

## Silent Cries Find a Voice on Clothesline

**T**he Clothesline Project is a compelling visual display that bears witness to the many forms of violence perpetrated against women and children.

### Breaking the Silence, Healing the Pain

*The Clothesline Project* comprises T-shirts designed by survivors of abuse and those who have lost loved ones to it. The shirts are hung on a clothesline during a public display to:

- honor the survivors and memorialize the victims
- help with the healing process for survivors as well as family and friends of victims who were killed
- educate, document and raise society's awareness about the crimes of violence against women and children

### When and How it Began

*The Clothesline Project* originated with 31 shirts in Hyannis, MA, in 1990 through the Cape Cod Women's Agenda. A small group of women – many of whom had experienced violence in their own lives – designed the visual monument to help transform staggering statistics about violence against women and children into a powerful educational and healing tool.

They decided to use a clothesline after discussing how many women in close-knit neighborhoods have traditionally exchanged information over backyard fences while hanging laundry out to dry.

*The Clothesline Project* breaks the silence about violence against women and children by giving a voice to survivors and victims.

### The Laundry List

Shirts that hang on *The Clothesline* represent a wide spectrum of abuse. Although each shirt is unique, a common color coding is generally used to represent the different dimensions of violence against women and children:

- WHITE for victims who have **died as a result of domestic violence**
- YELLOW or BEIGE for women and children who have been **battered or assaulted**
- RED, PINK or ORANGE for women and children who have been **raped or sexually assaulted**
- BLUE or GREEN for women and children survivors of **incest**
- PURPLE or LAVENDER for women and children **attacked because of their sexual orientation/identification**

### Project Expansion

Since 1990, hundreds of *Clothesline Projects* have emerged nationwide and abroad, resulting in tens of thousands of shirt designs.



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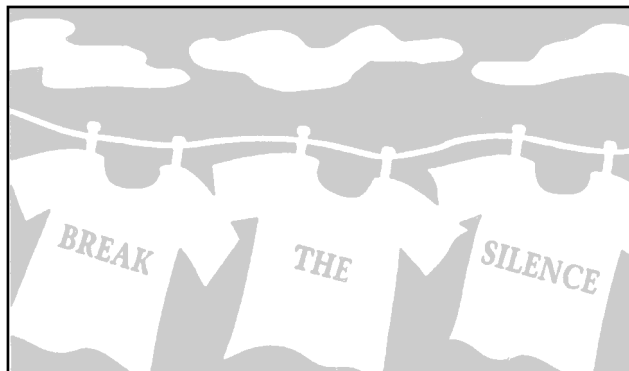
### Putting it All on the Line

*The Clothesline Project* attempts to document the toll in lives and the extent of violence against women and children. Creating and hanging a shirt on *The Clothesline* offers survivors an opportunity to leave behind some of their pain and move to the next phase of their lives.

For families and friends of women and children who have died, designing a shirt offers a way to express their loss and demonstrate how their lives have been changed by a senseless act of violence. They find comfort in knowing *The Clothesline Project* honors the memory of victims while teaching others about the devastating impact of violence against women and children.

### Making a Local Connection

To find out how you can connect with a local *Clothesline Project* or to start one of your own call 508-896-1875.



### Call Your Local Domestic Violence Program

Call your local domestic violence program for information about available services, volunteer opportunities, and ways you can help prevent the crime of domestic violence in your community.

