Dear friends,

While we can't come together in person this year, as a United Way agency, The Women's Center encourages you to support the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

The pandemic's effect on victims of domestic violence: An Excerpt

It's always hard to measure the scope of domestic violence—and it's particularly challenging in 2020, with many factors related to the pandemic making it even more difficult. Even before the Coronavirus Shutdown began, in March and April, police incident reports declined.

Looking at the types of domestic violence reported, we also see that domestic violence reports are going down, even the most violent categories of domestic crimes aren't. Among the domestic incidents reported by the Chicago Police Department during the month of March and the first two weeks of April were three murders and 79 shootings, both of which represent a slight increase from the year before. Reported by The Marshall Project in the article, "A Domestic Violence Surge in the Coronavirus Shutdown? Here's What the Data Shows," published April 24, 2020.

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What YOU Need to Know

Here are different ways you can get involved and help spread awareness throughout the month:

- **Sign up to receive our virtual DVAM Toolkit, which includes customizable graphics, text, and other materials to print, post, and share each Monday in October with a new resource for you to share and help build awareness about domestic violence.**
  - Sign up as an individual or a company representative at www.twcwaukesha.org/event/dvam.
- **Mention DVAM in your conversations: Tell your friends, family, and co-workers that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**
  - Share a statistic with them to help others learn and let them know this is why you support The Women’s Center.
  - Domestic violence accounts for 32% of all reported violent crime in the United States.
  - The Women’s Center worked with over 1,100 unduplicated adults and child survivors of domestic violence in 2019.
  - 20 people are victims of physical violence every minute in the United States.
- **Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.**
  - Like our posts and share them with your network to help spread our missions and messages.
- **Wear purple on Thursday, October 22 for Purple Thursday.**
  - Take a picture and share it on social media to help build awareness.
- **Help Light the Way to End Domestic Violence by purchasing a purple light bulb at TNT Ace Hardware on Summit Dr in Waukesha and display it in your home or business throughout the month.**
  - A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to The Women’s Center.
- **Donate to The Women’s Center!**
  - Share the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event, plus an exclusive one household device to view the virtual event.
  - **Give a gift online at www.twcwaukesha.org/donate** to help raise awareness and change society’s response and attitudes toward domestic violence.

How YOU Can Get Involved

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Economic Impact:

Not only can the trauma from domestic violence have lifetime effects on survivors themselves, the impact of domestic violence has a great economic effect on society as a whole, making awareness and prevention efforts relevant to everyone.

This crime is under-reported and fear-mongered, impacting 1 in 3 women across our community, and we want everyone to understand the importance of their own investment in addressing interpersonal violence. Beyond the humanity of supporting individuals and families overcoming the cycle of violence, working to eliminate domestic and sexual abuse comes with economic benefits to our broader community.

Agencies like ours partner with publicly-funded law enforcement and emergency medical providers to provide immediate crisis intervention. Afterward, survivors may need long-term medical and mental healthcare, either paid for through their employer’s insurance plan or with state-provided benefits, legal protection and representation, processes supported by the District Attorney’s office and public defenders.

Consider scheduling a presentation with our Domestic Violence Prevention Advocate to help raise awareness and change society’s response and attitudes toward domestic violence.

Learn more at twcwaukesha.org.