

## **The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program**

### ***Financial Facts: Women and Money***

Several recent high-profile studies have uncovered the fact that more and more women, especially as they become older, are not educated or prepared to take care of themselves financially. The astounding facts tell us that the majority of women rely on their husbands, partners or families when it comes to handling finances. The Allstate Foundation Economics Against Abuse program is designed to help women achieve economic empowerment and prepare them for a bright, financially-secure future by providing them with the appropriate educational resources to help them regain their independence. Below are some general facts surrounding women and finance that support the need for this program:

#### ***Financial Knowledge***<sup>3</sup>

- One percent of women consider themselves to be experts in finance; 62 percent consider themselves to be below average when it comes to financial knowledge.

#### ***Financial Changes after Divorce***<sup>1</sup>

- In the first year after a divorce, a woman's standard of living drops an average of 73 percent.

#### ***Financial Responsibility***<sup>1</sup>

- Ninety percent of all women will have sole responsibility for their finances within their lifetimes, yet 79 percent have not planned for this.
- Forty-seven percent of women over the age of 50 are single, meaning they are financially responsible for themselves.

#### ***Saving for Retirement***<sup>1,2</sup>

- Ninety-three percent of women say saving for retirement is their primary goal, but 47 percent of women are not contributing to a retirement plan.
- Fifty-five percent of women say they are not very or not at all prepared for retirement.
- Women's retirement income is less than that of men because a woman is away from the work force an average of 14.7 years as compared to 1.6 years for men.
- Fifty-eight percent of female baby boomers have less than \$10,000 in retirement.
- Only 20 percent of baby boomer women will be financially secure in their retirement, meaning 80 percent will not be.

#### ***Women and Poverty***<sup>1</sup>

- Three out of four people living in poverty are women.
- Eighty percent of widowed women now living in poverty were not poor when their husbands were alive.
- Approximately seven out of 10 women will at some point live in poverty.

Sources Include:

1. National Center for Women and Retirement Research
2. Women and Investment survey by Oppenheimer Funds, Inc. 2005
3. Prudential Financial survey, 2006