Who Are the Abusers?

People who abuse come from all class backgrounds, races, and religions. There is no "typical" abuser.

People who abuse may often:

- Fear losing control
- Have stereotypical ideas about how people in a relationship should act
- Have low self-esteem
- Keep to themselves
- Have a history of family alcohol or drug abuse
- Have witnessed violence between parents or were abused as a child
- Have poor relationships with women in their lives, such as past girlfriends or family members
- Act extremely jealous and possessive
- Have controlling behavior
- Be quick to get involved in the relationship
- Have unrealistic expectations for their relationships
- Blame others for their own problems or for uncontrollable events
- Be cruel to animals or children
- Act verbally abusive
- Have abused former partners
- Threaten to use violence
- Use force during an argument
- Not take responsibility for their actions

Why does someone batter?

- Battering is NOT a mental illness or an anger management issue, but a learned behavioral choice.
- Batterers choose violence and until recently, there have been few consequences to deter them. They batter because they CAN.
- Battering is an extreme expression of the belief in male dominance over women.
- They use physical force to maintain power and control in their relationships.
- Many batterers grew up in a home where either they were abused or they saw their mother abused.