



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

30 life-size silhouettes of women, men, children, and a dog
are located throughout Amador County.

These are their stories:

I am....

A 39 year old woman

I met the man of my dreams in 2007

He treated me like a queen, and then he started to change

He began to control me and call me names

Months later, he started to hit me

I lied about my bruises to family and friends

I finally made the decision to leave

I am...

A survivor



I am....

A 6 year old boy

I hear mommy and daddy fight a lot

I don't understand why

I see daddy hit mommy sometimes

I am....

Scared



I am....

A 40 year old man

I cooked dinner one night and did not do the dishes

My wife began to get into a rage

She grabbed an iron skillet and hit me over the head

She told me they would believe her and not me

I went to the hospital and told them I fell

I am....

Staying with her



I am....

A 15 year old girl

My father and mother argue

Their arguments turn physical at times

Once they are done fighting, they start in on me

I feel I cannot do anything right

I am....

Frustrated and scared



I am...

A 45 year old woman

I have been married for 20 years

He gets into these rages that I cannot control

I feel so helpless, like there is no way out

I told family and friends

But they say it is not as bad as it seems

I am...

Afraid



I am...
A pregnant woman
My boyfriend kicked me in my stomach
I lost my baby
I have left and gone back so many times
My family can't help me anymore
He is in jail now
I am...
A resident at a Domestic Violence Shelter



I am...
A 36 year old man
My wife held a gun to my head
I called the police and they believed me
She was arrested but she got out on bail
I was staying with friends when she found me
She said she loved me and she pulled out a gun
I am...
Deceased



I am...
A 17 year old boy
I broke up with my girlfriend
She follows me everywhere
It didn't bother me until she started to follow my 12 year old brother
I had to get a Restraining Order against her
I am...
Not going to be a victim any longer



I am...
A mother of two
I drove across country to get away from my fiancé
I stayed when he hit me
And found strength to leave when he hit my kids

I am...
A loving mother



I am...
A 70 year old woman
My husband was a loving man for 40 years of our marriage
He started to get upset about small things
He hit me one night because his dinner wasn't cooked the right way
I did not leave because he said he wouldn't do it again

I am...
Not leaving



I am...
A 22 year old woman
My partner checks my cell phone and emails every day
She follows me and never lets me go anywhere without her

I am...
Trying to escape



I am....
A 54 year old man
I am scared every waking moment
My ex-partner followed me across six states
I tried to get away from him but he always finds me
I am...
Filing for a Restraining Order



I am...
A Single mother of three
I met a guy and we have been dating for three months
He is starting to tell me what to wear and who to talk to
He will not let me talk to my family anymore
I am...
Needing resources



I am...
A 9 year old girl
My mom drinks a lot
She and my dad fight all the time
When she drinks I get scared
She gets drunk and hits me
I am...
Confused



I am...
A 28 year old female
I knew one day he would kill me
I did not leave because I thought I could change him
But I could not
My sister tried to leave her abusive husband last week
I am...
Buried next to my sister



I am...
A 25 year old male
I attend college with my girlfriend
She became jealous when I would talk to other women
She became angry when I did not come home at a certain time
She started following me to and from class
I confronted her and she said she would not do it again
I believed her
I am...
Still in this relationship



I am...
A 55 year old man in love with a younger woman
She moved in and started to yell at me and call me names
She spent all of my money
I was scared of her so I got a restraining order
I am...
Still in love with her



I am...
A 30 year old woman
Everyone loves my husband
He has lots of friends
At home he calls me names and has choked me
I tried to tell my family
They told me I was crazy, that it is my fault

I am...
So confused



I am...
A 40 year old woman with two children
During my marriage, my husband used drugs
He verbally and physically abused me in front of our children
He followed me every time I left him
I always returned out of fear. I finally left for good
I have my own home, and my children are happy now

I am...
Free



I am...
An 11 year old girl
My parents fight all of the time
They scream and yell at each other and sometimes they hit each other
I take my little brother into my room and hide him until it is over
I don't want him to get hurt. I wish they would stop

I am...
Scared



I am 21 years old
My boyfriend was really sweet when I first met him
He always took me out and bought me presents
Then I moved in with him
He calls me names, slaps me, and won't let me see my friends or family
He threatens me if I try to leave the apartment
I am...
Trapped



I am...
Buddy
My owner and I were abused by her boyfriend
But starting January 1, 2009, I am allowed on restraining orders.
I am...
Safe now



I am...
A 42 year old woman
I have lived with abuse since childhood
My last relationship was almost my death
I was beat so bad that my left lung is paralyzed
And I have no teeth in my mouth
I escaped from him and now go to Domestic Violence classes and see a counselor
I am...
A living survivor

