

# Healthy relationships vs. unhealthy ones

While domestic violence prevention and intervention consume much of my life these days, growing up I had no idea what the word meant.

Unlike in Grant County schools today, where Hands of Hope has Rosalyn Turcott who is affectionately called Mrs. T by the students to teach them about hands are not for hitting, conflict resolution, bullying and unhealthy vs. healthy relationships, domestic violence was not talked about when I was growing up.

Of course, my parents modeled what a traditional marriage of their era looked like – my mom stayed home and babysat while my dad worked outside the home. When my dad retired from the Nebraska State Patrol after 30 years, my mom did then get a job as a cook at a local elementary school, after all three of us children were grown.



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



My parents were married just shy of 58 years before my dad died, six days before their next anniversary.

There was no domestic violence in my parents' lives. There was also no discussion about what a healthy vs unhealthy relationship comprised of.

I wonder sometimes if that is why both my brother and sister fell prey

to abusive marriages. In no way do I blame my parents for the abuse my siblings suffered through, it just makes me realize the importance of educating and talking about domestic violence.

When I took over as the director of Hands of Hope, then called Women's Services, there were minimal prevention programs in the schools or the community. The focus of the work was on intervention and providing services to victims which is where it needed to be.

It was when Denise Brown, the sister of Nicole Brown Simpson who came to Marion as our Candlelight Vigil speaker in October 1995 and shared a program called Hands Are Not for Hitting, that we began to strategically talk about domestic violence in the schools.

Over the years Hands of Hope has worked to focus an equal amount of atten-

tion on prevention and intervention services, believing that we must be there for victims and work to break the cycle of domestic violence for future generations.

This year, like with everything else, covid has changed how our awareness campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October has occurred.

This is the first year we have not held the Candlelight Vigil which traditionally is an opportunity for the community to rally together and show support for those who have died at the hands of their abusive partner. It has also been an opportunity to celebrate those who broke free of the debilitating crime. It has also always served as a chance to educate and challenge the community to get involved.

So, while we chose not to hold a public gathering, we are still working dili-

gently to spread the word. On Thursday, Oct. 22, wear purple and post a selfie on #purplethursday to show support to end the cycle of violence.

This year, our campaign mantra is: Hope Starts With Me. A reminder that each one of us has a responsibility to each other to speak up and to be the hope everyone needs and especially those living in violence.

Too often, even today, people do not know what a healthy relationship should entail. There are too many unhealthy scenarios played out in sitcoms, videos and throughout social media.

As our three girls were growing up, my husband and I worked to model what a healthy marriage looked like. We were by no means perfect, I always say, Larry is thankfully very easy going, while I tend to be higher strung. That though is also important for children to see,

how their parents balance each other out and handle conflict and stress in a positive manner.

And it is OK if you are not the one who have the frank conversations, as long as you purposefully place your children in positions where they will get the message, such as listening to Rosalyn Turcott's presentations in the schools.

So, as we focus on Domestic Violence this month, please take time to know the forms of abuse, how to break the cycle and where to turn for help. In Grant County, Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society, Inc. is a phone call away at 765-664-0701 or seek out information through Hands of Hope's Facebook page or website at [www.famerservices.com/handsofhope](http://www.famerservices.com/handsofhope). Together we can be the Hope for someone else because Hope Starts With Me.

## Mill

citizens to engage as problem solvers. A question that I often ask is what is it that we want for our community that we can only accomplish together? The geographical scalable approach will prove its success through this centralized focus methodology based on data."

GIFT VII funds will be used to launch community-led and identified activities across three Thriving Mill Township networks: Family Well-Being, Talent Pipeline, and Community Development. Thriving's staff and capacity will be grown in resource navigation, evaluation, data analysis,

and sustainability.

To determine the highest priorities for this initiative, the Foundation listened to experts – both types: practitioners and professionals. Practitioners are people actively living the experience of poverty. Professionals include those working in the field of poverty alleviation be-

cause of their extensive backgrounds in research, data collection, and problem solving.

"The power behind collective impact is how inclusive it is," Brown said. "We depend on the voices of those who are directly impacted by poverty, and we ensure that they are part of determining the

solution."

An event to introduce Thriving Mill Township and its work will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at Mississinewa High School. Thriving and Community Foundation staff will pro-

vide information about the Thriving Mill Township initiative and the three networks that will drive the work taking place in the township. To learn more, contact Thriving Executive Director Cathy Weatherspoon at 765-662-0065.

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## Deaths

**Barbara E. Underwood 1927-2020**

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Thursday, October 8 at 3 pm. Burial followed at Park Cemetery.

**Billie Ball 1918-2020**

Funeral services were held at Pierce Upland United

Methodist Church on Thursday, October 8 at 1 pm.

**Marian Kendall 1934-2020**

Funeral services were held at Pierce Upland United Methodist Church on Wednesday, October 14 at 2 pm.

**Albert "Jay" J. Sollars 1941-2020**

There will not be any services. Burial will place at Gardens of Memory.

**David A. Perkins 1957-2020**

A private funeral service will be held Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Marion, on Tuesday, October 13 at 3 pm.

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## Indiana History Answers

1. C 2. A 3. E  
4. B 5. D

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