



1970 West Broad Street
P.O. Box 182081
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2081
www.ocjs.ohio.gov
www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor

STATE OF OHIO

Henry Guzmán, Director

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 26, 2007

Contact: Lindsay Komlanc, Media Relations Director
(614) 752-4325 or (614) 403-6173

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WORKS TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Agency Announces Additional Funding Available for Shelters

MARIETTA, Ohio – There were more than 740 reports of family violence incidents in Washington and southern Noble counties in 2006. Domestic Violence impacted a reported 135,645 adults and children in Ohio in 2006 (source, Ohio Attorney General's Office). There are likely countless other victims who did not report the crime.

The rural region and geographic isolation in southeast Ohio make it more difficult for victims to seek, access and accept help. Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) officials, the Washington County Commissioners, Representatives from Washington County Children's Services and representatives from EVE Inc., the region's only domestic violence shelter, gathered at the Commissioners' Office today to honor domestic violence victims and raise awareness of the services available to the southeast Ohio region.

ODPS, through its Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) works with other agencies, law enforcement and victim advocates to create awareness for domestic violence to foster positive social change and healthier communities. OCJS provides grants to support domestic violence shelters and programs, as well as other non-profit victim service agencies and units of local government in order to provide and enhance services to victims. In fiscal year 2006, OCJS awarded more than \$8 million to support these programs throughout Ohio.

OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore presented the Washington County Commissioners/Washington County Youth Services and Eve Inc. with ceremonial checks for \$22,500 and \$47,000 respectively for reimbursement grants. The entities are receiving the grants through OCJS from Family Violence Prevention Service Act funds. In addition, Moore announced that there will be an additional \$15,000 for each of Ohio's 64 registered shelters available for fiscal year 2008. OCJS will begin notifying shelters of the additional funds in early November and disbursement of the funds will begin soon after.

"Access to assistance is critical to breaking the cycle of violence," Moore said. "Far too many lives have been shattered by this crime. We need to work together to reach out to victims and provide the assistance they need to pick up the pieces of their lives and ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are held responsible."

To help raise awareness for this growing problem, Gov. Strickland declared October Domestic Violence awareness month in Ohio, in coordination with national efforts to create awareness for the issue, celebrate those who have survived domestic violence and continue to encourage advocates to work together to provide coordinated services to improve public understanding of domestic violence.

###