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Domestic-abuse “checkup”

2 MEN URGE OTHERS TO JOIN STUDY

One's daughter was victim; other was once arrested

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Two men — one the father of a murder victim, the other who was once arrested for domestic violence — are urging men to sign up for a confidential domestic-abuse “checkup.”

The “Men’s Domestic Abuse Checkup” campaign, part of a new study by researchers at the

University of Washington, hopes to recruit more than 100 men who are concerned about their behavior toward spouses or partners, beginning with a brief, confidential telephone intervention.

Those who qualify for the study will participate in six phone conversations over a two-month period and may earn \$100. The interventions are designed to help the men take stock of their behavior and think through their options.

“Each of us has a duty to stop abusive behavior, whether it’s mental abuse, emotional abuse or physical abuse,” said Lane Judson, whose daughter Crystal Judson Brame was mur-

dered by former Tacoma Police Chief David Brame in 2003. “I am hopeful this study will find better ways to reach out to families who are hurting before it’s too late.”

Mark Houston, a Seattle telecom professional and single father, said too many men wait until they are “hailed off to jail” to confront their behavior and seek help. “I was one of those men,” Houston said.

A recent local study found that nearly half the women in the Puget Sound area reported they had been physically, sexually or psychologically abused by their partners at some point in their adult lives.

The new, three-year project,

funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is being conducted by the UW’s school of social work in collaboration with the University of Minnesota.

Men interested in participating can call 1-800-MEN-1089 Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or send an e-mail to: mcheckup@u.washington.edu.

Identities of participants will be confidential and unavailable even to law enforcement; men also have the option of enrolling anonymously.

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