



## Opinion > Editorials

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### Pattison case moves us to action

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Published: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 2:05 AM EST

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Hands of Hope

Everyone who knew Lisa Pattison would agree she was truly a Beauty.

Unfortunately, her storybook wedding that included a dance with her husband Scott, dressed up like "The Beast", would end much more tragically than the storybook fairytales parents often read their children.

As I sat and watched the Dateline show titled "The Beauty and the Beast" which aired Feb. 25, messages played through my mind about how I could use this tragedy as a teaching moment and a call for action.

Too often, I think little girls read fairytales like "The Beauty and the Beast" and "Cinderella" and grow up looking for and longing for their Prince Charming, not being educated about how to differentiate between a true Prince and a Beast.

While I have no personal knowledge about what Lisa and Scott's courtship or married life was like. Based upon what family members and friends discussed as part of the Dateline story, it appeared to be a distorted, unhealthy marriage.

A marriage that in the end led to the most violent form of domestic violence — death.

What happened to Lisa - is not an isolated incident. On a regular basis in Grant County, there are others living lives of turmoil and violence which is why we must take a stand against domestic violence.

As a community we must band together to stop the violence and educate our children about the difference between a Beast and a Prince.

Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society, Inc. is a resource for victims, family members and children. On the intervention side we offer a safe place for victims and their children to stay called the Flannery-Keal Home. We have a 24-hour crisis line anyone can call with questions — 664-0701 and we have support groups and victim's advocates.

On the prevention side, Hands of Hope has staff working in the schools to educate children and teens about healthy relationships and dating violence. A local video was recently produced about teens involving teens, and can be viewed by going to: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkH0\\_sviUck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkH0_sviUck)

We also have community opportunities to get educated, such as an upcoming free workshop for youth ministers hosted by the Mayor's Commission Against Domestic Violence from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, April 4 in Conference room 102 at Ivy Tech Community College, 261 S. Commerce Drive, Marion.

To register for this workshop either call Linda Wilk 662-9971 ext. 123 or via e-mail at [lwilk@famservices.com](mailto:lwilk@famservices.com).

*Linda Wilk is Hands of Hope Director, a division of Family Service Society, Inc., a United Way Agency*

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