

padvn PRESBYTERIANS AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

September 2008

Dear Friends,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) provides this annual packet to assist your congregation as it seeks to bring healing to families affected by domestic violence. If you are not in a position to use this material, please pass it on to your pastor, someone in your congregation or to another congregation. Persons need to hear that violence is against God's plan for their lives.

The 2008 packet focuses on Elder Abuse. Since 2001, PADVN has produced a packet for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During those years, we have covered a number of topics: domestic violence 101, children who witness the violence, men's involvement in the movement, tough issues that arise in congregations, and education and advocacy. All of these resources can be found on the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network web site, www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn.

In this year's packet, you will find excerpts from the Presbyterian Church (USA) policy on domestic violence, elder abuse warning signs, reporting information and where to find your state's specific laws and reporting guidelines, worship materials, a lesson plan for a session on elder abuse, a personal story about caregiving, suggested resources, an article on "elder friendly communities," and information from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence concerning "abuse in later life."

Please register your congregation's health-related ministries on the **Wellness Connection**. The goal is to be able to identify which PC(USA) congregations are involved in particular areas of health-related ministry. It only takes a few minutes to record the various ministries: domestic violence, parish nursing, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness, substance abuse, nutrition/food site, AA groups, health committee, disability, homeless, and free clinic. When enough congregations are registered, we will be able to make the information available to those seeking help or expertise from these congregations. We are always looking for models of ministry. Register at www.pcusa.org/phewa/phn.

As always, PADVN is available to help you as you engage your congregation or presbytery in the work of making our homes and churches safe sanctuaries. If you have received this packet and are not a member of PADVN, please consider joining our network.

Sincerely, Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN).

PADVn is one of the 10 networks of the PHEWA
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