



RAISE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

## Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency: Help raise domestic violence awareness at Purple Tie Event, Wear Purple Day



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The Domestic Violence Services Department of the 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, CSCAA is joining the 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; the Memorial City Hall bell tower will shine purple throughout October.

The third annual Purple Tie Event will kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month and will raise funds to support domestic violence services in Cayuga County. This event will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Springside Inn, and includes raffles, auctions, food and music by The Fools, from Rochester. Tickets are \$25 and available for purchase at our office at 89 York St. Suite 1, the Springside Inn or online at [cscaa.com/dvfundraiser.html](http://cscaa.com/dvfundraiser.html).

At noon Wednesday, Oct. 21, CSCAA will host the sixth annual Wear Purple Day event on the steps of the Cayuga County Courthouse. 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 part of this event or have a story you would like shared, please email Patty Weaver, domestic violence services coordinator, at [pweaver@cscaa.com](mailto:pweaver@cscaa.com).

CSCAA’s Domestic Violence Services Department is Cayuga County’s residential and nonresidential provider of domestic violence services. The 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. Dedicated staff provide survivors of domestic violence with safety planning, individual supportive counseling, support group, temporary safe shelter, court accompaniment, advocacy and assistance seeking crime victim compensation.

Many batterers deny their victims access to financial resources, engage in tactics that destroy their credit, sabotage their employment efforts and engage in other means of financial control. All of these economic abuses make it difficult for survivors to attain financial independence from their batterer. With support of the Zonta Club of Auburn, CSCAA is launching a Financial Empowerment Program to assist survivors of domestic violence with moving toward financial self-sufficiency. Certified staff will provide one-on-one consultation and group financial literacy instruction to survivors, and provide small stipends to help participants improve their credit.

In program year 2014, Domestic Violence Services staff responded to 380 hotline calls, followed up on 164 domestic incident reports, served 48 families through the Supervised Visitation/Safe Exchange Center, and helped 26 survivors of domestic violence to obtain orders of protection, custody and/or support. Additionally, staff provided 2,227 bed nights of emergency shelter to survivors of domestic violence at our nine-bed women's safe house — an increase of 30 percent from the prior year. CSCAA also operates a seven-unit Transitional Housing Assistance Program for survivors that is typically full with a waiting list. The agency is working with a variety of local partners and private landlords to expand affordable housing options for survivors of domestic violence.

We must work together 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 survivors 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, CSCAA's Domestic Violence Intervention Program offers a confidential 24-hour hotline you can call anytime to receive information, emotional support and emergency help. Our hotline number is (315) 255-6221.

If you are interested in getting involved in Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, please contact Patty Weaver, Domestic Violence Services coordinator, at (315) 255-1703 ext. 153 or [pweaver@cscaa.com](mailto:pweaver@cscaa.com).