Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

Since the first “Day of Unity” 33 years ago, advocates from across the country have joined together to mourn those who lost their lives to domestic violence, to celebrate and honor survivors, to recognize those who work tirelessly every day to serve survivors and their children, and to engage communities to become more aware and educated about domestic violence. While much has changed in the past 33 years, the work to end domestic violence continues.

Florida’s certified domestic violence centers and their community partners engage in projects and programs year-round to save and change lives. Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity to highlight some of the events certified domestic violence centers have planned throughout the state.

Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT)

In collaboration with the Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition, ACT will participate in a Halloween Party Cruise on October 31st from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. On October 21st ACT will host a Minute Mentoring Event that brings community members who are survivors of domestic violence together with clients to discuss job and career opportunities, ask questions about how the “mentor” got started, and network and mingle. Web: www.actabuse.com.

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)

On October 11th, AVDA will host the 15th annual Race for Hope: Racing to Stop Domestic Abuse. This event celebrates the strength, courage and determination of those rebuilding their lives. The event combines fitness, food and fun, and has something for every member of the family including a 5k run/walk, a 10k run and a Kid’s Dash. Businesses are encouraged to participate by forming teams. Liz Quirantes of WPEC CBS in West Palm Beach will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. at Anchor Park located at 340 S. Ocean Blvd. in Delray Beach. Web: www.avdaonline.org.

Another Way, Inc.

Another Way will host a 5k Run to raise funds and awareness on October 18th at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Lake City. For additional information: www.anotherwayinc.net.

Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA)

On September 27th, former Governor Charlie Crist and Carole Crist co-hosted the inaugural CASA Gala at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg. All proceeds benefitted CASA. On October 16th, CASA is holding a candlelight vigil for staff, volunteers, Board, Foundation and Council Members. The private vigil is open to shelter participants but not to the general public. CASA’s Clothesline Project will take place on October 23rd and be on display all day at the USF St. Pete Student Center. Also on October 23rd is CASA’s 2014 Annual Meeting: Past, Present and Future. The meeting will take place at the Museum of History and is open to staff, Board, Foundation, Councils, volunteers and invited guests. Web: www.casa-stpete.org.

Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association (CASA)

On October 18th, CASA is hosting its Costume Party Celebration at the old Historical Courthouse in Inverness and promises to be the party of the year. Tickets are $20. On October 22nd, CASA is joining other Tampa Bay area centers as part of the ABC Action News’ Telethon from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Web: www.casafl.org.

Dawn Center of Hernando County

Dawn Center of Hernando County is holding a Chinese Lantern Release on October 24th to honor survivors and recognize those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. The program features presentations from Dawn Center of Hernando County, Hernando County Sheriff’s Office and a survivor speakout. The event culminates in a candlelight walk to remember and the Chinese lantern release. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at Pine Island Beach, 10800 Pine Island Drive in Spring Hill. Web: www.thedawncenter.com.

Domestic Abuse Council

On September 27th, Domestic Abuse Council launched Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities with the highly popular Purple Parade. The Parade raises awareness to prevent bullying and domestic violence. The 5th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon takes place on October 14th at the Halifax River Yacht Club, 331 Beach St. in Daytona Beach from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Live music, testimonials from survivors and the swearing in of a new Board of Directors are just some of the activities planned. Tickets are $30. Web: www.domesticabusecouncil.com.

Family Life Center

On September 27th, Family Life Center hosted the 3rd annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event in Palm Coast. Men walked in women’s shoes to demonstrate that domestic violence is not just a women’s issue. Web: www.FamilyLifeCenterFlagler.com.

