

Glenda



On November 9, 2007 at 1:05 a.m., my daughter Becca was brutally stabbed to death by her husband and my life changed forever. My name is Glenda. I am the mother of a domestic violence victim. As mothers, we want to think we can protect our children from all harm, regardless of how old they are. I thought I knew my daughter and how her life was going. She was involved in our church and she helped me with a children's camp every year. She had just graduated from college with a degree in Criminal Justice and was working toward becoming a paralegal.

SHE ALSO WAS BEING ABUSED BY HER HUSBAND, AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT.

I ask myself over and over why I didn't see the signs. Did I even know what the signs were? I'm a nurse and we are taught to be observant, to look for the unusual, but I missed this one big time. Why didn't I notice when she got quiet? When she didn't come to church? When our phone conversations were always interrupted by him in the background? I couldn't help Becca because I didn't know. I think in her own way, she was trying to protect me from what she was going through, keeping me safe.

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR VICTIMS AND POTENTIAL VICTIMS. I WANT WOMEN TO KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS AND I HOPE THAT THEY CAN AVOID THIS ABUSE. I WANT TO REACH AS MANY WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS I CAN. I WANT TO TELL THEM THAT IT ISN'T THEIR FAULT AND THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE.

I want them to know that there is help available, just one phone call away. This tragedy of abuse affects not only the victim, but their family and loved ones. Help is there for anyone who has the desire to get involved. It is also there for those who just have questions. Be aware that abuse can happen in anyone's relationship. It can be your daughter, your mother, your sister. Be aware that it can happen to women you know and love. Be aware that it is probably happening to someone you know—without your knowledge. Remember, one in three women will experience abuse in her life—that is women everywhere—women of every race, every age, every economic conditions, every education level, in every neighborhood.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Know the signs. Know the resources. Keep YWCA safety cards in your purse or wallet. Call the YWCA crisis line (615.242.1199) when you need help and encourage others to do the same. Educate yourself, your daughters, and your friends. That still may not be enough to stop the violence...but it is a start.

After 18 months of waiting, Becca's husband was sentenced to 40 years in prison for the death of my daughter. Although I wish I had known what I know now when Becca needed me, today I am at peace. Today, I know I will be there to help other women by telling Becca's story and speaking out against domestic violence. —Glenda

{today I am a teacher}



*Excerpt from *Today I Am*. Purchase this book at ywcanashville.com.
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