**Newsletter Article for Faith Community Newsletters**

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and a great opportunity to learn more about domestic violence. For example, did you know 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experience domestic violence in their lifetimes? Some communities are more affected by abuse and experience more barriers to safety because of race, age, faith, class, immigration status, language, physical ability, gender, or sexual orientation. Domestic violence is abuse that can be verbal, emotional, physical, financial, sexual, or spiritual.  We’d like to think it doesn’t happen in our congregation, but the truth is that domestic violence happens in every congregation. Experiences of abuse can be difficult to talk about, and that explains why we often haven’t heard about it. We all have a critical role to play in supporting survivors of abuse, so we all need to learn more about how to help.  Please, talk to your friends and others in our congregation about your ideas, and contact our local domestic violence services agency, NAME OF LOCAL DV AGENCY and NUMBER HERE to learn more.

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911.  If you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic violence, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-SAFE (7233). For resources about faith and domestic violence, visit* [*http://www.interfaithpartners.org/dvfaith*](http://www.interfaithpartners.org/dvfaith)*.*