Harbor House

Harbor House will Paint the Town Purple during October. From October 20th-24th, the Harbor House team will spread...
awareness throughout Orange County and beyond by distributing information on domestic violence, the services provided by Harbor House and to engage the public in the effort to stop domestic violence. Harbor House is also teaming with Help Now of Osceola and local pastors for the Central Florida Healthy Relationship Preach-In from October 3rd - 5th. This outreach effort engages pastors to include messages on healthy relationships in their sermons during the first weekend in October. Spiritual leaders are working with Harbor House to provide suggestions for sermons for pastors willing to participate. On October 22nd, Harbor House will host the Purple Door Breakfast in Orlando. The goal of this fundraising breakfast is to end domestic violence by providing survivors and their children with the resources needed to meet their short-term and long-term goals. Thanks to sponsors, this year’s event is free, but guests can partner with Harbor House to help further prevent and eliminate domestic abuse. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Orlando, Faith Hall at 3000 S. John Young Parkway in Orlando. Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Web: www.harborhousefl.com

Haven of RCS
The Haven of RCS will host the 13th annual FACES of Domestic Violence Luncheon on October 23rd at 11 a.m. in Clearwater. Award winning journalist Lissette Campos of ABC Action News will serve as host for this increasingly popular event. Last year more than 450 attended. Angela Emery and Kristen Paruginog, Executive Director of Break the Silence Against Domestic Violence, will share their stories with attendees. The event takes place at Matheos Hall at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 409 South Old Coachman Road. Web: www.rcspinellas.org

Help Now of Osceola
Help Now will host Help Now Lunch and Learn events on October 2nd, October 16th and October 21st. All three events take place at the Help Now Outreach office conference room and begin at 12:00 noon. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch. On October 2nd, Help Now will lead the 8th annual March Against Domestic Violence & Candlelight Vigil. County officials, survivors and Youth Ambassadors will lead the march through the streets of Kissimmee culminating with the vigil to honor those who have lost their lives. Help Now is also joining with Harbor House on October 3rd – 5th for the Central Florida Healthy Relationship Preach-In (see Harbor House). On October 17th, Help Now and the Osceola Domestic Violence Task Force invite the public to attend the annual conference “Victim ...Survivor... Thriver: A Survivors’ Journey Towards Empowerment” at the Osceola Heritage Park, Extension Services Meeting Room in Kissimmee. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the conference hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information on events: info@helpnowshelter.org. Web: www.helpnowshelter.org

HOPE Family Services
Throughout the month of October, HOPE Family Services will distribute purple ribbons and information throughout the community. On October 11th they will participate with an information table at a charity event at the grand opening of Macy’s University Town Center in University Park (Manatee County). Information tables will also be present at Bradenton downtown Farmer’s Market and at Chico’s in Ellenton Outlet Mall on October 25th. Web: www.hopefamilyservice.org

Hubbard House, Inc.
Hubbard House kicks off Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities on October 1st with a press conference featuring Hubbard House CEO Ellen Siler and Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford. The press conference is designed to begin the effort to raise awareness and release the 2012 Domestic Violence Fatality Report. The press conference begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Sheriff’s Office located at 501 E. Bay Street in Jacksonville. On October 15th, Hubbard House hosts the 20th annual Barbara Ann Campbell Memorial Breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel in Jacksonville, located at 225 E. Coastline Drive. The event marks the anniversary of the day, 20 years ago, when then Jacksonville Mayor Jake Godbold stood and told the tragic story of his sister-in-law’s murder. Each year, different survivors have come forward to tell their inspirational stories. Sponsorships and individual seats are available for purchase. Web: www.hubbardhouse.org

Martha’s House
On October 3rd, Martha’s House is holding a Glo-Light Vigil with more than 400 lights signifying the survivors receiving services from the center over the past year. The event is held in conjunction with the Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta. Activities begin at 7:00 p.m. at Scott Driver Park in Okeechobee. Martha’s House will hold Family Together Day on October 25th to encourage families to participate and learn about healthy relationships, services available in the community and about domestic violence services and prevention. Live entertainment, vendor booths, police and fire equipment displays, food and an auto show are planned for the event. The event takes place between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee and is open and free to the public. Web: www.marthashouse.org

Peace River Center
Peace River Center is joining with local agencies to provide information and awareness materials at several local
events. They will have an information table available at the Polk County Sheriff’s Office for law enforcement training on October 1st, at Lakeland’s First Friday on October 3rd, and on October 8th at Polk State College in Lakeland. On October 4th, Peace River Center joins with the community for the Heather’s Hope 5K Run and Walk that will include a Clothesline Project, awareness and prevention table and a mini memorial. More information is available at www.heather-shope.net. Peace River Center also joins other Tampa Bay area shelters for ABC Action News Day and Telethon and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers tailgate. (See Spring of Tampa Bay). Silent Witness Memorials are on the calendar with displays at Brewster’s Coffee House in Sebring and locations throughout Polk and Highlands County. Web: www.peacerivercenter.org

