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Desire to help victims inspires Men's Center

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As Tony Rodriguez counseled men recovering from drug addictions, he noticed a disturbing trend: It seemed like a third of them had been sexually abused and had never told anyone.

"There's a certain myth about men - that they can't be victimized," said Rodriguez, who immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1958 when he was 5 years old.

He grew up just a few blocks from Chicago's Wrigley Stadium, attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and received his masters degree in clinical social work at Loyola University in Chicago.

After spending eight years working in information services for "corporate America," Rodriguez decided to do something about the problems he saw.

In August 2004, he opened the Men's Center in Davenport, which focuses on helping men who are survivors of sexual assault. The center also addresses sex addictions, clergy abuse, anger management and other problems men might face emotionally or mentally.

"I just saw a need," he said. "There were men falling through the cracks."

More information about the center is available at www.themenscenter.net.

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