WIRC-CAA Victim Services

VICTIM SERVICES JOINS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Macomb, Illinois – October 2019

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any ability, age, sexual orientation, income, education level, religion, gender identity, or ethnic background. Domestic violence can take the form of child abuse/neglect, elder abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and/or physical abuse. In honor of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Victim Services wants to emphasize that everyone has a stake in domestic violence. This year, Victim Services will team up with community partners and local law enforcement in order to spread awareness of this sometimes deadly crime.

Once again, the Western Illinois University Women’s Center will collaborate with Victim Services throughout the week of October 21 to host events advocating for domestic and sexual violence awareness. The highlight of the week will be the 30th Annual Take Back the Night March and Rally. This year’s event will be held on October 24 starting at 7:00 p.m. in front of Sherman Hall at WIU in Macomb. A resource fair, complete with Victim Services’ Silent Witness display and The Clothesline Project, will be on display before the march and rally. All proceeds from Take Back the Night events will benefit Victim Services. Counseling staff will be available.

New this year, Victim Services, local fitness instructors, and members of local law enforcement will work together for a demonstration called “Drum Out Domestic Violence.” Law enforcement officials are at an increased risk when answering domestic incident calls. According to the report “Making It Safer: A Study of Law Enforcement Fatalities Between 2010-2016,” researchers found that 41 percent of law enforcement deaths from 2015 to 2016 were related to answering domestic disturbance calls. “Drum Out Domestic Violence” will raise awareness of domestic violence in western Illinois, show support for survivors, and honor the memory of citizens and officers who have died due to domestic violence. A short informational program complete with national statistics will be held after the demonstration. This unique event will be held on October 23 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Monmouth YMCA, Monmouth, Illinois; October 30 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Hamilton Elementary School, Hamilton, Illinois; and October 31 starting at 2:30 p.m. at Make Fit Happen, Macomb, Illinois.

For more information about how you can support survivors of domestic violence in your local community, call Victim Services at (309) 837-6622, visit wirpc.org, or find “WIRC-CAA Victim Services” on Facebook. If you or someone you know are being abused, call their 24-hour free and confidential hotline at (309) 837-5555.

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