Peaceful Paths
Peaceful Paths is teaming up again this year with River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding on October 5th for the March and Rally for Peace. Marchers should meet on the steps of the Hippodrome State Theater in Gainesville at 4:00 p.m. and will march and rally to end bullying and domestic violence. On October 15th, Executive Director Dr. Theresa Beachy leads visitors on a tour of Peaceful Path’s Emergency Services campus expansion. This year marks 40 years of service to the community by Peaceful Paths. Their 40th Anniversary Vigil will be held at the Peaceful Paths outreach office in Gainesville on October 30th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Web: www.peacefulpaths.org

Refuge House
Refuge House is organizing a number of activities for October. On October 16th, the Gadsden County Domestic Violence Speak Out begins at 6:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Quincy. The Domestic Violence Awarenessness Community Luncheon will be held on October 21st from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Crawfordville. The Domestic Violence Speakout and Candlelight Vigil will take place on October 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Tallahassee’s Tom Brown Park. Music, survivor speakouts and a keynote speech are featured. Web: www.refugehouse.com

Spring of Tampa Bay
On October 10th, The Spring teams up with the popular Ruth’s Chris Steak House for the 2nd annual Ruth’s Chris Lunch to benefit shelter programs. Lunches are $25 and are served from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Participants may dine in or carry out. On October 13th from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Dr. Jason Katz will lead Gender-Based Violence Prevention Training. Dr. Katz will describe the ways domestic violence should be viewed not merely as a women’s issue, but something where men can and should play a major role. This unique training will be held at the University Area Community Development Center located at 14013 N. 22nd Street in Tampa. The Spring will host the 24th annual Mabel H. Bexley Gift of Peace Lunch on October 22nd. This fundraising and educational event begins at 11:15 a.m. and takes place at the Tampa Convention Center at 333 South Franklin Street in Tampa. Tickets are $50. The Spring is participating with regional centers with ABC Action News and their Taking Action Against Domestic Violence Campaign. On October 22nd, ABC Action News will host a live one-hour special/telethon to benefit the area’s certified domestic violence centers.

For more information: www.get2zero.org. Web: www.thespring.org

SafeHouse of Seminole
On October 10th, SafeHouse of Seminole hosts the 3rd annual Purses for a Purpose event at Crane’s Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. The event is free and features live music, food and drinks along with family activities. A silent auction of designer purses benefits SafeHouse. The evening concludes with a lighted walk around the lake in honor of domestic violence survivors. Purses for a Purpose begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register: www.leavehethemhurtbehind.com. Web: www.safehouseofseminole.org

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC)
Those looking for fitness, camaraderie and a desire to raise awareness are invited to join SPARCC on October 25th for the Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Walk. Everyone is invited from power walkers, children, parents with children in strollers and even dogs (dogs will receive a free purple bandana). The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at JD Hamel Park in Sarasota. Web: www.sparcc.net

Safespace North and Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims
On October 4th, Safespace North and Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims, in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Police Department, will hold their annual Domestic Violence Walk to raise awareness and funds. Web: www.safespacefoundation.org

Safe Space
Safe Space will host three Walk a Mile in Her Shoes walks during October. Men will trade in their shoes for stilettos for one-mile walks designed to raise funds and awareness for victims of domestic violence. The walks are scheduled for: October 4th from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Riverwalk Stage in downtown Stuart, October 11th from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Tradition Square in Port St. Lucie, and October 25th at Indian River Mall in Vero Beach from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Congressman Patrick Murphy will be on hand to join some of the walkers. Web: www.safespacefl.org

Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program
The Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program will host the 5th annual Keith Brockhouse Invitational Golf Tournament on October 3rd at Baytree National Golf Club located at 8207 National Drive in Mel-
Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc.
During the entire month of October, participating East Pasco businesses will Paint Pasco Purple by setting up displays showing support for domestic violence awareness. On October 1st, Domestic Violence Awareness Month kicks off with the Paint Pasco Launch Party at Creative Canvas. One-day art lessons are offered to the public with a percentage of proceeds going to Sunrise of Pasco County. Lessons are offered from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 2640 Cypress Ridge Road in Wesley Chapel. Golfers can enjoy the links for the Holes for Hope Golf Tournament on October 6th. The day includes golfing, food and drink, a silent auction, and raffles. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club. On October 16th, Sunrise will host the Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force Luncheon at the Dade City Women’s Club. The event is designed to thank the East Pasco Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force for its commitment to ending domestic and sexual violence. A candlelight vigil to honor victims and survivors of domestic violence will be held on October 23rd at Lamb Park in Dade City. The general public is invited to the event which begins at 6:00 p.m. More information on all October events is available by calling Sunrise Administration at 352-531-3858. Web: www.sunrisepasco.org

Vivid Visions
Vivid Visions will join with Another Way and Refuge House for the Hats Off for Domestic Violence Brunch on October 10th at the First Baptist Church in Lake City from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The event will feature a keynote speaker and a survivor testimonial. For more information: vividv@windstream.net

Women in Distress of Broward County
Women in Distress (WID) will be hosting a survivor celebration for participants on October 10th, the event will include a children’s talent show, adult survivor story and/or poem reading, a lantern ceremony and dinner. Throughout October, WID will be conducting a library tour at local libraries to provide training and public awareness opportunities. On October 22nd, WID and its community partners will honor the lives of those lost to domestic violence in Broward County through their Silent Witness event. The event is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and will be held at Nova Southeastern University. Web: www.womenindistress.org

YWCA of Palm Beach County
The YWCA of Palm Beach County is teaming up with Patchington to raise awareness of domestic violence through fashion. During the month of October, Patchington will sell 25% off tickets for merchandise as well as purple scarves with a portion of the proceeds provided to the center. Web: www.ywcapbc.org

Serene Harbor, Inc.
Serene Harbor will host the 9th annual Purses With a Purpose Luncheon in Melbourne on October 3rd. Throughout the luncheon, a silent auction will take place featuring new designer purses, jewelry, baskets, gift certificates. Tiffany Carr, CEO of the FCADV will serve as keynote speaker and Serene Harbor is pleased to welcome former Florida First Lady Columba Bush as honorary guest. The event ends with an exciting live auction of new designer purses. Festivities begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 2605 North Highway A1A. For more information or to register: serene-harbor@cfl.rr.com. Web: www.sereneharbor.org

Shelter for Abused Women and Children
On October 11th, the Shelter for Abused Women and Children will ensure “Mercato Goes Purple.” The restaurants, shops and art galleries at Mercato, a shopping district in Naples, will go purple for the evening to raise awareness of domestic violence. Shelter staff will be available to provide informational handouts and talk with visitors about domestic violence. Mercato Goes Purple runs from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. The shelter team will tour eight locations around Collier County as part of the Flash Mob Trolley Awareness Tour on October 15th. Along the way, the Domestic Violence Task Force will distribute domestic violence information, rack cards and nail files promoting awareness. On October 27th, the Shelter’s annual Immokalee Children’s Fair will take place at the Immokalee Sports Complex. Food and prizes are provided along with educational booths for children and their families regarding domestic violence, healthy relationships and available community support services. Executive Director Linda Oberhaus will offer opening remarks at 3:00 p.m. The Sports Complex is located at 505 Escambia Street in Immokalee. Web: www.NaplesShelter.org

Shelter House
Shelter House will join with the Ft. Walton Beach and South Walton Boys and Girls Clubs for the inaugural Walk 4 Respect event on October 22nd. The Okaloosa and Santa Rosa School Superintendents are scheduled to kick off the event with a proclamation reading beginning at 4:00 p.m. Following motivational remarks, the walk begins from both Clubs. Participants will be asked to sign a pledge supporting the goals of eradicating bullying and showing kindness and respect. Signs and other visual representations of statistics will be part of the walk. Contact Shelter House at 850-243-1201 for more details. Web: www.shelterhousenwfl.org

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