



## ***News Release***

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

For Immediate Release

### **PADA Planning Special Community Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**(Jefferson, WI)** October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time when People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse (PADA) honors survivors and victims of domestic abuse and educates the community about domestic abuse so everyone can make the resolution to end violence in homes across Jefferson County.

During October, PADA offers a wide array of special programming for students, parents, professionals, and community members to learn about violence and its effects on everyone's health. This month PADA is launching a Purple Ribbon Campaign which is aimed at educating and bringing awareness toward reducing violence in society, the community, schools, and most importantly, homes.

As part of the purple ribbon campaign national speaker Tom Santoro will present his "*Dear Lisa*" program to the community. On **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Fort Atkinson High School** Mr. Santoro will talk about his daughter's death at the hands of an ex-boyfriend, the warning signs he and his wife saw, and what they would have done differently. This powerful presentation is titled "Is My Child Really Safe from Violence?". The presentation is free and childcare and refreshments will be provided. Additionally, Mr. Santoro will be visiting almost all the high schools in Jefferson County

to speak with students about dating violence and the warning signs of an abusive relationship.

Additionally, everyone can get involved in Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year by simply going out to dinner. On October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> participating restaurants in Jefferson County will be donating 15% of their total food sales to PADA and the Watertown Counseling Center. Look for a list of participating restaurants in the local paper.

The community will also see PADA advocates at local community fairs, at community presentations, and in area schools. Advocates will be at the Lake Mills Fall Festival of Color on October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Commons Park in Downtown Lake Mills, at the Jefferson Autumn Fest on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Main Street in Downtown Jefferson, at the Watertown Fall Festival on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Main Street in Downtown Watertown, at the Watertown Wal-Mart Kids Safety Fair on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Watertown Wal-Mart, and at the Jefferson County Fall Family Expo on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to remember the pervasive problem of domestic violence. One in four women will be abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. In fact, one of every five women treated in emergency rooms was injured by a current or former husband or boyfriend and, sadly, four women are murdered each day by an intimate male partner. Here in Jefferson County PADA took almost 1,000 crisis calls in 2005 and helped hundreds of individuals, particularly women and children, create safety plans and find safe places to live.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed.

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. For more information about PADA or any of the events taking place throughout October please contact PADA at 920-674-6748.

###