

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – A Time to Stand Up and Speak Out!

President's Report

Tiffany Carr, President/CEO

In the past few weeks, I have been asked more times than I can count if I've seen THE video. Most of the people that have called and emailed don't even refer to the video by any specific name or person, it is always just THE video. They are, of course, talking about the second video of Ray Rice punching and knocking out his then fiancé Janay. For the record, I have not, nor do I intend to. The initial video of him dragging her body out of the elevator was self explanatory.

While a part of me is thrilled that we are finally having a meaningful national conversation about domestic violence – it saddens me that it took sensationalized coverage to generate that level of public outrage. And once again, what I was most struck by was the number of people that asked me “why didn't she leave him?” and “why did she marry him?”. Instead everyone should have asked “why was he choosing to beat her?”.

As I travel throughout the state, the other primary question I hear from people is associated with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's employment. It seems everyone wants to know if I believe the commissioner should be fired or are his efforts sufficient to maintain his position. My response is very strong and clear “I am uninterested in opining about the Commissioner's employment. He has 32 owners that will determine his fate as commissioner of the NFL”. So much talk about the NFL is nothing more than noise, in my opinion, and distracts from the real discussion which should be squarely focused on why men are beating and killing women in this country and not being held accountable. What I want to talk about is why the criminal justice system had the videos in their possession and decided to plea the case out. And then I want to talk about what great role models our athletes can be for our young boys.

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A New Resolve this Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Chair's Message

Angela Diaz-Vidaillet, FCADV Board Chair and Executive Director of Victim Response, Inc. The Lodge, Miami

Domestic Violence Awareness Month feels a little different this year. We all know why, a single video that displayed the ugly, raw, physical, effects of domestic violence. A video that wasn't two actors portraying violence, but an actual act of REAL physical domestic violence. We saw the crime committed before our eyes, on our computer screens and in our living rooms.

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Together We Can End Domestic Violence

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of individuals, centers, and advocacy groups sharing the goal of eliminating domestic violence.

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As those of us who have worked in this field know, what occurred in the video is happening every day – numerous times a day. In fact, every 15 seconds of every day a woman is battered in this country. We know that every single day in the U.S. women (primarily), children and men are being killed by someone who is supposed to love them, or use to love them. If the video has done anything, it has exposed domestic violence to the world, in real time and in real life. Perhaps it will help everyone recognize that domestic violence happens in every community and in every neighborhood. Domestic violence does not discriminate, it occurs regardless of ethnicity, religion, age, marital or economic status. There is no single picture of either a survivor of domestic violence, or a perpetrator of that violence.

Last year my Domestic Violence Awareness Month message was about “Why is it OK?” this year, we are finally seeing movement toward a national dialogue that it isn't OK. The result of a single act of domestic violence caught on a hotel elevator video tape that went viral almost overnight has changed the conversation. We still

have much work to do. Like Tiffany, I'm still asked far too many times - “why did she stay...” but I'm also being asked why is violence against a stranger prosecuted differently than violence against an intimate partner. This year we are seeing college football coaches like Alabama's Nick Saban, who brought in speakers to talk about domestic violence before the video was released. We are seeing sports commentators like James Brown, speaking out forcefully that our language matters and our silence is deadly. We are seeing men holding men accountable for their actions. It's a start.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is just that, one month; but we can keep the dialogue going, we can keep the conversation alive. We can create the lasting change. But it takes all of us. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Foundation uses the following tag line, and I think it says it all!

Domestic violence does not go away by looking away. It stops when we stand up together. It stops when we say it must, and not just one of us, but all of us.



We are opening the door to hope!

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I believe this is a watershed moment in the domestic violence movement and has triggered a national outrage against violence against women and children. And because of social media, survivors are being hugely courageous and casting their fears aside to tell their stories through #whyistayed and #whyileft. Celebrities like Meredith Vieira are speaking out and telling their personal stories because they are exhausted with the same discussion that constantly focuses on victim blaming. Women are speaking out and educating the general public about the complexities of domestic violence.

