

## SERVICES PROVIDED

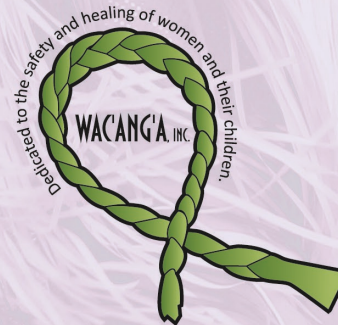
### ADVOCACY

Follow-up contact, group support, crisis intervention, crisis hotline by phone, transportation to shelter/safe house, information and referral, criminal justice support, emergency legal, personal and medical advocacy, assistance with filing compensation claims.

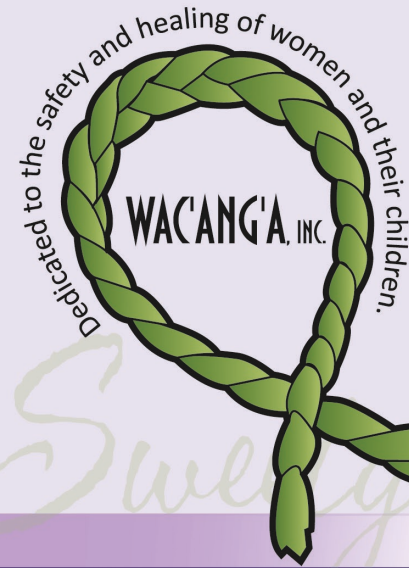
Emergency Financial Assistance when funds are available: phone/fax use, phone card, gas voucher, donations of clothing, and food items.



*Sweet grass is a medicine used to purify and bless. As an organization, Sweet Grass, Inc. strives to reclaim the sacred status of women and their children, ending domestic and sexual violence. Our work includes working with all relatives within our community, so the blessings and values of respect, compassion and non-violence, once again become the foundation of all relationships.*



PHONE: 605-698-4129  
TOLL FREE: 1-888-200-4492  
FAX: 605-698-3921



**Wac'ang'a Is dedicated to the safety and healing of women and their children, body, mind and spirit, through culturally-based advocacy and social change, and strengthening our relationships with all relatives.**

*Sweet grass is the hair of our Mother; separately, each strand is not as strong as the strands are when braided together. -quote by Mary Ritchie*



## WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence includes beatings, pushing, hair pulling, name-calling, killing pets, threats, child abuse, rape, stalking, food thrown in your face... it includes murder.

Domestic violence is a crime which causes more injuries to women than muggings, rape and car accidents combined.

Domestic violence crosses all social, economic and cultural lines. Half of all marriages in the U.S. experience at least one episode of violence.

In Native cultures a powerful person possesses great humility. He/she is spiritually strong, respectful, humble and generous. The American version of a powerful person is one with money and status-the ability to be on top. Domestic violence is a system of behaviors and tactics used to maintain power and control in a relationship. It means more than just beating someone up. It is a whole system that reflects the privilege that many native men, like their non-native brothers, have come to believe belongs to them.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

One in four women (25%) has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The National Institute of Justice, Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence, July 2000. The Commonwealth Fund, Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health, 1999)

Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend to 3 million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.

(U.S. Department of Justice, Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends, March 1998. The Commonwealth Fund, Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health, 1999)

Women accounted for 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence, men for approximately 15%. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, February 2003)

Between 600,000 and 6 million women are victims of domestic violence each year, and between 100,000 and 6 million men, depending on the type of survey used to obtain the data.

Women ages 20-24 are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S. 1993-2004, 2006.)

Between 1993 and 2004, intimate partner violence on average made up 22% of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations against women. The same year, intimate partners committed 3% of all violent crime against men. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S. 1993-2004, 2006.)

Separated and divorced males and females are at a greater risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S. 1993-2004, 2006.)

Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey, August 1995)

