



Bringing hope to women,
children and families in crisis

The Arlington Community
Temporary Shelter
PO Box 100185
Arlington, VA 22210
(703) 522-8858
Fax (703) 522-4338
www.tacts.org

Safehouse for
Battered Women
and Children
(703) 237-0881

Emergency Shelter
for Homeless Women and
Families
(703) 237-1147

TACTS Thrift Store
5643 Lee Highway
(703) 237-0867

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact Cathy Yi (703) 522-8858

**TACTS Launches New Court Companionship Program
to Aid Domestic Violence Victims**

Arlington, Virginia—The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS) in partnership with other organizations has launched an effort to develop and implement a Court Companionship and Advocacy Program to assist domestic violence survivors in Arlington. This new program will provide accompaniment services for women in non-criminal cases to negotiate the Arlington County court system.

The Arlington Domestic Violence Alliance (ADVA) reports that there is a great need for a court companionship program for non-criminal cases because none currently exists in the county. There is also a lack of standardized information shared with victims and minimal assistance in filling out paperwork and forms for Protective Orders, Child Support and Custody Orders.

The court companionship program will be available to all TACTS' clients who have lived at its Safehouse, an 11-bed domestic violence shelter for women and families, as well as to other domestic violence survivors in the community in need of such services who are being served by Arlington County Department of Human Services Violence Intervention Program (VIP), the Virginia Commonwealth Attorney's Victim/Witness Program and Legal Services of Northern Virginia clients.

"TACTS Safehouse served 75 clients last year and nearly half of the women needed court advocacy and accompaniment services. We also estimate that there is at least one survivor per day who goes to the Arlington County Juvenile and Domestic Court intake counters to file necessary paperwork and could benefit from this program," says Vicki Price, TACTS Interim Safehouse Director.

Funding for TACTS' Court Companionship and Advocacy Program is being provided by The Commonwealth of Virginia's Family and Children's Trust Fund, a state program that has worked to prevent and treat family violence in Virginia. Price says, "We're so grateful to the Virginia Family and Children's Trust Fund for providing the necessary start up funding that allows us to lay the framework to launch this critical service."

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The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS) is a leading nonprofit that provides a life-saving continuum of care, hope and safety for women and families experiencing domestic violence and homelessness. TACTS operates two shelters, a 16-bed shelter for homeless women and families and an 11-bed safehouse for victims of domestic violence and their children, and a Transitional Housing Program which offers select graduates from shelter up to two years of supported housing services. www.tacts.org

Domestic Violence Statistics:

- Nearly 1 in 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
American Psychol. Ass'n, Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 10.
- Domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 3.
- According to a 1990 restraining order study, the age of abusers ranged from 17 - 70. Two-thirds of the abusers were between the ages of 24 and 40.
Buzawa & Buzawa ed., Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work? (1996), p.195.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the U.S.
American Institute on Domestic Violence, 2001.