

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 2008

MEDIA CONTACT

Kim Wells, Executive Director
Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence
309-664-0667 (work)
309-339-2859 (cell)
kwells@caepv.org

The Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV) and 30 other community organizations come together with a single message for Central Illinois—"Once You Phone, You're Not Alone"—highlighting resources available to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.

October 15 has been designated as "It's Time to Talk Day" throughout Central Illinois.

Bloomington, IL — In our area, there are more than three domestic violence crimes reported to police each day. Last year, Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence Program served **823** adults and **89** children who were victims of domestic violence and they received **3661** calls for help on their 24-hour telephone hotline. The YWCA McLean County's Stepping Stones sexual assault program had **1131** client contacts and **853** hotline, information and referral calls.

Wouldn't it be great to have a single day where we turn to one another and actually talk about two issues that you may not realize are more common than breast cancer? These issues, by their nature, make people uncomfortable – **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** and **SEXUAL ASSAULT**.

The Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, in partnership with 30 other local organizations and Liz Claiborne Inc., has designated October 15, 2008, as "It's Time to Talk Day" in Central Illinois, hoping to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault and get people talking about these pervasive social issues.

This year's theme for "It's Time to Talk Day" is *Once You Phone, You're Not Alone*—encouraging individuals and families impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault to pick up the phone and reach out for assistance. Participating community organizations hope to educate the community on local resources available for victims, survivors and their families while also removing questions about what happens after a call to 911, a crisis hotline or a report to the hospital following abuse.

Among the highlighted events happening throughout "It's Time to Talk Day" is a free conference featuring experts discussing the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault on individuals at different stages of the lifespan. The conference, *"Once You Phone, You're Not Alone: Reporting and Responding to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault"* will be held at Illinois Wesleyan University's Memorial Center on October 15 and will introduce attendees to local first responders.

- MORE -

McLean County State's Attorney Bill Yoder said "This conference along with all of the day's events are important to help educate the community in understanding the working relationships among emergency responders, the police, prosecutors, and community agencies who work together to assist victims of domestic abuse in our community at the most vulnerable time in their lives. When a victim phones, we all work together to ensure she is not alone."

The McLean County State's Attorney's Office is hosting "People vs. Perry – A Mock Trial" at the McLean County Museum of History in Downtown Bloomington at 6:00PM on October 15. This event, also free and open to the public, illustrates a case of domestic violence and sexual assault. Immediately following the mock trial, Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence Program will hold a candlelight vigil to remember victims and honor survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Verizon will conduct a HopeLine drive for no longer used cell phones during the week of October 13 through October 17, donating an additional \$3 for each phone collected during that period. HopeLine is Verizon Wireless' signature program which turns no longer used wireless phones into support for victims of domestic violence. The collected phones are either refurbished or sold, with the proceeds used to purchase newer wireless phones for domestic violence victims and to support domestic violence shelters and organizations.

"The phones donated to HopeLine do more than just provide emergency communications," said Kim Wells, Executive Director of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence. "The phones give victims the courage to venture beyond the safety of their homes, to go to work, or to go shopping and take their children to school, knowing that, if they are threatened, help is just a phone call away." Collection bins will be situated at the following locations:

- Heartland Community College
- Illinois State University (Bone Student Center – Leadership & Service Office and University Program Board Office; Minority Student Academic Center; Student Counseling Services; Diversity Advocacy Office)
- Illinois State University Police Department
- Lincoln College - Normal
- Radio Bloomington
- State Farm Insurance Companies (Corporate Headquarters Atrium; Corporate South H-1 Atrium,; Corporate South P-1 Lobby)
- Town of Normal Police Department
- YWCA McLean County
- Illinois Wesleyan University Memorial Center's Young Main Lounge (on October 15th only)
- McLean County Museum of History (On October 15 only)

Working together, our community can assure that on this day, everyone will be taking a moment to talk about the fact that 25 percent of women and eleven percent of men in the United States will be abused by someone they love in their lifetime.

- MORE -

You can make a difference on October 15! Talk to someone in your life about the signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships. If you are not sure how to get the conversation started please see Liz Claiborne's educational handbooks, which are designed to give you practical and easy advice on ways to begin to talk about the issue. The handbooks are available at www.loveisnotabuse.com.

For further information about "It's Time to Talk Day" or domestic violence issues, contact Kim Wells, Executive Director of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence at (309) 664-0667 or kwells@caepv.org.

For a complete list of events, visit: http://www.caepv.org/about/program_detail.php?refID=39

#

Additional event information and statistics follow.

