



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINED

### *An update from the Crossroads Safehouse Board of Directors...*

Earlier this year, the Department of Justice revised the definition of domestic violence to exclude all references to emotional and psychological abuse. The implemented changes severely limit the definition to only assume felony and misdemeanor crimes to constitute domestic violence.

However, at Crossroad's Safehouse, we know better. We know that domestic violence relationships rarely begin with physical violence. We know that the struggle for power often reveals itself first through the abuser inflicting emotional and psychological abuse.

Despite the Department of Justice's recent revisions, the **Crossroads Safehouse Board of Directors has unanimously voted to retain the previous definition of domestic violence** which states:

*Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.*