



People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse

"Every Home a Safe Home"

News Release

For further information, Contact:
Lindsay Blumer (920) 674-6748

For Immediate Release

Governor Declares April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

(Jefferson, WI) Along with leaders across the nation, Governor Doyle has declared April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month for Wisconsin. The Governor's proclamation recognizes that sexual violence "continues at an alarming rate," and emphasizes the need for greater community awareness of the effects of sexual violence and how everyone has a role in ending sexual violence.

In conjunction with Governor Doyle's proclamation People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse (PADA) in Jefferson County is joining thousands of advocates across the country in celebrating Sexual Assault Awareness Month. "April is a time we celebrate the work we do year round to end sexual violence here in our community," says Lindsay Blumer, executive director of PADA, "It's time we all took a stand against sexual assault, exploitation, and abuse".

According to the most recent statistics released by the Office of Justice Assistance, 5,618 sexual assaults were reported to police in 2004, an increase of nearly 4% over 2003. Furthermore, it is recognized that this number represents only a fraction of the actual number of assaults. According to the FBI and the Centers for Disease

Control, sexual assault is more likely than any other crime to go unreported and it is estimated that nearly two-thirds of all sexual assaults are never reported.

“Decide to End Sexual Assault, It’s Up to Each of Us” is the theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, 2007. PADA is using this theme for 2007 with a variety of educational materials about sexual assault, presentations, and free window static stickers announcing this slogan.

“There are simple ways each of us can take a stand against sexual violence on a daily basis”, says Blumer. “We set a powerful example every time we talk to our kids about the importance of respect and equality in relationships, every time we speak up if someone makes a degrading comment, every time we demonstrate support for survivors of sexual violence. By educating ourselves and talking with others, we can challenge each other and our community to reject sexual violence.”

To receive a copy of the “Top 10 Things You Can Do to End Sexual Violence” and a free window static cling sticker contact PADA at 920-674-6748.

PADA’s mission is to provide advocacy and options to victims of domestic abuse and sexual abuse, educate the community, and utilize coordinated community efforts to end domestic and sexual abuse. Last year PADA took almost 1,000 crisis calls and served over 500 clients. For more information about PADA or the services they provide please contact PADA at 920-674-6748 or visit them on the web at www.padajc.org.

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