Now, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is time for each of us to stand hand in hand within our state and in our country to say NO to domestic violence. If you are outraged by what is happening in our country, be outraged for the long haul. Outrage should always equal action - so get involved and call your local certified domestic violence center and offer to volunteer, to contribute, or to help in whatever way you can.

Be a part of the solution. Together we can create lasting change; together we can end domestic violence!

Florida's Allstate Agents and Domestic Violence Centers Changing Lives

FCADV, along with Allstate Florida, are thrilled to announce a new, comprehensive statewide economic justice effort that will ultimately impact survivors statewide. *Florida's Allstate Agents and Domestic Violence Centers Changing Lives* is an exciting new project that provides funding for Harbor House of Central Florida and Shelter House to educate survivors about financial literacy. Each center will utilize the Allstate economic empowerment program, *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management* to work with survivors of domestic violence to create financial plans, open bank accounts, implement matched savings programs, provide economic advocacy, gain access to earned income tax credits, and effectively meet survivors' personal financial goals. In addition to these new projects, FCADV and The Allstate Foundation currently fund Peaceful Paths, Peace River Center and the Shelter for Abused Women and Children to implement similar programs. An integral part of this collaborative initiative was the formation of the Statewide Advisory Team which is comprised of local Allstate agents and certified domestic violence center directors. The team is currently gearing up to hold press conferences throughout Florida to formally launch the

newly expanded FCADV, Allstate Florida, Allstate local agencies and certified domestic violence center partnerships. The team will roll out three consecutive months of local donation drives leading up to the January 2015 event to benefit participating local domestic violence centers. A vital outcome of this innovative project includes local Allstate agents partnering closely with certified domestic violence centers to raise awareness about the centers' lifesaving services and to refer survivors to services when they become aware of domestic violence. Local Allstate agents will attend FCADV-led webinars to learn about the dynamics of domestic violence and how to refer survivors to local and statewide resources such as the area's certified domestic violence center and the Statewide Hotline. These important statewide and local partnerships will build the foundation necessary to ensure all of Florida's certified domestic violence centers have the capacity to share vital information with survivors to not only learn how to create financial safety plans, but also how to become financially independent from an abusive partner. Stay tuned for future articles on this exciting initiative including a story on local project partners' experiences working with survivors on financial empowerment.

Historic Capitol Illuminated in Purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Attorney General Pam Bondi orchestrated buildings in Tallahassee, Miami and Tampa to light up purple in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The evening of October 1st the Historic Capitol (pictured above), the Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College and the SunTrust



Financial Centre in Tampa were all illuminated in purple to raise awareness about domestic violence. "By having the building that represents our policies

and our laws bathed in purple lights, we are sending a message that we support survivors of domestic violence and their children, and that we will hold the perpetrators of that violence accountable. Once again, we applaud General Bondi's leadership in raising awareness and

combating domestic violence in our state." said Tiffany Carr, President/CEO of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Domestic Violence Awa

Since the first “Day of Unity” 33 years ago, advocates from across the country have joined together to mourn those who lost their lives to domestic violence, to celebrate and honor survivors, to recognize those who work tirelessly every day to serve survivors and their children, and to engage communities to become more aware and educated about domestic violence. While much has changed in the past 33 years, the work to end domestic violence continues.

Florida’s certified domestic violence centers and their community partners engage in projects and programs year-round to save and change lives. Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity to highlight some of the events certified domestic violence centers have planned throughout the state.

Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT)

In collaboration with the Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition, ACT will participate in a **Halloween Party Cruise** on October 31st from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. On October 21st ACT will host a **Minute Mentoring Event** that brings community members who are survivors of domestic violence together with clients to discuss job and career opportunities, ask questions about how the “mentor” got started, and network and mingle. Web: www.actabuse.com.

