

FACE TO FACE: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

By Stacie D. McClane, MD



Becoming involved with FACE TO FACE: The National Domestic Violence Project may be easier than you think. The American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery is the first surgical group to take a firm stand and become involved in helping individuals of domestic abuse break the cycle of violence, enhance their self-esteem, and rebuild their lives. Over 300 AAFPRS members are proud participants of this program.

Local domestic violence shelters across the country play a critical role in offering safe havens to victims of domestic abuse. It is within these shelters that victims may find refuge and begin to break the cycle and heal from the abuse. Our outreach to these shelters is critical in reaching the individuals that we hope to serve. The Educational and Research Foundation for the Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery has developed a brochure that describes our vision and services as well as the eligibility guidelines of the program. Having this brochure readily available to the victims of abuse is a real step toward education and recovery.

If each of us could take a few minutes to contact our local shelters, we could ensure that they have the information and resources that they need. A simple telephone call or visit may be all that is necessary. Most shelters can be readily found in local directories or Internet searches. The Academy has a long-term relationship with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). This group assists the majority of shelters in the United States and may also be of assistance in locating shelters in your area. Their "National Directory of Domestic Violence Programs - 30 Years of Working to Keep Women and Children Safe" is available for purchase through the NCADV.

Contact Michelle Busey at the Academy (703) 299-9291 ext. 234 or by e-mail at mbusey@aaafprs.org to learn of shelters in your areas. Michelle will also be able to send a few FACE TO FACE: The National Domestic Violence Project brochures for you to send directly to your local shelters.

