



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency: How you can help raise domestic violence awareness this October



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The Domestic Violence Services Department of Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency has been gearing up for October, which is recognized nationally as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple is the symbolic color for domestic violence awareness and this month, the agency's Domestic Violence Intervention Program is joining the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and communities across the state in a campaign

to “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” by turning New York state purple. The campaign encourages public, private and nonprofit entities to raise awareness of the issue by embracing the color purple — the symbolic hue for domestic violence awareness — by shining purple lights on building or other structures in their communities. Over the next month, as you travel down Genesee Street in Auburn, you will notice purple lights illuminating the lamp posts, and the city bell tower will shine purple throughout the entire month of October.

There are many awareness activities planned for the month of October, all starting with a fundraiser to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The second annual Purple Tie Event will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at the Springside Inn. All proceeds raised from this event will benefit the Domestic Violence Services Department. The event will feature raffles, live and silent auctions, food, a photo booth and music by the Diana Jacobs Band. Tickets are \$25 and available for purchase at our office at 89 York St., Suite 1, or our website, cscaa.com/dvfundraiser.html.

On Oct. 15, the Domestic Violence Services Department will host the fifth annual Wear Purple Day Event that will be held on the steps of the Cayuga County Courthouse at noon. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple, gather to hear brief remarks about the impact of domestic violence in our community, and participate in a balloon release. If you would like to be a part of this event or have a story you would like shared, you can email me at sbarnard@cscaa.com.

We must work as a community to shine the light on domestic violence and raise awareness of this important issue. This October, let's join together to support the many

victims of domestic violence in our community. By shining a light on domestic violence, we can illuminate the path to safety and support for those who are living in danger and fear. If you are concerned about your safety, or are worried about a friend or family member, the Domestic Violence Intervention Program offers a confidential 24-hour hot line you can call anytime to receive information, emotional support and emergency help. Our hotline number is (315) 255-6221.

The agency's Domestic Violence Intervention Program is the county's residential and non-residential provider of domestic violence services. The Domestic Violence Services Department provides a variety of emergency and supportive services to assist victims of domestic violence through the process of leaving abusive relationships and building safe, self-sufficient futures. The program provides victims of domestic violence with safety planning, individual supportive counseling, temporary safe shelter, advocacy and support groups. In program year 2013, the program provided 1,700 bed nights of emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence, responded to 373 hot line calls and provided non-residential services to 169 victims of domestic violence.

If you are interested in getting involved in Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, please contact me at (315) 255-1703 ext. 124 or sbarnard@cscaa.com.