Introduction



What if someone you know, like a friend, is a victim of violence? Helping a friend can be a sensitive and difficult situation. Even if you do not know someone who has been a victim of violence, you can be a part of the solution by volunteering in your community. Click each panel to learn what you can do to help someone in your community prevent violence.



Say



When speaking to a friend that has been a victim of violence, tell your friend that you are sorry the abuse happened. Reinforce the message that your friend is not at fault, and ask for ways you can help.



Listen



It is important that you do not judge anyone or any part of the situation, but that you just listen. Then, encourage your friend to speak to a trusted adult or to the police. If needed, you may want to offer to accompany your friend for emotional support.



Act



People across the nation work together to try to reduce the incidence of violent crimes. Communities are making neighborhoods safer by increasing the visible police presence, organizing and participating in activities that promote unity in the community, and enforcing teen curfews.

There are also a variety of awareness programs, hotlines, and websites devoted to violence prevention. Many of these programs are in need of volunteers. You can help people in need by volunteering and devoting your time.

