

**POST FALLS**

**POLICE DEPT.**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**OASIS PROGRAM**

**AND SHELTER**

# **O.A.S.I.S**

**O.A.S.I.S.(OFFICERS & ADVOCATES SHARING INTERVENTION SERVICES) IS AN INNOVATIVE TEAMWORK APPROACH BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES TO PROVIDE DIRECT, IMMEDIATE SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER CRIMES. THE PROGRAM PROVIDES DIRECT SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR CHILDREN. THE ADVOCATES ARE ON CALL 24 HOURS DAY AND ARE AVAILABLE TO RESPOND "ON SCENE" WITH OFFICERS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS. SUPPORT IS ONGOING AND CAN INCLUDE SHELTER, COMMUNITY RESOURCE REFERRAL AND MEDICAL, COURT, AND PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE. THE POST FALLS PROGRAM IS A MODEL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAM.**

**POST FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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# **OFFICERS AND ADVOCATES SHARING INTERVENTIONS SERVICES**

## **O.A.S.I.S. - THE PROGRAM**

**THE POST FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT BEGAN THE O.A.S.I.S. PROGRAM IN DECEMBER OF 1993 AS A RESPONSE TO THE INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE ACCEPTANCE, NEED AND USE OF THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN FAR BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS. WE HAVE MET AND EXCEED OUR ORIGINAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROGRAM. THE O.A.S.I.S. PROGRAM IS BEING APPLAUDED THROUGH THE STATE AS A MODEL PROGRAM. IN THE IDAHO IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE FEDERAL STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANTS, THE O.A.S.I.S. PROGRAM WAS HIGHLIGHTED AS THE LEADING EFFORT IN IDAHO LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. REQUESTS FOR O.A.S.I.S. PROGRAM INFORMATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST.**

**THE GRAPH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE INDICATES AN INCREASE OF 39 DOMESTIC DISPUTES IN 1995 OVER 1994. THIS INCREASE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO BETTER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER ASSISTANCE TO THESE VICTIMS.**

## **O.A.S.I.S. VOLUNTEERS**

**THE O.A.S.I.S. (OFFICERS AND ADVOCATES SHARING INTERVENTION SERVICES) PROGRAM WAS STARTED IN 1994. ONE OF THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE PROGRAM. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 10 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS. THESE VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SETTING UP AND LEADING A CONFERENCE AND ART SHOW ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. VOLUNTEERS HAVE ASSISTED WITH THE VICTIMS SUPPORT GROUP AND HAVE HELPED WITH SHELTER MAINTENANCE.**

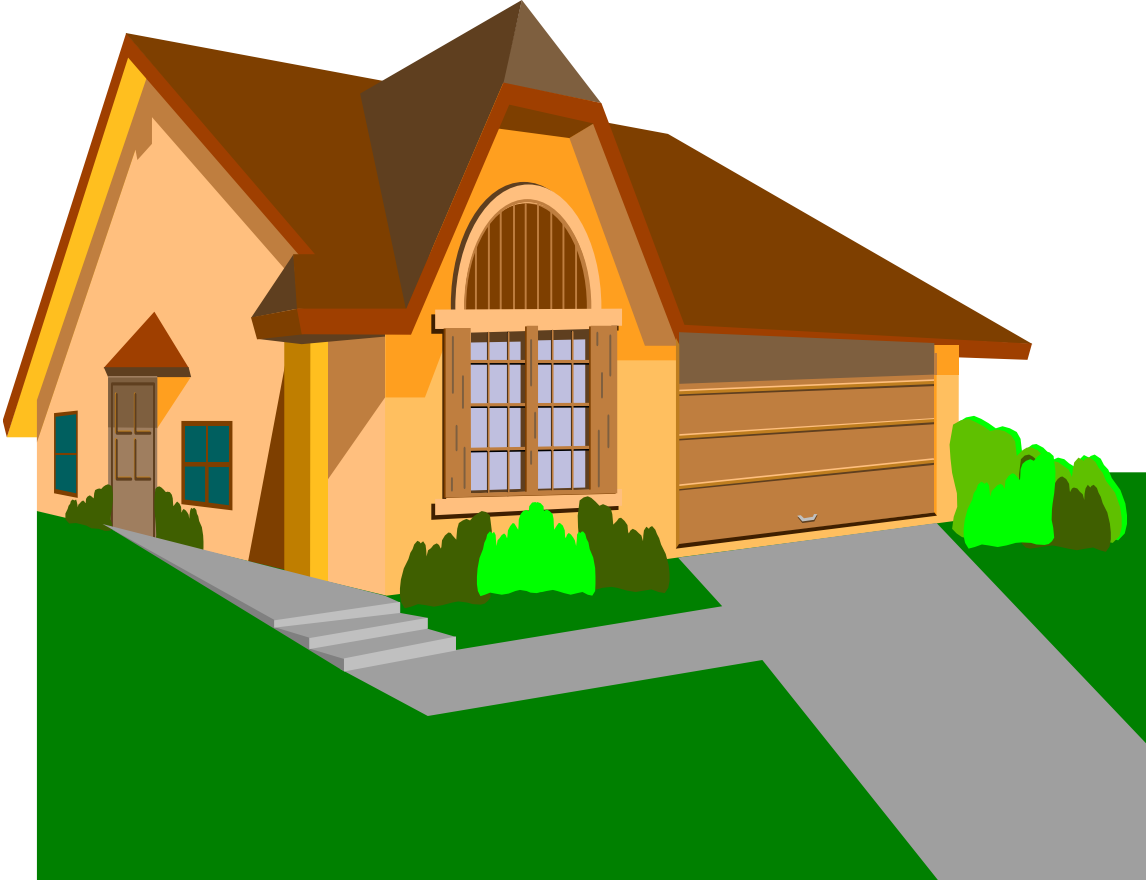
**THE VOLUNTEER GROUP SPONSOR, ALONG WITH MCDONALDS AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS, AN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHILDREN OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. VOLUNTEERS HAVE ALSO BEEN VALUABLE IN PROVIDING COURT ADVOCACY AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS.**

