

Aurora - Batavia - Big Rock - Blackberry - Kaneville - Sugar Grove - Virgil

**INC LINKS**

South Kane County Townships Working Together

## FEATURED AGENCY:

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### Mutual Ground, Inc.

The mission of Mutual Ground, Inc. (MGI) is to provide education, awareness, and life-changing services that empower individuals, families, and communities to end the cycle of domestic and sexual violence.

MGI is the only provider of comprehensive domestic and sexual violence resources in Southern Kane and Kendall Counties. Their 24-hour emergency shelter services are located in the central portion of their service district. However, their staff travels widely throughout the service area in order to reach clients in all locations. Hospital advocates meet with survivors at three area hospitals, legal advocates meet with clients at the Kane County and Kendall County Courthouses and police stations, and youth advocates provide regular counseling services in the schools. MGI has established counseling services in a satellite office in Batavia to better serve the residents of Southern Kane County. MGI provides critical resources for those seeking a path away from violence, and continually works to meet the needs of anyone at risk.

MGI serves approximately 1,400 clients per year and its philosophy is to provide a safety net of comprehensive, culturally sensitive services that assures victims that the abuse is

not their fault and empowers individuals to make their own decisions. The Domestic Violence Program is MGI's largest program; approximately 1,100 individuals each year receive services. These direct services include shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline and emergency services, advocacy, counseling, and referrals.

MGI also recognizes the importance of incorporating primary and secondary prevention strategies in order to address root causes of domestic violence. Therefore, MGI not only provides services to survivors but also offers proactive programs that reflect the need for social change to prevent these crimes. These services include prevention education in local schools and community outreach and education. MGI believes that using this multifaceted approach is necessary to break the cycle of violence and abuse that overwhelm victims and their families.

For more information visit <https://www.mutualground.org/> or call 630-897-0084

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline

630-897-0080

24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline

630-897-8383

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## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence affects every gender, race, culture, and socio-economic status. And, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has left many victims trapped with their abusers.

According to *National Criminal Justice Reference Service*, domestic violence covers a broad range of acts. It is the use of physical, sexual, economic, and/or emotional abuse by one person in order to establish and maintain power and control over the other person. Not only does it harm the victim, but family members as well.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence advises that there is no one type or detectable personality of an abuser. They do often display common characteristics, such as the following:

- An abuser often denies the existence or minimizes the seriousness of the violence and its effect on the victim and other family members.
- An abuser externalizes the causes of their behavior. They blame their violence on circumstances such as stress, their partner's behavior, a "bad day," alcohol, drugs, or other factors.
- An abuser may be pleasant and charming between periods of violence and is often seen as a "nice person" to others outside the relationship.

Domestic Violence "Warning Signs" include but are not limited to:

- Extreme jealousy
- Extreme controlling behavior
- Blaming the victim for anything bad that happens
- Demeaning the victim either privately or publicly

**If you feel that you are in immediate danger, call 911.**

## 3 Ws



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**Please join us along with others in the Chicagoland area to promote the 3 W's and continue the safety measures for COVID-19.**

## FY20 Annual Report

The INC Board Annual Report was approved by the board at our September meeting. Click [here](#) to view the Annual Report.

## FY20 Audit Report

The INC Board Audit Report is now available on our website. Click [here](#) to view a copy of it today.

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