



6181 Thompson Rd., Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13206
www.verahouse.org

24-Hour Crisis & Support Lines

Domestic Violence:
(315) 468-3260

Rape & Sexual Assault:
(315) 422-7273



New Directions: Rape Crisis
& Sexual Assault Services
(315) 425-0818



Administrative Office
Advocacy Program
Youth Counseling Services
Community/Youth Education
Domestic Violence Coalition
(315) 425-0818



Emergency Shelter
(315) 468-3260



Vera House North
(315) 638-9553



Alternatives Program
(315) 425-0901



Envisioning Change & Healthy
Options for Families (ECHO)
(315) 425-0818

Funded in part by:

Private Donations
Corporate Donations
Onondaga County
State of New York



Vera House Men's Outreach Life's Work Program Information Sheet

PURPOSE

The Vera House Life's Work Program supports men's capacity to choose and practice nonviolent behaviors throughout their lives. Life's Work uses a holistic approach, providing a strong yet flexible structure that never loses sight of women's safety or holding men accountable for their behavior, while exploring a variety of routes by which men who have used abusive behaviors can make meaningful and positive personal change.

ESSENTIAL PHILOSOPHY

- the abusive person is totally responsible for the violence and is the only person who can stop the violence
- abusive behavior includes physical violence, emotional abuse, threats, intimidation, sexual abuse, etc.
- domestic violence is used to control one's partner and is always a conscious choice
- Life's Work does not replace accountability to the criminal justice system, but works in conjunction with it

ELIGIBILITY, REFERRALS & FEES

Eligibility guidelines

Life's Work is primarily a follow-up curriculum for men who have successfully completed a full 26 weeks of the Alternatives program.

On a case-by-case basis, participation may also be arranged for men who:

- admit they have been abusive to their female partner or ex-partner (be it physically, verbally or emotionally)
- are willing to discuss their abusive behavior, and
- are committed to ongoing change

Who is **not** eligible?

Men with psychiatric impairments or substance abuse problems severe enough to substantially interfere with class participation (screening will be conducted by the Vera House Men's Outreach Program)

Referrals

An interested client must have a referral from his home class Alternatives Program facilitator, and/or must contact Vera House directly.

Fees

Class fees are based on a sliding scale - no one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & CONTENT

Class format

- classes are based on an educational model which seeks to engage participants
- classes are facilitated by individuals trained and experienced in domestic violence issues
- most participants are referred for 26 sessions (once a week) but all are encouraged to remain active as long as they find the experience challenging, rewarding and beneficial

Class topics

- understanding different forms of abuse and the patterns of abuse that constitute domestic violence
- recognizing that men have no right to control their partners
- understanding the effects of domestic violence on victims and children
- understanding that each individual is personally responsible for his/her behavior
- understanding the process of personal change
- learning about skills that support respectful behavior in relationships

Dismissal from program

Reasons for dismissal from the Life's Work program include disruption of class, coming to class under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failure to pay fees regularly, non-participation in class, failure to comply with basic program policies, and/or being arrested on a domestic violence charge.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Alcohol/substance abuse

All participants will be screened for drug/alcohol abuse and referrals made for evaluation/treatment as needed during the intake process. Participants who come to class under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave.

Couples Counseling

Couples counseling is actively discouraged until there has been a lengthy period in which no violence has occurred.

Partner Safety

Female partners of Life's Work Program participants will be notified if threats are made toward her in class (police will also be notified)

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Vera House Men's Outreach Coordinator, Jerome Hall, at #315.425.0818 ext.205, or jhall@verahouse.org.