Local Organizations involved in “It’s Time to Talk Day”

Radio Bloomington
11th Judicial Circuit Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council
Bacchus Club (Heartland Community College)
Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington/Normal
BlackSTARR (Illinois State University Registered Student Organization)
Bloomington Police Department
Central Illinois Men Against Domestic Abuse (CIMADA)
Children's Foundation (a program of the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois)
City of Bloomington
Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence
Collaborative Solutions Institute
COUNTRY Financial
East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Family Community Resource Center
Feminist Lead Activist Movement to Empower (FLAME, Illinois State University Registered Student Organization)
Heartland Community College (HCC)
Illinois State University (ISU)
ISU Student Counseling Services and Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services
Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU)
Lincoln College - Normal
McLean County Government
McLean County Domestic Violence Multi-Disciplinary Team
McLean County State's Attorney's Office
Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence Program
PATH (Providing Access to Help)
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Soroptimist International (Midwestern Region)
State Farm Insurance Companies
Town of Normal / Town of Normal Police Department
Verizon Communications / Verizon Wireless
YWCA McLean County

Local Events – Important Dates & Times

News Conference & Announcement of “It’s Time to Talk Day”

WHEN: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 (8:00–8:30AM)

WHERE: Illinois Wesleyan University - Memorial Center's Young Main Lounge
104 E. University Street, Bloomington, IL

CONTACT: Kim Wells, kwells@caepv.org, (309) 664-0667 **or** (309) 339-2859

SPEAKERS:

- Yadira Ruiz – Director of Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Program, YWCA McLean County
- Honorable Bill Yoder – McLean County State’s Attorney
- Kimberley Boyd – Domestic Violence Coordinator, Family & Community Resource Center
- Nicole Butler – Survivor (**NO PHOTOGRAPHS / CAMERAS**)
- Jon Cook – 911 Dispatcher, Bloomington Police Department
- Deborah White – Director, Mid Central Community Action’s Countering Domestic Violence Program

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: The Bloomington Police Department Dispatchers have agreed to run through a mock 911 call during their conference presentation. This presentation will take place from **9:15–9:45AM** on October 15 at the free conference *“Once You Phone, You’re Not Alone: Reporting and Responding to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault”* following the news conference. This conference also takes place in Illinois Wesleyan University Memorial Center’s Young Main Lounge. All news conference speakers will be available for questions at the end of the news conference.

FREE Conference - "Once You Phone, You're Not Alone: Reporting and Responding to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault"

This conference will introduce attendees to our first responders—from dispatcher and law enforcement, to advocate and sexual assault nurse examiner. Event speakers will also look at how domestic violence and sexual assault can impact an individual throughout their lifetime.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 (8:30-5:00PM)

WHERE: Illinois Wesleyan University - Memorial Center's Young Main Lounge
104 E. University Street, Bloomington, IL

COST: Free and open to the public, registration required.

CONTACT: Debra Hubbard, 11thfvcc@gmail.com, (309) 888-5037

SPEAKERS

- Detective Mike Burns - Bloomington Police Department
- Whitney Clark – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
- Jon Cook – 911 Dispatcher, Bloomington Police Department
- Erin Hall – 911 Dispatcher, Bloomington Police Department
- Holly Zielke - Elder Abuse and Neglect Program Northern Region Coordinator, Illinois Department on Aging,

- CONFERENCE INFORMATION CONTINUES -

ADDITIONAL PANELISTS INCLUDE:

- Nathan Bassett - Caseworker and Child Abuse and Neglect Investigator, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services,
- Jake Fulk – Staff Attorney, Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.
- Jennifer McCoskey – Assistant State's Attorney, McLean County State's Attorney's Office
- Annorah Moorman - Director of Counseling, Illinois Wesleyan University
- Yadira Ruiz - Director of Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Program, YWCA McLean County
- Melissa Slama - Mid Central Community Action, Countering Domestic Violence Program / Neville House

Soroptimist Sponsored Lunch & Learn - "Wake Up Call vs. Crisis"

This "Lunch & Learn" opportunity is designed for parents as an introduction to relationship violence and how it might be impacting their children and teens. Topics include recognizing the warning signs, discussing relationship violence with your children, identifying Internet and cell phone harassment, and more!

WHEN: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 (Noon - 1:00PM)

WHERE: Lancaster's Restaurant in Downtown Bloomington
513 N. Main Street, Bloomington, IL

COST: Free to general public, but registration required. Box lunch available for \$10.00 and must be reserved in advance.

CONTACT: Karen Fleming, kmfleming1973@yahoo.com, (309) 454-2513

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Diane Zosky - Illinois State University, Department of Social Work
- Amy Mobley-McFarland - Attorney at Law, Mobley Law Offices

McLean County State's Attorney's Office - "People vs. Perry" a mock trial case of domestic violence and sexual assault

Guilty or not guilty? It may not be as easy as you think! "People vs. Perry" is a mock trial of a case involving domestic violence and sexual assault. This mock trial will involve participants from the audience and help those who attend learn what happens in a case involving domestic violence and sexual assault.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 (6:00PM)

WHERE: McLean County Museum of History in Downtown Bloomington (Old Courthouse)

COST: Free and open to the public, but not suitable for children under 14.

