

## Bring Silent Witness to Your Community

Any individual or group can host a display of Silent Witness Virginia in their community. Collaboration with a local Domestic Violence Program or Victim/Witness Program is encouraged.

Silent Witnesses can be displayed in community centers, college or university common areas, military buildings, art galleries, hospitals, shopping malls, courthouses, libraries, places of worship, or other public spaces that are reasonably protected and secure. They can also be used for outdoor events such as marches and vigils.

There is no charge for bringing Silent Witness Virginia to your community, although donations to support the project are very welcome and much needed. Hosts are responsible for arranging transportation of the figures to and from the site.

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance coordinates the Silent Witness Virginia project and provides support to hosts in the form of posters, buttons, sample press releases, fact sheets, and guidelines for planning a display.

For more information, contact us at 1.800.838.8238 (v/tty) or e-mail [kmccord@vsdvalliance.org](mailto:kmccord@vsdvalliance.org).

## Remembering a loved one

If you would like to honor a family member who has been killed as a result of domestic violence, please consider including her or his story in the Silent Witness Virginia memorial.

You may contact Kate McCord at [kmccord@vsdvalliance.org](mailto:kmccord@vsdvalliance.org) or 1.800.838.8238 to ask for an information packet about remembering a loved one.

Domestic violence takes many forms.  
Nobody deserves to be abused.  
Help is available.

### Local Resources:

## For more information, call:

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence  
Action Alliance  
1.804.377.0335 or 1.800.838.8238

RICHMOND (central office)  
1010 N. Thompson Street, Suite 202  
Richmond, VA 23230

[www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org)



**1.800.838.8238** V/TTY  
Free. Confidential. 24 hours a day.

# Silent Witness Virginia

*A visual memorial*



**ALLIANCE**  
[silent witness brochure]

*Every 5 days, a Virginian is killed by an intimate partner.*

*Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. October, 2004*

This is an average extrapolated from data from: Family & Intimate Partner Homicide: Virginia 1999-2003. Published by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, October 2004. Page 18: 344 people killed by intimate partners over 5 years.

**Silent Witness Virginia** is a statewide public awareness campaign and a visual memorial to victims of domestic violence homicide.

The Silent Witnesses are life-sized plywood silhouettes painted red. Each one bears a shield on which is written the story of a Virginia woman, child, or man who was killed in a domestic violence homicide.

The victims memorialized in Silent Witness Virginia include individuals killed by their abusive partners, as well as bystanders who were killed in attacks on an intimate partner.

## Project History

Silent Witness Virginia began in 2002, as part of a national initiative which started in 1990. To learn more about the history of the project, you may visit [www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org).

You may also call the Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.838.8238 for more information about Silent Witness Virginia.



Silent Witness Virginia is a growing exhibit which began with 33 figures, representing women, children, and men from all over Virginia. Names and stories of victims are submitted by surviving friends and family members. Here is an example:

Jean  
Gloucester, Virginia  
Murdered: December 3, 2001

Loving mother of four, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of two.

We were married seven years. He gradually changed. First the verbal abuse began, then the physical abuse. I suffered in silence with fear and love for my family. He strangled me when I said I wanted a divorce. I didn't ask for help. Please don't let anyone suffer in silence.

Tell them "Jeannie said to ask for help."

Stop the violence!

Enjoy life and your family.

Each year, domestic violence victims make more than 35,000 calls to Virginia hotlines. Many more suffer in silence. If you are moved to take action to help create safety and peace in Virginia, here are some of the many things you can do:

- Become a member of Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Visit [www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org) to learn more about the benefits of membership or call 1.800.838.8238 to request a membership brochure.
- Make a donation to VSDVAA to support Silent Witness Virginia.
- Support your local Domestic Violence Program by volunteering or by making a contribution.
- Educate yourself about domestic violence. Call 1.800.838.8238 (v/tty) for helpful resources and information.
- Bring Silent Witness to your community! (see other side for more information)

