



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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OHIO WRAPS UP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Efforts will continue year-round; manual for victim services to be released in November

(COLUMBUS) – The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) joined survivors, friends, families, co-workers, agencies and communities this month to recognize the 23rd annual National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division within ODPS, coordinated an internal donated items collection drive that will benefit Central Ohio domestic violence shelters as well as developed a Web site dedicated to domestic violence awareness. Additionally, a victim services manual, entitled, *Excellence in Advocacy: A Victim-Centered Approach* will be released next month. This manual, developed by victim advocacy experts from around the state, is a guide for advocates who have been in the profession five years or less and contains foundational information that victim advocates should know when working with crime victims.

“The Department is committed to raising awareness of this issue year-round,” said ODPS Director Thomas J. Stickrath. “It is our hope that by continuing to provide resources, education and raising awareness for this issue will reduce and prevent domestic violence incidents in our communities.”

OCJS continues to work with law enforcement and other criminal justice service agencies as well as victim advocates to create awareness about domestic violence. OCJS also seeks to create a positive social change and healthier communities. In 2009, OCJS provided more than \$17 million in grant funding to programs aimed at addressing the issue of domestic violence in our communities. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center, housed at OCJS, serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations as they provide assistance to victims and offers a variety of services such as providing victim advocacy/assistance, organizing workshops, giving presentations and conducting research on family violence and its impact on Ohio communities.

In support of this effort, Governor Ted Strickland declared October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ohio. This month of awareness is in coordination with national efforts to bring to light the issue, celebrate those who have survived and continue to encourage advocates of all professional disciplines to work together to provide coordinated services, which improves the public’s understanding and response to domestic violence.

For more information, please visit: http://ocjs.ohio.gov/DVM/DVM_Home.html

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OCJS is the state’s lead criminal justice planning agency and works to reduce violence in Ohio through various programs and partners. The agency works with communities and agencies offering funding opportunities, technology, research and training, as well as publications.