

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2015

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Local Activities in October Focus on Ending Domestic Violence

Lincoln – Every day about 120 calls are made in Nebraska to crisis lines from people affected by domestic violence. That’s more than 43,000 calls a year, and reason for everyone to help stop violence in families, said Doug Weinberg, director of Children and Family Services (CFS) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Nebraska organizations are sponsoring activities to heighten awareness of the issue.

CFS provides funding to the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, 20 Domestic Violence programs, and Nebraska’s four Tribes to meet the needs of survivors in all 93 Nebraska counties.

“Unfortunately, domestic violence is all around us and we shouldn’t look the other way,” Weinberg said. “I hope all Nebraskans will join DHHS in supporting local domestic violence organizations and survivors to help stop the violence.”

Lynne Lange, executive director of the Coalition, said everyone can help by:

- Holding the abuser accountable. Domestic violence is not caused by the person being abused. Rather than asking why a survivor doesn’t leave, we need to ask why the abuser doesn’t stop.
- Not looking the other way when seeing a possible victim or abuser. Ask if the victim needs a safe number to call and explain there are people who can help. Call the police if someone is being abusive.
- Knowing where survivors can turn for help.
- Promoting healthy relationships.

“In just one day during the past year, Coalition member programs served 400 survivors,” Lange said. “We need to stop the stigma that survivors face from others, end the silence when abuse occurs, and turn from feelings of shame that frequently accompanies domestic violence. It’s never the survivor’s fault.”

She said the network of offices across the state offer seven core services for adults and children:

- 24-hour crisis line offering confidential support, information and access to services.

- Assistance obtaining a domestic abuse protection order, emotional support through the court process, and referrals to local attorneys.
- A safe place to stay to escape further violence.
- Ongoing support to survivors and children.
- Transportation to a safe place 24 hours a day, court proceedings, medical services and community agencies.
- Prevention programs for children and young adults on child sexual abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence. Programs also make presentations in communities.

Weinberg said free and confidential information is also available 24 hours a day at the following national crisis phone lines so survivors of domestic violence can find support and assistance:

- National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1-800-799-7233
- National Dating Abuse Helpline – 1-866-331-9474
- National Sexual Assault Hotline – 1-800-656-4673

“When we are silent, domestic violence will only continue to hurt the vulnerable and defenceless,” Weinberg said. “We are fortunate to have resources across the state to help survivors of domestic violence. I encourage survivors to seek that help, and urge anyone who suspects or knows of domestic violence to become a part of the solution to end it.”

More information about the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence can be found at www.nebraskacoalition.com. A map of the domestic violence program service areas is located at http://www.nebraskacoalition.org/get_help/

(Note to Editors: Attached is a list of local activities in October to increase awareness of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.)

2015 Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October
Events and Activities

| Program Location | Program | Director | Phone Number | Event | Event Date | Event Location | Awareness Activities |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Auburn, NE | Project Response | Dawn Parriot | (402) 274-5092 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Broken Bow, NE | Healing Hearts & Families | Suellen Koepke | (308) 872-2420 | Sporting Clay Shoot | September 20th | Broken Bow | |
| | | | | 2nd annual Masquerade Ball | October 3rd | Broken Bow | |
| Columbus, NE | Center for Survivors | Tara Korth | (402) 564-2155 | Candlelight Vigil at 7:30pm | October 1st | Frankfort Square in Columbus | |
| | | | | Fall Festival | October 22nd | Schuyler, NE | |
| Fairbury, NE | Hope Crisis Center | Carmen Hinman | (402) 729-2570 | Candlelight Vigil at 7:30 p.m. | September 30th | Fairbury Courthouse Lawn | Yard Sign Campaigns going on in Crete, Fairbury and Seward. |
| | | | | 176 Keys Fun Dueling Pianos at 7 p.m. | October 16th | Fairbury Elks Lodge | |
| | | | | Traubel's Popcorn Stand from 11am-7pm | October 20th | 101 N 5th Street, Beatrice | Silent Witness Exhibit - Silhouettes will be placed throughout our service area during the month of October. |
| | | | | Stuff the Van "Moving to Safety" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | October 31st | Fairbury Walmart | |
| Fremont, NE | The Bridge | Suzanne Smith | (402) 721-4340 | Day of Unity (Wear Purple) | October 1st | Fremont, NE | High School Billboard Contest Winner will be displayed during the month |
| | | | | Chamber Coffee 9-10am | October 2nd | Office in Fremont, NE | |
| | | | | Candlelight Vigil 6:30 p.m. | October 8th | Midland University Amphitheatre | |
| | | | | Run for Shelter 5k at 8 a.m. | October 17th | Fremont State Lake | |
| Gering, NE | The DOVES Program | Hilary Wasserburger | (308) 436-2787 | | | | Monthly theme: <i>Relationships Shouldn't Be Scary</i> |
| | | | | | | | Displays at Western Nebraska Community College & Chadron State College |
| | | | | | | | Record PSA and talking points for media |
| Grand Island, NE | Crisis Center, Inc. | Lex Ann Roach | (308) 382-8250 | | | | Request both all city & county governments in our service area issue the Nebraska proclamation that October is DV Awareness Month |

