Reducing incidents of domestic violence

Landlords, property managers, and other on-site staff can play significant roles in reducing incidents of domestic violence. Would some of these examples work for you?

Reduce isolation.

One of the factors that contributes to domestic violence is the isolation of those experiencing it. Anything you can do to create a sense of community among your tenants or link them to the broader community will help.

Promote healthy relationships.

If your tenants know you care about them, they are more likely to let you know if something is going wrong in their family.

- Start with your relationship with other staff members. If you treat each other with respect, your tenants will be more likely to expect you to treat them with respect.
- Get to know your tenants. When you deal with tenant issues, model respectful communication and productive problem solving skills.

Build a sense of community.

Tenants who care about each other are more likely to let you know if something is going wrong in another unit.

- Help your tenants get to know each other. Create and take advantage of tenant gathering places—the mail room, laundry room, or sports area. Put up a tenant bulletin board for you or them to post announcements, brochures of community events and services, or activities of interest.
- Organize events. Ask your tenants for suggestions. A film night? Walking club? Mother's group?
- Create a tenant newsletter. Ask for content from tenants.

Connect with the local neighbourhood and broader community.

The more you and your tenants know about the resources available in the community, the more likely you and they are to use them.

- Join networks of service providers. Get their newsletters. Attend interagency meetings.
- Invite service agencies to staff or tenant events to learn more about their services.
- Post brochures
- Buy your tenants memberships in the local community or recreational service.
- Develop positive relationships with police.

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