

I'm Taking Action. Will You Join Me?

As the facts come out after the horrific shooting on Sunday - the murder that was committed by a [convicted batterer](#), an abuser - I find myself angrier and angrier. Above the hurt, I blame and rage. There are many places to point fingers, to claim, "If only." I feel helpless. It feels useless to call politicians, post to the echo chamber of Facebook, sign yet another petition that will go nowhere. But tonight, as I sat in [Family Crisis Services'](#) shelter, listening to giggling children and sounds of a kitchen prepping dinner, I was grounded by the concrete action I could take - a stance, a voice and financial support for my local domestic violence resource center. As a board member for Family Crisis Services, you would think this would be my first thought, a logical place to turn. But it wasn't until I was at the shelter talking with a staff member that I made the connection between this mass murder and the work Family Crisis Services (FCS) does every day to prevent such horrors. FCS doesn't just provide shelter to victims of domestic violence; they offer Batterer's Intervention Programming (BIPs), provide court advocacy, raise awareness in our schools and community, work with incarcerated women who are victims of domestic violence, lead support groups and an elder abuse program, and staff a 24-hour hotline.

So what can we do today, when we set aside our rage, our sadness, our disbelief - when we rise above the haze, the numbness that sets in with yet another mass shooting? I know what I will do. I will support what we have in our community. I will support what's good, what has not yet been taken away by state and federal budget cuts, what is not controlled by those most distant from it or separated by political views or positions on gun control. Please, join me in doing something today. [Donate to Family Crisis Services](#), or your local domestic violence resource center.

Susy Hawes
Board of Directors