

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2010



April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month

Delaware, OH – April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month. During this month, HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. (HelpLine) will offer programming to raise public awareness and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence and child abuse.

Sexual assault and child abuse affects every part of our communities. Approximately 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before the age of 18. And, in up to 90% of all child sexual abuse cases, the child knew the offender. Studies show that an estimated 12.1 million women have been raped in the United States, with a sexual assault occurring every two minutes.

“Sexual assault and abuse permeates and deteriorates society as a whole,” said Julianna Nemeth, Prevention Director at HelpLine. “The impact of its deterioration can be found in our schools, on our playgrounds, campuses, families, workplace, and threaded throughout our culture. Its pervasiveness demands a collective response in the form of education and intolerance.”

Each program slated during the month is a continuum of efforts to bring about change, promote healing, justice, and to create a tomorrow free of sexual violence and abuse. Please join HelpLine at one of the following awareness activities:

Tuesday, April 6, 13, 20, and 27 @ 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

RAD Self Defense Class for Women

HelpLine and the Delaware City Police will provide the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) system - a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. RAD is appropriate for girls and women ages 14 and older. Participants must attend all four sequential classes to complete the 12 hours required for self-defense certification. To register, contact Shilo Gall at 740.363.1835.

Location: Disclosed upon registration (class will be held in the City of Delaware.)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 @ 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Sexual Assault Response Team Training

Provide new staff and service providers with an awareness and importance of immediate reporting of sexual violence through the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training. SART's are a mixture of various disciplines working together to prevent, recognize, and prosecute sexual violence. The training will utilize the diverse and knowledgeable background of team members to train professionals on recognizing and reporting concerns of sexual violence and show how the various members work together to achieve this goal. To register, contact Connections Volunteer Center at 740.363.5000.

Location: Delaware County Bank and Trust Corporate Headquarters, 110 Riverbend Ave., Lewis Center, Ohio.

Thursday, April 22, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Stewards of Children Presented by HelpLine

Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children is a revolutionary sexual abuse prevention training program founded in response to staggering statistics: 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18. HelpLine is committed to protecting our children by empowering adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child abuse through our Stewards of Children training. Designed for organizations that serve children and youth, concerned parents and community members, the training teaches that protecting children is an adult's job. To register, contact Connections Volunteer Center at 740.363.5000.

Location: Andrews House, 39 W. Winter Street, Delaware, Ohio.

Other HelpLine endorsed community events include:

Saturday, April 17, 2010, Noon

Walk a Mile in her Shoes

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is a nationwide event that invites communities to participate in a one-mile walk to raise awareness around issues of rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. The march empowers men to join in the efforts of women in making the world a safer place. For more information, call 740.833.2688 or e-mail walkamiledelco@live.com.

Location: Ohio Wesleyan University (starting point for walk).

April 16, 17, 23, 24, 8:00 p.m. and April 25, 2:00 p.m.

The Love of the Nightingale by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Presented by the OWU Theatre & Dance program, this provocative play weaves and juxtaposes themes of love, violence and the cost of silence. For ticket information and reservations, call 740.368.3855.

Location: Ohio Wesleyan University

Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month is a specific time targeted to focus on the issues of sexual assault and abuse, but every day provides a new opportunity for communities to stop sexual assault and abuse.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, confidential help and information are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 2-1-1 or 1-800-684.2324.

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5 Ways You can Stop Sexual Violence and Child Abuse in Delaware County:

1. Be supportive of a friend who has been raped by believing her or him and by listening without blaming or judging.
2. Talk to your child, family and friends about child sexual abuse.
3. Volunteer at HelpLine through the Sexual Assault Response Network (SARN).
4. Support organizations that work to end sexual violence with your charitable gifts.
5. Invite a HelpLine educator to speak to your class, workplace, church or community organization.

About HelpLine

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that provides a 24-hour crisis support hotline, information and referral to direct services and

advocacy, and serves as the area's only volunteer center. Committed to empowering people through knowledge, support and resources, HelpLine facilitates the stability and self-sufficiency of the emotional and financial needs of the Delaware and Morrow County communities. HelpLine is a contract provider of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and partially funded by the Council for Older Adults. A United Way Agency, HelpLine is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology, National Alliance of Information & Referral Systems and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health. For more information, please visit: www.HelpLinedelmor.org.

Contacts:

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