

TRUE SILENT WITNESS STORIES

Wendy Lee Abbey Dirk

Wendy was 47 years old when she was tragically murdered by her husband Jim, who then took his own life. Wendy was the wonderful mother of Jennifer, 27, and Jimmy, 23, and the doting G-Ma to 4 year old Julia.

You could not ask for a better mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, godmother or friend.

Her last night away from him before her death she said she slept so well, finally free of the fear she lived with for so long. ✧

Chiarra Seals

Chiarra grew up in a loving family with her grandmother and cousins. As a child she attended Sunday School and sang in her church choir...she was also the family prankster, often playing tricks on her younger cousins. Chiarra had a serious side and enjoyed helping people, she used that passion to pursue a career as a Certified Nursing Aide.

Chiarra was very independent, and although raising her two children was not easy, she did it with the love and support of those who loved her. Unfortunately, Chiarra is not here today to play with her children...That opportunity was taken away from her when her former partner, the father of her daughter, broke into her apartment and strangled her in the presence of her young children. Chiarra was only 23 years old at the time. ✧

Linda Marie Kugler Neely

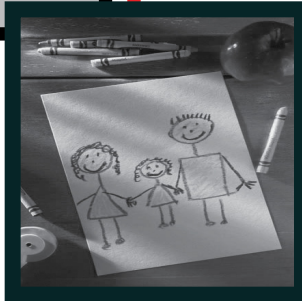
Linda's big welcoming smile, easy laugh, ready humor, and unending graciousness are what people remember about her. She knew that the most important thing in life was people, especially her children. She loved gathering family and friends together for a spur-of-the-moment party, and often did so.

The smile on Linda's face was more beautiful than ever that last month of her life. She had moved on to a place that was free from the control and manipulation of her husband, a place where her children were safe.

Linda was killed by her estranged husband on October 21, 2006 while gathering flowers for her new home. ✧

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- ◆ Encourage those who are in an abusive relationship to seek help and call a domestic violence hotline.
- ◆ Give support to programs and agencies that provide services to victims of domestic violence and their families.
- ◆ Educate yourself and your co-workers about the issues surrounding domestic violence. Educational seminars are available by calling the Vera House Offices at 315-425-0818.
 - ◆ Object to events and materials that make light of battering and abuse.
 - ◆ Teach children by example that abuse is not appropriate.



What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in which one person attempts to control another through threats or actual use of tactics, which may include any or all of the following: physical, sexual, verbal and psychological abuse, as well as economic control and manipulation. Domestic violence occurs in all cultures; among people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexes and classes.

SIGNS OF AN ABUSIVE PARTNER

If your partner or someone you know exhibits any of the following traits, please contact one of the resources in this brochure for help.

✓	Tells partner what to do
✓	Yells and screams over little things
✓	Controls partner's access to cash or credit cards
✓	Prevents partner from seeing friends and/or family
✓	Calls partner names and humiliates him/her in front of others
✓	Tries to intimidate partner
✓	Gives partner ultimatums
✓	Destroys the personal items partner cares about
✓	Abuses pets
✓	Gives the silent treatment as "punishment"
✓	Physically hurts partner and/or their children
✓	Forces partner to have sex

WHAT IS SILENT WITNESS

SILENT WITNESS



The Silent Witness exhibit was developed by the Junior League of Syracuse, as a joint initiative with Vera House.

The life-sized Silent Witness figures represent local victims whose lives were taken by domestic violence. The objective of this exhibit is to heighten awareness and provide information on the issue of domestic violence and its effect on our community.

This exhibit travels to organizations and places of business across Central New York. For information on reserving the Silent Witness exhibit, please contact:

Vera House, Inc.

phone: 315-425-0818

email: info@verahouse.org

Website: www.verahouse.org



RESOURCES FOR HELP

Please call one of these community resources if you or a loved one may be a victim of domestic abuse.

**VERA HOUSE
24-HOUR CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINES**

315-468-3260 - Domestic Violence
315-422-7273 - Sexual Assault

SALVATION ARMY EMERGENCY SHELTER

315-479-1332

DOROTHY DAY HOUSE

315-476-0617

**SPANISH ACTION LEAGUE
LA LIGA DE ACCION HISPANA**

315-475-6153

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

315-435-2815

FRANK H. HISCOCK LEGAL AID SOCIETY

315-422-8191

ONONDAGA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

315-435-2470

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VERA HOUSE
INCORPORATED

SILENT WITNESS

An Initiative to Stop Domestic Violence

**recognize
realize
respond**



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- What is Domestic Violence
- Signs of Abuse
- What You Can Do
- Silent Witness Stories
- Resources for Help

DEVELOPED BY:

