

AVA's MISSION

To promote safety and healing for victims of abuse and help bring an end to violence against women, men and children

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- **PRAY**— for this ministry
- **ADVOCATE**— become an AVA Advocate
- **PARTNER** — with AVA by making a one time or monthly contribution
- **SPONSOR**— an AVA awareness event

"The prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits, and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives."

Advocacy for Victims of Abuse

Find the **AVA Coordinator** in Your Area:

<http://www.covchurch.org/women/ava>

Victims Abuse Hotlines

National Domestic Violence Hotline

800.799.7233

Teen Dating Violence

877.923.0700

Teen Crisis

800.999.9999

Dept. of Women Ministries - AVA
Evangelical Covenant Church
8303 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
www.covchurch.org/women/ava
Email: wmc@covchurch.org
Phone: 773-907-3332
Fax: 773-784-4366

WHY AVA ?

**ADVOCACY for VICTIMS of ABUSE
(AVA)**



**HEALING COMMUNITIES
SAFE SANCTUARIES**

 women
ministries



The church has been called by Christ to serve as his body, to care for those who are marginalized and oppressed, to bring hope and healing to broken lives and broken relationships, and to speak boldly against the injustice of violence against women, men and children.

In 2004 the Covenant Church made a courageous commitment to partner with God in ending domestic and sexual abuse, knowing they exist not only in our communities, but also in our congregations. AVA has expressed our faith community’s commitment to stand up for the downtrodden and broken.

AVA (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse)

- Provides resources for victims of abuse and those who minister to them.
- Equips the church to minister to victims by:
 - Providing AVA workshops/seminars on domestic violence and adult survivors of sexual abuse.
 - Recruiting and trains Regional Coordinators and Local Advocates.
 - Providing online training for Covenant leaders.
- Promotes preventative measures against abuse.

WHY AVA?

- Every 15 seconds a woman is battered
- 3 or more women each day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends
- 2 to 4 million women are abused each year
- 3.3 to 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year
- 30% to 60% of children exposed to domestic violence are also physically and/or sexually abused
- Over 40% of male and female high school students have been victims of dating violence at least once.
- 1 in 4 women will experience abuse (rape or physical assault) in their lifetime
- 1 in 6 men will experience physical abuse in their lifetime
- 1 in 4 girls is sexually abused before the age of 18
- 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused before the age of 18
- 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually on the internet
- An estimated 39 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse exist in America today and 30-40% are abused by a family member

YES I would like to partner with Advocacy for Victims of Abuse (AVA) by:

- Becoming an AVA Advocate to help fight abuse in my local church community.
- Making a charitable donation to AVA by cash, check or online at www.covchurch.org/women and click on the AVA donation button.
- Receiving the on-line quarterly AVA newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

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PLEASE SEND TO: Women Ministries, 8303 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631