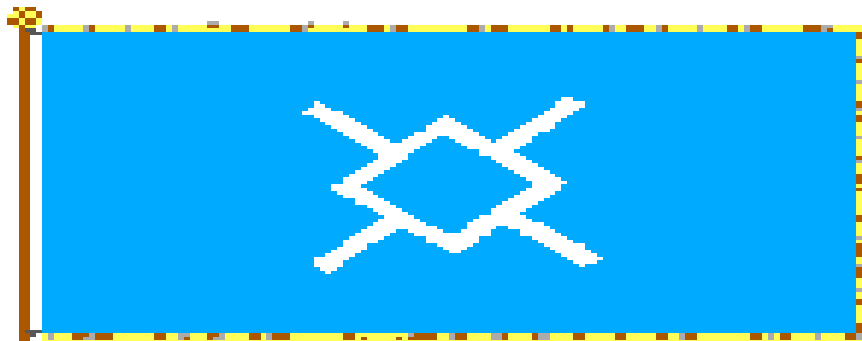


Men's Wellness

- Collaborative Event
- “Coaching boys to be men”
- Respect
- Communication
- Partnership
- Modeling behavior
- No “Indian Loving”



“DV is not a cultural tradition”



The Northern Cheyenne

“A Nation is not defeated until the hearts of its women are on the ground”

– Cheyenne Proverb



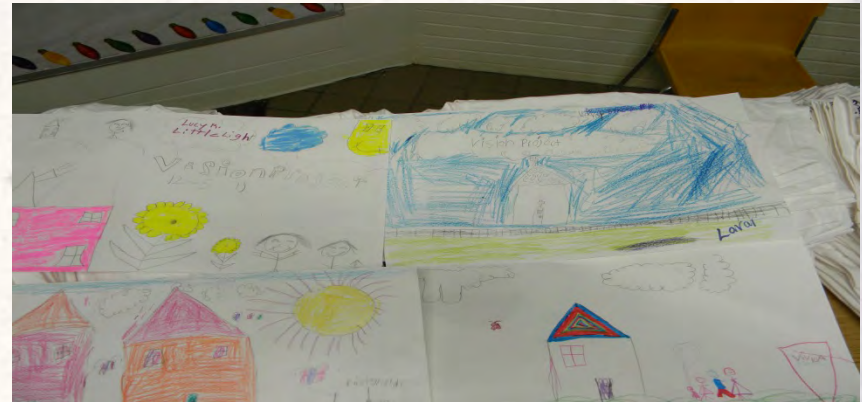
- The Crow have honored their women through their matrilineal Society (same Clan as their mother).
- The Crow have 4 mothers
 - Mother Earth, your home, your Clan Mother & your biological mother

Preserving Peacefulness, Honor, Integrity,
Dignity, and Respect



“Contemporary Warriors for Wellness”

- Youth Vision
- Role models
- Present day



Sustainability

1. **Color copier – make brochures**
2. **Laptop – presentations to community**
3. **Camera – document our work**
4. **Photo printer – documentation**
5. **Sound system – presentations**
6. **LCD Unit – presentations**
7. **Save and reuse**
8. **Creating partnerships – helping out when they need help**
9. **Parades**
10. **Strong Culture**
11. **Resiliency of the people**
12. **Survivors of oppression**

Crisis Hotline Numbers

Suicide Prevention Lifeline Number:

- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224

National Child Abuse Hotline:

- 1-800-4-A-CHILD

Sexual Assault Hotline:

- 1-800-262-9800

PEACE BE
WITH
YOU.....