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)

On October 11th, AVDA hosted the 15th annual **Race for Hope: Racing to Stop Domestic Abuse**. This event celebrates the strength, courage and determination of those rebuilding their lives. The event combined fitness, food and fun, and had something for every member of the family including a 5k run/walk, a 10k run and a Kid’s Dash. Liz Quirantes of WPEC CBS in West Palm Beach served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Web: www.avdaonline.org.

Another Way, Inc.

Another Way will host a **5k Run** to raise funds and awareness on October 18th at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Lake City. For additional information: www.anotherwayinc.net.

Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA)

On September 27th, former Governor Charlie Crist and Carole Crist co-hosted the inaugural **CASA Gala** at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg. All proceeds benefitted CASA. On October 16th, CASA held a **candlelight vigil** for staff, volunteers, Board, Foundation and Council Members. The private vigil was open to

shelter participants but not to the general public. CASA’s **Clothesline Project** will take place on October 23rd and be on display all day at the USF St. Pete Student Center. Also on October 23rd is CASA’s **2014 Annual Meeting: Past, Present and Future**. The meeting will take place at the Museum of History and is open to staff, Board, Foundation, Councils, volunteers and invited guests. Web: www.casa-stpete.org

Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association (CASA)

On October 18th, CASA is hosting its **Costume Party Celebration** at the old Historical Courthouse in Inverness and promises to be the party of the year. Tickets are \$20. On October 22nd, CASA is joining other Tampa Bay area centers as part of the **ABC Action News’ Telethon** from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Web: www.casafl.org.

Dawn Center of Hernando County

Dawn Center of Hernando County is holding a **Chinese Lantern Release** on October 24th to honor survivors and recognize those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. The program features presentations from Dawn Center of Hernando County, Hernando County Sheriff’s Office and a survivor speakout. The event culminates in a candlelight walk to remember and the Chinese lantern release. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at Pine Island Beach, 10800 Pine Island Drive in Spring Hill. Web: www.thedawncenter.com

Domestic Abuse Council

On September 27th, Domestic Abuse Council launched Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities with the highly popular **Purple Parade**. The Parade raises awareness to prevent bullying and domestic violence. The 5th annual **Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon** took place on October 14th at the Halifax River Yacht Club, 331 Beach St. in Daytona Beach from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Live music, testimonials from survivors and the swearing in of a new Board of Directors were just some of the activities planned. Tickets are \$30. Web: www.domesticabusecouncil.com

Family Life Center

On September 27th, Family Life Center hosted the 3rd annual **Walk a Mile in Her Shoes** event in Palm Coast. Men walked in women’s shoes to demonstrate that domestic violence is not just a women’s issue. Web: www.FamilyLifeCenterFlagler.com

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

Harbor House

Harbor House will **Paint the Town Purple** during October. From October 20th -24th, the Harbor House team will spread awareness throughout Orange County and beyond by distributing information on domestic violence, the services provided by Harbor House and to engage the public in the effort to stop domestic violence. Harbor House teamed with Help Now of Osceola and local pastors for the **Central Florida Healthy Relationship Preach-In** from October 3rd -5th. This outreach effort engaged pastors to include messages on healthy relationships in their sermons during the first weekend in October. Spiritual leaders are working with Harbor House to provide suggestions for sermons for pastors willing to participate. On October 22nd, Harbor House will host the **Purple Door Breakfast** in Orlando. The goal of this fundraising breakfast is to end domestic violence by providing survivors and their children with the resources needed to meet their short-term and long-term goals. Thanks to sponsors, this year's event is free, but guests can partner with Harbor House to help further prevent and eliminate domestic abuse. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Orlando, Faith Hall at 3000 S. John Young Parkway in Orlando. Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Web: www.harborhousefl.com

