

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ABUSE

***BECAUSE WANTING TO STOP IS NOT ENOUGH***

## HISTORY

Founded in 1977, **Emerge** was the first abuser education program in the United States. Since its creation, **Emerge** has been a national leader in working to end violence in intimate relationships. In working towards this goal, **Emerge** curriculum seeks to educate individual abusers, prevent young people from learning to accept violence in their relationships, improve institutional responses to domestic violence, and increase public awareness about the causes and solutions to partner violence.

## WHY THE EMERGE MODEL?

**Emerge** is a structured curriculum that teaches that domestic violence is a learned behavior, not a disease or sickness. **Emerge** supports grassroots, institutional and cultural efforts to stop partner violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. **Emerge** recognizes that battering is not merely physical violence but a range of coercive behaviors that often consists of physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, and economic abuse. **Emerge** believes battering is a purposeful behavior, rather than being impulsive, spontaneous, or irrational; battering is an intentional behavior that serves to gain and maintain control in relationships.

**Emerge** recognizes that other oppressive life circumstances such as racism, poverty, and homophobia creates a climate that contributes to violence.

**Emerge** believes that individuals who abuse **can change**, that they **have the ability** to change, but have to make the **choice**.

**Contact our Intake Worker at (607) 962-3148 for a referral form if you are interested in referring a client.**

## THE EMERGE MODEL

- 40-week curriculum
- Group sessions 2 hours' weekly, small groups ranging from 8 to 13 participants
- Groups are co-facilitated by male/female team
- Introduction stage. 8 weeks, educational group model on domestic violence topics. Members evaluated for participation and appropriateness for program upon completion of the first 8 weeks.
- By the end of this stage group members will identify which ways they have been harmful towards their partners or families.
- Process stage. 32 weeks, interactive groups discussing progress, what's going on in their relationships, working on relationship history to identify abusive patterns, and creating individual goals.
- Program provides monthly progress reports to referral sources