CONTACT: Jennifer McCoskey, Jennifer.McCoskey@mcleancountyil.gov, (309) 888-5400

The YWCA McLean County's Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Program and Mid Central Community Action's Countering Domestic Violence Program will have resource tables available. *Clothesline Project* and *Silent Witness* displays will be shown in the entrance to the courtroom. A candlelight vigil will be held immediately following the mock trial to remember victims and honor survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Verizon Wireless HopeLine Phone Drive

The HopeLine phone recycling program collects and donates wireless phones and equipment to assist victims of domestic violence. Verizon Wireless has generously agreed to provide a \$3.00 match for any phone donation collected through designated donation sites during the week of "It's Time to Talk Day." These funds will stay in Central Illinois to assist victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

WHEN: Monday, October 13 – Friday, October 18

CONTACT: Karen Boswell, Karen.boswell@verizon.com, (309) 454-7803 **or** (309) 838-1670

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Heartland Community College (October 13 - 17)
- Illinois State University throughout campus (October 13 - 17)
- Illinois State University Police Department (October 13 – 17)
- Illinois Wesleyan University Memorial Center's Young Main Lounge (October 15)
- Lincoln College - Normal (October 13 - 17)
- McLean County Museum of History (October 15)
- Radio Bloomington (October 13 - 17)
- State Farm Insurance Companies (October 13 -17)
 - Corporate Headquarters Atrium
 - Corporate South H-1 Atrium
 - Corporate South P-1 Lobby
- Town of Normal / Police Department (October 13 - 17)
- YWCA McLean County (October 13-17)

Additional Events

- Local governments and universities have issued proclamations of "It's Time to Talk Day" and October as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," encouraging citizens to take a moment to talk about domestic violence. Proclamation signers include: McLean County, City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Heartland Community College and Lincoln College – Normal.
- Extensively running a special television show about domestic violence in all Illinois State University residence halls from October 12 – October 18.
- Airing public service announcements and radio interviews addressing the issue of domestic violence. (Radio Bloomington)
- Sponsoring a half-page advertisement in, *The Pantagraph*.
- Local schools are working with the YWCA of McLean County to share the message of safety, wellness and healthy relationships.
- Distributing domestic violence awareness brochures to clients.
- Holding seminars for employees.
- Providing information to employees via the Internet and Intranet.
- Writing informational articles for employee newsletters
- Family Community Resource Center is holding community awareness events and lunch & learn opportunities throughout the month of October.

National Statistics

In a national survey released in October 2005, the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence polled 1,200 full-time employed adults across the US in the first-ever national benchmarking telephone survey regarding domestic violence and its impact on the workplace. Among the major findings were:

- 21% of full-time employed adult respondents (men and women) identified themselves as victims of intimate partner violence
- 44% of full-time employed adults surveyed personally experienced domestic violence's effect in their workplaces
- 66% of those surveyed indicated they were not aware of their employer having a workplace domestic violence policy
- 64% of victims of domestic violence indicated that their ability to work was affected by the violence

The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year. Of this total, nearly \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and mental health care services and productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (*Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, US Centers for Disease Control. Report released April 28, 2003*)

According to the CDC, intimate partner violence victims lose a total of nearly 8.0 million days of paid work—the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs—and nearly 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of the violence. (*Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, US Centers for Disease Control. Report released April 28, 2003*)

In a Safe Horizon survey released in September of 2008, one out of every five Americans say they have been a victim of child abuse (21%), and 59% say that they know someone who has personally been affected by child abuse. Although nearly all Americans (95%) say they are concerned about child abuse, the numbers demonstrate that people do not get involved.

- When actually confronted with suspected child abuse, only 6% of Americans said they contacted authorities, 6% contacted the police, and 19% contacted child protection services.
- 38% of Americans cite fear as a reason why people might be reluctant to report suspected cases of child abuse: fear of reprisals/or being sued (16%); fear they could be wrong and or labeled as an abuse (16%); and a simple general fear of what would happen if they did get involved (6%).
- 97% of Americans say that everyone has a responsibility to prevent child abuse and protect children, but 33% say people are reluctant to report suspected cases because they do not want to get involved.

In a Liz Claiborne Survey released in March 2006, half (50%) of the 1,004 teens surveyed reported they've been in a *dating* relationship and nearly a third (32%) said they've been in a *serious* relationship. This same survey found that:

- One in four teens (24%) reported feeling pressure to date; and 14% said they would do almost anything to keep a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- In the same survey, 20% of teenagers who have been in a serious relationship report being hit, slapped or pushed by a partner.
- A significant number of teens (14%) said they have been threatened with physical harm—either to them or self-inflicted by their partner—to avoid a breakup.
- One out of 10 of these teens have been threatened with the spread of rumors by their partner as a means of control.
- A shocking 7% said someone in a relationship has either threatened to kill them or commit suicide in an attempt to stay together.