

## Domestic violence pervasive in Fresno, statistics show

By Jim Guy

Domestic violence cases like the one that has put NFL running back Ray Rice in the headlines are an everyday occurrence in Fresno.

In 2012, the most recent year that complete statistics are available, there were more than 6,000 such cases reported to the Fresno Police Department, ranging from vandalism to attempted murder. Officers responded to incidents that took place anywhere from a homeless encampment to an exclusive gated community.

Both victims and perpetrators often come in contact with the Marjaree Mason Center, an institution established four decades ago intent on protecting the victims. The center often provides shelter to the victims and oversees programs that must be attended by those convicted of domestic violence.

In response to Monday's events, Genelle Taylor Kumpe, executive director of the center, said:

"Ray Rice's abusive incident proves that domestic violence knows no boundaries. It affects women, men and children across every description of age, class, socio-economic or educational status, race or sexual orientation.

"Marjaree Mason Center can be utilized as a resource for those exposed to and/or affected by domestic violence in the Fresno County area. To contact MMC, call our office at (559) 237-4706 or our 24-hour crisis hot line at (559) 233-HELP."

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