Haven of RCS

The Haven of RCS will host the 13th annual **FACES of Domestic Violence Luncheon** on October 23rd at 11 a.m. in Clearwater. Award winning journalist Lissette Campos of ABC Action News will serve as host for this increasingly popular event. Last year more than 450 attended. Angela Emery and Kristen Paruginog, Executive Director of Break the Silence Against Domestic Violence, will share their stories with attendees. The event takes place at Matheos Hall at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 409 South Old Coachman Road. Web: www.rcspinellas.org

Help Now of Osceola

Help Now will host **Help Now Lunch and Learn** events on October 2nd, October 16th and October 21st. All three events take place at the Help Now Outreach office conference room and begin at 12:00 noon. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch. On October 2nd, Help Now led the 8th annual **March Against Domestic Violence & Candlelight Vigil**. County officials, survivors and Youth Ambassadors will lead the march through the streets of Kissimmee culminating with the vigil to honor those who have lost their lives. Help Now joined with Harbor House on October 3rd – 5th for the **Central Florida Healthy Relationship Preach-In** (see Harbor House). On October 17th, Help Now and the Osceola Domestic Violence Task

Force invited the public to attend the annual conference **“Victim ...Survivor...Thriver: A Survivors’ Journey Towards Empowerment”** at the Osceola Heritage Park, Extension Services Meeting Room in Kissimmee. For more information on events: info@helpnowshelter.org. Web: www.helpnowshelter.org

HOPE Family Services

Throughout the month of October, HOPE Family Services will distribute purple ribbons and information throughout the community. On October 11th they participated with an information table at a charity event at the grand opening of Macy's University Town Center in University Park (Manatee County). Information tables will also be present at Bradenton downtown Farmer's Market and at Chico's in Ellenton Outlet Mall on October 25th. Web: www.hopefamilyservice.org

Hubbard House, Inc.

Hubbard House kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities on October 1st with a press conference featuring Hubbard House CEO Ellen Siler and Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford. The press conference was designed to begin the effort to raise awareness and release the 2012 Domestic Violence Fatality Report. On October 15th, Hubbard House hosted the 20th annual **Barbara Ann Campbell Memorial Breakfast** at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel in Jacksonville, located at 225 E. Coastline Drive. The event marked the anniversary of the day, 20 years ago, when then Jacksonville Mayor Jake Godbold stood and told the tragic story of his sister-in-law's murder. Each year, different survivors have come forward to tell their inspirational stories. Sponsorships and individual seats are available for purchase. Web: www.hubbardhouse.org

Martha's House

On October 3rd, Martha's House held a **Glo-Light Vigil** with more than 400 lights signifying the survivors receiving services from the center over the past year. The event was held in conjunction with the Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta. Martha's House will hold **Family Together Day** on October 25th to encourage families to participate and learn about healthy relationships, services available in the community and about domestic violence services and prevention. Live entertainment, vendor booths, police and fire equipment displays, food and an auto show are planned for the event. The event takes place between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee and is open and free to the public. Web: www.marthashouse.org

Peace River Center

Peace River Center is joining with local agencies to provide information and awareness materials at several local events. They had an information table available at the Polk County Sheriff's Office for **law enforcement training** on October 1st, at Lakeland's First Friday on October 3rd, and on October 8th at Polk State College in Lakeland. On October 4th, Peace River Center joined with the community for the **Heather's Hope 5K Run and Walk** that included a Clothesline Project, awareness and prevention table and a mini memorial. More information is available at www.heathershope.net. Peace River Center also joins other Tampa Bay area shelters for **ABC Action News Day and Telethon** and the **Tampa Bay Buccaneers tailgate**. (See Spring of Tampa Bay). **Silent Witness Memorials** are on the calendar with displays at Brewster's Coffee House in Sebring and locations throughout Polk and Highlands County. Web: www.peacrivercenter.org