**THE O.A.S.I.S. VOLUNTEERS ARE ORGANIZING A COMMUNITY WIDE ANTIVIOLENCE CAMPAIGN "HANDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING". VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO PLANNING EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOLS.**



## **O.A.S.I.S. SHELTER**

**IN JUNE OF 1994, O.A.S.I.S. OPENED AN EMERGENCY SHELTER IN POST FALLS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THE SHELTER IS FURNISHED WITH DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THE POST FALLS FOOD BANK AND IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE KOOTENAI COUNTY UNITED WAY.**



# **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM**

**PROVIDE IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

**PROVIDE EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR VICTIMS AND CHILDREN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

**ENHANCE AND IMPROVE POLICE INTERVENTIONS IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**



**REDUCE RECIDIVISM OF CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

**FACILITATE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMWORK BETWEEN POLICE AND ADVOCATES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE COMMUNITY.**

**PROMOTE A BETTER LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING BY POLICE REGARDING VICTIMS AND CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

**EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE NEED FOR MORE AND BETTER RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OFFENDERS.**

**STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THESE GOALS:**

- **PROVIDE IMMEDIATE SUPPORT TO VICTIMS.**
- **PROVIDE 24-HOUR EMERGENCY ON-CALL SUPPORT TO OFFICERS IN THE FIELD DEALING WITH VICTIMS.**
- **PROVIDE 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR VICTIM-SURVIVORS.**
- **PROVIDE REFERRAL TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND AGENCIES.**
- **TRANSPORT VICTIMS TO SHELTER, MEDICAL FACILITIES, COURT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES.**
- **EDUCATE VICTIM-SURVIVORS REGARDING CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS.**
- **ASSIST VICTIM-SURVIVORS IN OBTAINING PROTECTION ORDERS.**
- **PROVIDE IN-COURT SUPPORT FOR VICTIM-SURVIVORS.**
- **PROVIDE VICTIM ADVOCACY.**
- **NETWORK WITH AREA PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES.**
- **PARTICIPATE ON COUNTY TASK FORCE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**
- **INFORM VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM.**
- **ASSIST VICTIM-SURVIVORS TO APPLY FOR AND COMPLETE CRIME VICTIM APPLICATION FORMS.**
- **ATTEND TRAINING REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

- **PROVIDE TRAINING TO COMMUNITY AND OFFICERS REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**
- **PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO CITY AND COUNTY PROSECUTOR ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES, PROVIDING FOLLOW UP AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS.**
- **PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND REFERRAL TO RUNAWAYS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND OTHER VICTIMS AS NEEDED OR REQUESTED.**

# **O.A.S.I.S. SUPPORT GROUP**

**THE O.A.S.I.S. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP BEGAN IN JULY, 1994 WHEN THE ADVOCATE INVITED VICTIMS SHE HAD MET OVER THE PREVIOUS 6 MONTHS TO ATTEND. THE GROUP MEETS ONCE WEEKLY AT THE O.A.S.I.S. SHELTER. MEMBERS ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ATTEND AND THERE IS NO COST. THOSE NEEDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE COSTS IN ORDER TO ATTEND, MAY REQUEST THIS THROUGH THE ADVOCATE. MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF OTHERS ATTENDING AND ARE NOT TO DISCLOSE THE WHEREABOUTS OR DETAILS OF THE GROUP.**

**IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE 3 TO 6 MEMBERS ATTENDING ON ANY GIVEN WEEK. THIS NUMBER HAS GROWN STEADILY. MOST OF THESE SURVIVORS ARE FROM THE POST FALLS AREA. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MEMBERS WHO ATTEND FROM THROUGHOUT KOOTENAI COUNTY AND NORTH IDAHO. DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND ON OCCASION.**

