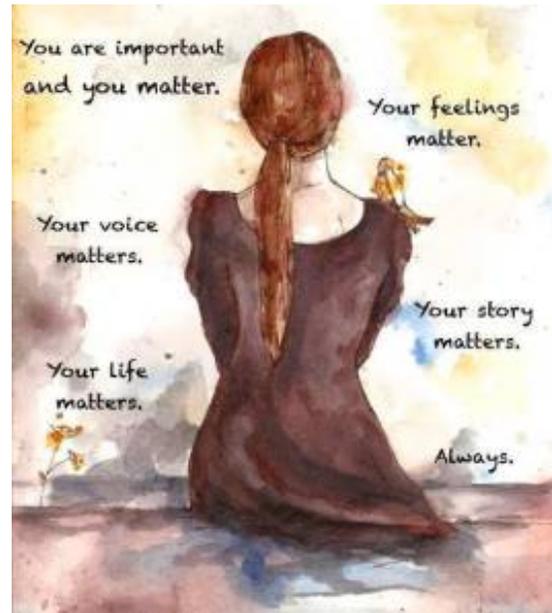




## *Our "You Matter" Card Project*

Domestic abuse in the United States continues to grow each year. Members of New Hope Church were led to reach out to those who are suffering and attempting to escape these dangerous situations, by reaching out in love to those they can through supportive cards and notes. Among the most damaging things that happen in these cases are that victims start to blame themselves for what is happening/has happened to them. They lose any sense of self-worth, and lose hope. The "You Matter" card project attempts to reach out through area shelters and agencies to let these victims know that they are overlooked, they are not lost, they are not forgotten, and indeed that They Matter to us.

Through these inspirational, hand-made cards, our members share their hearts and faith with these victims—with the sole purpose and goal of helping them to restore hope in their souls and find the strength to face the future.



Following are some startling statistics on this growing problem.

- Every 9 seconds in the US, a woman is assaulted or beaten.
- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused in the United States.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of [some form of] physical violence within their lifetime.
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.
- Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.
- Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.
- Only 34% of people who are injured through domestic violence receive medical care for their injuries.

***“For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,’ says the Lord, ‘plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster to give you a future and a hope.” –Jeremiah 29:11***