Peaceful Paths

Peaceful Paths teamed up again this year with River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding on October 5th for the **March and Rally for Peace**. Marchers met on the steps of the Hippodrome State Theater in Gainesville and marched and rallied to end bullying and domestic violence. On October 15th, Executive Director Dr. Theresa Beachy led visitors on a tour of Peaceful Path's Emergency Services campus expansion. This year marks 40 years of service to the community by Peaceful Paths. Their **40th Anniversary Vigil** will be held at the Peaceful Paths outreach office in Gainesville on October 30th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Web: www.peacefulpaths.org

Refuge House

Refuge House is organizing a number of activities for October. On October 16th, the **Gadsden County Domestic Violence Speak Out** begins at 6:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Quincy. The **Domestic Violence Awareness Community Luncheon** will be held on October 21st from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Crawfordville. The **Domestic Violence Speakout and Candlelight Vigil** will take place on October 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Tallahassee's Tom Brown Park. Music, survivor speakouts and a keynote speech are featured. Web: www.refugehouse.com

Spring of Tampa Bay

On October 10th, The Spring teamed up with the popular Ruth's Chris Steak House for the 2nd annual **Ruth's Chris Lunch** to benefit shelter programs. On October 13th Dr. Jason Katz led **Gender-Based Violence Prevention Training**. Dr. Katz described the ways domestic violence should be viewed not merely as a women's issue, but something where men can and should play a major role.

The Spring will host the 24th annual **Mabel H. Bexley Gift of Peace Lunch** on October 22nd. This fundraising and educational event begins at 11:15 a.m. and takes place at the Tampa Convention Center at 333 South Franklin Street in Tampa. Tickets are \$50. The Spring is participating with regional centers with ABC Action News and their **Taking Action Against Domestic Violence Campaign**. On October 22nd, ABC Action News will host a live one-hour special/telethon to benefit the area's certified domestic violence centers.

For more information: www.get2zero.org. Web: www.thespring.org

SafeHouse of Seminole

On October 10th, SafeHouse of Seminole hosted the 3rd annual **Purses for a Purpose** event at Crane's Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. The event was free and featured live music, food and drinks along with family activities. A silent auction of designer purses benefited SafeHouse. The evening concludes with a lighted walk around the lake in honor of domestic violence survivors. Web: www.safehouseofseminole.org

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC)

Those looking for fitness, camaraderie and a desire to raise awareness are invited to join SPARCC on October 25th for the **Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Walk**. Everyone is invited from power walkers, children, parents with children in strollers and even dogs (dogs will receive a free purple bandana). The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at JD Hamel Park in Sarasota. Web: www.sparcc.net

Safespace North and Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims

On October 4th, Safespace North and Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims, in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Police Department, held their annual **Domestic Violence Walk** to raise awareness and funds. Web: www.safespacefoundation.org

Safe Space

Safe Space will host three **Walk a Mile in Her Shoes** walks during October. Men will trade in their shoes for stilettos for one-mile walks designed to raise funds and awareness for victims of domestic violence. The walks are scheduled for: October 4th from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Riverwalk Stage in downtown Stuart, October 11th from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Tradition Square in Port St. Lucie, and October 25th at Indian River Mall in Vero Beach from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Congressman Patrick Murphy will be on hand to join some of the walkers. Web: www.safespacefl.org

Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program

The Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program held the 5th annual **Keith Brockhouse Invitational Golf Tournament** on October 3rd at Baytree National Golf Club. Web: www.salvationarmyncbrevard.org

Serene Harbor, Inc.

Serene Harbor hosted the 9th annual **Purses With a Purpose Luncheon** in Melbourne on October 3rd. Throughout the luncheon, a silent auction took place featuring new designer purses, jewelry, baskets, gift certificates. Tiffany Carr, CEO of the FCADV served as keynote speaker. The event ended with an exciting live auction of new designer purses. Web: www.sereneharbor.org

Shelter for Abused Women and Children

On October 11th, the Shelter for Abused Women and Children ensured "**Mercato Goes Purple.**" The restaurants, shops and art galleries at Mercato, a shopping district in Naples, went purple for the evening to raise awareness of domestic violence. Shelter staff were available to provide informational handouts and talk with visitors about domestic violence. Mercato Goes Purple ran from 5:00 p.m – 11:00 p.m. The shelter team toured eight locations around Collier County as part of the **Flash Mob Trolley Awareness Tour** on October 15th. Along the way, the Domestic Violence Task Force distributed domestic violence information, rack cards and nail files promoting awareness. On October 27th, the Shelter's annual **Immokalee Children's Fair** will take place at the Immokalee Sports Complex. Food and prizes are provided along with educational booths for children and their families regarding domestic violence, healthy relationships and available community support services. Executive Director Linda Oberhaus will offer opening remarks at 3:00 p.m. The Sports Complex is located at 505 Escambia Street in Immokalee. Web: www.NaplesShelter.org

Shelter House

Shelter House will join with the Ft. Walton Beach and South Walton Boys and Girls Clubs for the inaugural **Walk 4 Respect** event on October 22nd. The Okaloosa and Santa Rosa School Superintendents are scheduled to kick off the event with a proclamation reading beginning at 4:00 p.m. Following motivational remarks, the walk begins from both Clubs. Participants will be asked to sign a pledge supporting the goals of eradicating bullying and showing kindness and respect. Signs and other visual representations of statistics will be part of the walk. Contact Shelter House at 850-243-1201 for more details. Web: www.shelterhousenwfl.org

Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc.

During the entire month of October, participating East Pasco businesses will **Paint Pasco Purple** by setting up displays showing support for domestic violence awareness. On October 1st, Domestic Violence Awareness Month kicked off with the **Paint Pasco Launch Party** at Creative Canvas. One-day art lessons were offered to the public with a percentage of proceeds going to Sunrise of Pasco County. Golfers enjoyed the links for the **Holes for Hope Golf Tournament** on October 6th. The day included golfing, food and drink, a silent auction, and raffles. On October 16th, Sunrise co-hosted the **Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force Luncheon** at the Dade City Women's Club. The event was designed to thank the East Pasco Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force for its commitment to ending domestic and sexual violence. A **candlelight vigil** to honor victims and survivors of domestic violence will be held on October 23rd at Lamb Park in Dade City. The general public is invited to the event which begins at 6:00 p.m. More information on all October events is available by calling Sunrise Administration at 352-531-3858. Web: www.sunrisepasco.org

Vivid Visions

Vivid Visions joined with Another Way and Refuge House for the **Hats Off for Domestic Violence Brunch** on October 10th at the First Baptist Church in Lake City. The event featured a keynote speaker and a survivor testimonial. For more information: vividv@windstream.net

Women in Distress of Broward County

Women in Distress (WID) hosted a **survivor celebration** for participants on October 10th, the event included a children's talent show, adult survivor story and/or poem reading, a lantern ceremony and dinner. Throughout October, WID will be conducting a **library tour** at local libraries to provide training and public awareness opportunities. On October 22nd, WID and its community partners will honor the lives of those lost to domestic violence in Broward County through their Silent Witness event. The event is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and will be held at Nova Southeastern University. Web: www.womenindistress.org

YWCA of Palm Beach County

The YWCA of Palm Beach County is teaming up with Patchington to raise awareness of domestic violence through fashion. During the month of October, Patchington will sell 25% off tickets for merchandise as well as purple scarves with a portion of the proceeds provided to the center. Web: www.ywcapbc.org



425 Office Plaza Dr.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: (850)425-2749
Fax: (850)425-3091
Hotline: 1-800-500-1119

Florida Voice is published to inform supporters, members, interested individuals, and organizations of the activities of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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On Sunday, October 5, 2014 the Iota Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity at Florida State University formed a purple human ribbon to spread awareness of domestic violence. Rebecca Levin chaired the project and brought together more than 80 people to create the purple ribbon. Levin shared the goal that "by working together we can end domestic violence."