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| | | | | | | | Send press release regarding DV Awareness Month & domestic violence facts to local media |
| | | | | | | | Post DV facts on our social media (Facebook & Twitter) each day of the month |
| | | | | | | | Send DV facts to the Grand Island public access channel to be posted between programming |
| | | | | | | | Conducting a DV training with our local DHHS office |
| Hastings, NE | SASA Crisis Center | Jamie Manzer | (402) 463-5810 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Kearney, NE | The S.A.F.E. Center | Nikki Gausman | (308) 237-2599 | Free picnic for the first 200 from 11am–1pm | October 1st | Phelps County Courthouse Lawn, Holdrege | Purple Ribbons to law enforcement; purple ribbons painted on area business windows |
| | | | | Free picnic & open house for the first 200 from 5-7pm | October 9th | The S.A.F.E. Center office, Kearney | Newsletter distribution to over 2,000 individuals and businesses |
| Lexington, NE | Parent-Child Center | Melanie Gomez | (308) 324-2336 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Lincoln, NE | Friendship Home | Amy Evans | (402) 434-0161 | Safe Quarters Event | October 11th | Lincoln, NE | |
| Lincoln, NE | Nebraska Coalition | Lynne Lange | (402) 476-6256 | NO MORE in Nebraska Conference: Social Norms and Social Change | November 5th & 6th | Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln, NE | |
| | | | | Envision Empower Engage Banquet at 5:30 | November 5th | Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln, NE | |
| Lincoln, NE | Voices of Hope | Marcee Metzger | (402) 476-2110 | Shop To Stop Family Violence | October 19th - 25th | Local Lincoln Stores | "Week without Violence"; coordinated by the Women's Center at University of Nebraska |
| | | | | Clothesline Project display from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with Photo Booth | October 19th | Tower Square; 13th & P Streets, Lincoln, NE | |
| | | | | Annual Open House from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. | October 22nd | VOH office Lincoln, NE | |

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| | | | | Candlelight Vigil starts at 7:30 | October 22nd | VOH office Lincoln, NE | |
| McCook, NE | Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services | Donna Goad | (308) 345-1612 | | | | Poster Campaign distributed throughout our seven counties |
| | | | | | | | Table tent Campaign – to area restaurants, medical clinics, hospitals, libraries, hair salons, etc. |
| | | | | | | | Cookies/special recognition and thank you for area Law Enforcement |
| | | | | | | | Church mailing |
| | | | | | | | Purple Thursday's – encouraged to wear purple |
| | | | | | | | Day of Unity – Porch light Campaign |
| | | | | | | | DVAM Newsletter |
| | | | | | | | Proclamations |
| | | | | | | | Facebook launch |
| Weekly radio talks - KICX | | | | | | | |
| Norfolk, NE | Bright Horizons | Linda Olson | (402) 379-2026 | 8th Annual Women's Wellness Event 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | September 17th | O'Neill, NE | Diaper Drive |
| | | | | | | | Clothesline Project displayed at various locations |
| | | | | 3rd Annual Dueling Pianos | October 15th | Norfolk, NE | Daily Facebook Posts |
| | | | | | | | Website updates |
| North Platte, NE | Rape/Domestic Abuse Program | Jenny Bonta | (308) 534-3495 | Appreciation Meal for public safety officers | October 9th | North Platte, NE | Put a Nail in it Campaign (Sports team paint their nails purple in support) |
| | | | | | | | Running No More PSA and a PSA we created for our hotline throughout the month of October on Fox, CBS, and NBC local stations |
| | | | | Appreciation Meal for public safety officers | October 15th | Valentine, NE | "Kicking Domestic Violence to the Curb" Cherry County (local youth paint house numbers to raise awareness and quicken law enforcement response times) |

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| Ogallala, NE | Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program | Kat Bauer | (308) 284- 8477 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Omaha, NE | Catholic Charities | Frances Holeton | (402) 558-5700 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Omaha, NE | Women's Center for Advancement | Justine O'Neill-Hedlund | (402) 345-6555 | Lunch and Learn with DV focus | October 6th | Omaha, NE | |
| | | | | Twitter Chat on DV | October 8th | Online | |
| | | | | Purple and Pain the Town Purple | October 9th | Omaha, NE | |
| | | | | "Walk In Her Shoes" | October 29th | Benson High School Omaha, NE | |
| Papillion, NE | Heartland Family Service | Dawn Conley | (402) 339-2544 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Wayne, NE | Haven House | Nancy Cederlind | (402) 375-5433 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |

Tribal Domestic Violence Programs

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------|--|
| Macy, NE | Omaha Tribe | Gloria Grant Gone | (402) 837-5391 ext: 303 | Did not receive information at time of news release. | | | |
| Norfolk, NE | Ponca Tribe | Andrea Rodriguez | (402) 371-8834 | Presentation regarding services, DV 101, and a nurse from Ponca clinic is coming with to talk about assessing for DV. | October 2 nd | Wagner, SD | |
| | | | | Interactive quizzes for staff throughout Oct in which staff have a chance to win prizes | Month of October | | |
| | | | | Pow-wow - information and fun giveaways – a booth on Domestic Violence Awareness. | October 30 th | | |

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| Niobrara, NE | Santee Sioux Nation | Lorene Thomas | 402-857-2342 | There will be a healing walk including drums and singing. | Date not set at time of news release. | | |
| Winnebago, NE | Winnebago Tribe | Jim Swanson | 402-878-4308 | There will be a training for advocates, law enforcement and others from 1-4, followed by a dinner and a healing service. | October 21 st | | |