

Drumright Rotary Hears Tough Message About Domestic Violence

At the April 6th Drumright Rotary Club meeting, Rotarian of the Day, Shirley Klaus, introduced her guests, Judge Mark Ihrig and his wife, Debbie.

Mark is an Associate District Judge for Creek County. Although he keeps busy performing his day to day judicial tasks, Mark likes to get out into the community and talk about subjects that the average citizen should be aware of. On Friday, Mark and his wife, Debbie, talked about domestic violence



L to R: Shirley Klaus, Debbie Ihrig, Mark Ihrig

Domestic violence cuts across social classes, culture and ethnicity and has long term effects for the individuals involved, whether directly or indirectly. It is usually assumed that only women can be a victim of domestic violence; however, that is not true - men have been victimized as well. Women are more often victims holding 23% - 24% share of the statistic, approximately one in four.

Mark provided our club with a few very grueling statistics regarding domestic violence. For example every 1.3 minutes a woman is victimized and it's every 6.7 minutes for a man. In 2010 OSBI (Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation) reported forty-nine homicides were the result of domestic violence. This list went on and on.

The use of statistics is a helpful tool, but as with any tool, there are limitations. Statistics rely on reported cases and some studies might only include a certain type of violence. In those cases the numbers are way off in what is really happening. But that doesn't matter, because even if there was only one case ever, that would be one instance too many. Domestic violence has a ripple effect by affecting those who experience it as well as those who just witness it. In a small community such as Drumright, if one person is victimized with physical and or verbal abuse, does it not also affect the family? Friends? Children? Mark brought to light that domestic violence isn't something that is happening over there somewhere far away from our safe home, it is happening next door or even in our own backyard.

For the victim, it is not always easy to remove themselves or their children from the situation because they feel alone, powerless and unimportant. Mark attended a workshop in Maryland, recently, that revealed just how difficult it can be for the victim to escape the situation - a revelation that wouldn't be easily recognizable in most people's daily lives.

Mark also told our club about services that can help. If you or someone you know is involved in domestic violence, please contact your local law enforcement. In addition, DVIS (Domestic

Violence Intervention Services, Inc.) will have information on how to get help. You can contact DVIS at 918-585-3163. Domestic violence is a huge problem, but by working together as a community, a state and a nation, it can be overcome.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Amanda Levis.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian