



## LLN Annual Activities / Initiatives

[Love Life Now Foundation, Inc.](#) Lovern has had the opportunity to help agencies and shelters as well as countless victims and survivors throughout the state of Massachusetts, nationwide and overseas via the following Initiatives.

- **White Ribbon Night Gala** – [Click here](#) for highlights of past Gala held in February annually.

A formal event fundraiser that gages ‘male awareness against domestic violence’ and seeks to educate men on how they can be part of the solution in ending the epidemic by coordinating a series of speakers who share from their perspectives how they have been a part in helping. The male speakers range from Male Domestic Violence Advocates to prominent male figures in the community. The nationwide White Ribbon Campaign began as a way to urge men to speak out against violence against women. This Gala is a venue to educate men about the ways they can be part of the solution in ending the violence against women, spread awareness against Domestic Violence as well as raise funds to give back to shelters. LLN provides literary resources at all of their events for attendees to take away so awareness continues amongst their peers in their own communities.

- **Quarterly Brown Bag & Care for the Homeless Program:** [Click here](#) for highlights.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVEN** - Studies suggest that many women experiencing homelessness are survivors of domestic violence, even if it's not the cause of their homelessness. One study in Massachusetts found that **92 percent of homeless women had experienced severe physical or sexual assault at some point in their lives.** In an effort to combat this issue, LLN started brown bagging lunches and passing them out to homeless in the city regardless of gender, since abuse goes across the board. We've since taken this initiative a step further by assembling and passing out care packages filled with toiletries specific to men and women, where both are used as incentives for folks to talk to us about abuse they are facing on the streets and in turn offer resources they may not know about as well as ways they can keep each other safe.

- **Heel-A-Thon Against Domestic Violence:** [Click here](#) for highlights held each June.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVEN** - This initiative asks the community to show up in their favorite pair of heels (HEELS OPTIONAL) to make a statement by walking a 5k distance in the name of helping to end Domestic Violence. This family friendly fundraiser event is a morning event that hosts speakers, performances, games, etc. and is a fun and interactive way to get the community involved in raising awareness on the issue. Each year, we honor a victim's memory with a tribute that engages attendees and volunteers.

- **Bedding Drive Against Domestic Violence:** [Click here](#) for photo highlights held each October.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVEN** - The initiative asks the general public to drop-off NEW twin-sheet and/or pillow over a 1-week period at various drop sites. At the end of the week, LLN gives donations of these items to a shelter in the area. Shelters are always in need of these basic items since the residents tend to take them once they transition out of the shelter's program leaving them with a shortage. The Drive garners on average 250 – 300 items drop offs.

- **Empowerment Fashion Show Against Domestic Violence**

An incredibly fun and inspiring night where all the models are survivors of abuse or have affected by the issue. Those in support of them breaking their silence, watch them rip the runway to say NO MORE! Fashion clothing are provided by local a boutique and was the brain child of Craig Martin, Sylvia Killion and Lovern Gordon originally. Click [HERE](#) to see highlights from a past show.



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- **GET SAFE FUND**

Many victims have a hard time deciding that leaving an abusive relationship is the best decision but are then faced with becoming homeless in the hours immediately after they do since D.V. shelters are often full in the Massachusetts area. When we are referred a victim seeking to 'get safe' and has exhausted resources to find shelter, we are able to pay for them to stay at a local motel for up to 2 nights, so they can continue to make phone calls to continue to look for shelter, take a shower, and sleep. Other domestic violence related items the fund helps with can range from help with lawyer fees, to gift-cards for food/clothing/bedding (most leave with just the clothes on their backs), to transportation to 'get safe'.

- **Adopt a Family Holiday Drive:** held each December.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVEN** - This initiative helps sprinkle joy for families/individuals affected by domestic violence, currently living in a domestic violence shelter. The Holidays are especially hard for displaced families, but donor's contribution via this Drive truly sparks a light for them and makes a difference for those that have fled abusive relationships as individuals or with their children in tow. Click [HERE](#) to see the joy spread during the Drive.

- **Educational Workshops**

We present [90-minute educational workshops](#) at conferences, high schools, colleges, and workplaces to heighten and spread awareness around the issue from various perspectives, including gun violence awareness, and provide resources available to those suffering in silence. The focus is geared on how to help rather than blame victims around the issue of abuse.