



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Cathy Collins-Taylor, Director
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Ted Strickland, Governor

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OHIO AGENCIES JOIN TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(COLUMBUS) – Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce and Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Cathy Collins-Taylor today joined together to raise awareness for domestic violence and the impact it has on survivors, friends, family and co-workers.

In support of this effort, Governor Ted Strickland declared October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ohio. The awareness is in coordination with national efforts to light the issue, celebrate those who have survived and continue to encourage advocates to work together to provide coordinated services to improve the public's understanding of domestic violence.

“The domestic violence calls received by local law enforcement agencies last year affected the lives of 58-thousand survivors... and that’s in Ohio alone,” said Attorney General Cordray. “For the first time in some twenty years of gathering these statistics, the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation in my office began working with researchers and the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project this year to be sure this important data is put to use. BCI is also working hand-in-hand with law enforcement agencies to ensure that our data continues to improve, allowing us to better understand the breadth and scope of this problem and provide more meaningful help to those survivors.”

The Office of Criminal Justice Services, a division of ODPS, is working with law enforcement agencies and victim advocates to create awareness for domestic violence to create positive social change and healthier communities. In 2008 OCJS awarded more than \$7 million between STOP Violence Against Women Act, Justice Assistance Grant and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funding to approximately 157 programs to address the alarming problem of intimate partner violence in Ohio communities.

“Domestic violence can happen to anyone, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion or age,” said ODPS Director Cathy Collins-Taylor. “Domestic violence impacts us all and the Department of Public Safety is committed to working with our partners to help offer services for victims and support for law enforcement to end this horrible crime.”

In addition to internal educational events and activities to support shelters, OCJS coordinated bringing the Clothesline Project display, donated by the Ohio Department of Health's Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program, to the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus for the month of October. OCJS also developed a Web site dedicated to domestic violence awareness. The site outlines the activities and programs highlighted in October as well as resources. To access the Web page, log onto <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/domesticviolence.html>.

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