Adding a Shirt to the Clothesline Project

Creating a shirt

We ask survivors to submit shirts, blouses, or tee shirts of durable material preferably with the following color code:

- WHITE for people who have died as a result of domestic, dating, or sexual violence
- YELLOW or BEIGE for people who have survived domestic or dating violence
- RED, PINK, or ORANGE for survivors of rape or sexual assault
- BLUE or GREEN for survivors of incest and child sexual abuse
- PURPLE or LAVENDER for those who have survived violence related to their sexual orientation or gender identity

You don’t need to be an artist to create a moving, personal tribute. These colors are not mandatory if a different color or pattern has a special significance to you. We would like each shirt to reflect the survivor’s personal experience. You may include a name, date, or any symbol related to the event and the healing that followed.

Some suggestions for enduring durability:

- Use a natural fabric
- Sew rather than using glue
- Photocopy photographs or paper objects onto iron-on transfers
- Use acrylic or textile paint or paint markers
- Use color-fast dye or indelible ink

For survivors of violence

Because making a shirt can be part of the healing process for survivors of violence, shirts should be created and submitted by the survivor. If not possible, a shirt made for a survivor should be submitted with their written permission. We ask that you respect the anonymity of a shirt made for another person by not using their name.

For people who have died

To submit a shirt for people who have died as a result of domestic, dating, or sexual violence: please show the person’s name, date of birth and death, and hometown (or the town in which they were killed). You may add any other information about them and what they meant to you.

Names

Naming the perpetrator of a violent act is an important part of the healing process. For legal reasons, we cannot display shirts with full names of perpetrators. We ask that shirt makers use first names or initials if they wish to name the perpetrator.

To participate

Shirts may be submitted to RVAP (Rape Victim Advocacy Program) at 332 S. Linn Street in Iowa City. During the month of April, blank shirts and materials will be available at RVAP between 9am and 5pm. Call RVAP at 319-335-6001 for more information.