

PRESS RELEASE
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**“We all need to
take a stand.
It needs to be
more shameful
to be an abuser
than to be
a victim.”**

~Tammie Crabtree

Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence

Amador County, October 2018 – October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This year, Operation Care is taking a stand against domestic violence and reminding our community that there are still countless people--victims and survivors, their children and families, their friends and family, their communities--impacted by domestic violence.

“We all need to take a stand. It needs to be more shameful to be an abuser than to be a victim”, said Tammie Crabtree, Executive Director of Operation Care. Survivors of domestic violence have traditionally been quiet and sometimes ashamed about their abuse, while onlookers tend to turn away when witnessing abusive behavior. But as we have seen in recent months with the #MeToo movement, cultural and social change is obtainable when enough people speak out. “We need to stand together and tell victims we will not tolerate abusive behavior any longer,” said Tammie. “A person cannot abuse the men, women, and children in our community and think that we will turn away. We WILL take a stand, and we encourage survivors to tell their stories so that together we can stop the abuse. We cannot lose another life because of domestic violence. As a community we must ALL TAKE A STAND.”

#SurvivorSpeaks

In an effort to de-stigmatize domestic violence, and to amplify the voices of domestic violence survivors, The National Council Against Domestic Violence (NCADV.org) has implemented the #SurvivorSpeaks hashtag. In response, Operation Care will be publishing domestic violence statistics and encouraging survivors to use #SurvivorSpeaks in their social media posts to come forward with strength and share stories that need to be told, thus bringing awareness to this important issue that impacts millions of women, men, and children nationally. The #SurvivorSpeaks campaign encourages all of us to take a stand, and not stop until society has zero tolerance for domestic violence and until all victims and survivors can be heard!

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain and maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or actions/threats of actions that influence another person. Domestic Violence can happen to any person regardless of race, sexual orientation or economic status.

Everyone deserves to be in a healthy relationship, if you are constantly in fear of your partner and feeling belittled or intimidated, you are not in a healthy relationship. Operation Care offers one-to-one peer counseling, support groups for victims of domestic violence, court and hospital accompaniment, Temporary Restraining Order assistance, a 24-hour crisis line, a Safehouse for women and children, and safe shelter for men. If you or someone you know needs help, dial 911 or call the 24-hour crisis line at (209) 223-2600.

Please join Operation Care this October and Take a Stand against Domestic Violence, and use #SurvivorSpeaks to tell your story.

About Operation Care

Operation Care has been providing services and safe shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1980. During the 2017/2018 fiscal year, 42 women and children were

provided safe shelter. Advocates helped 35 victims with temporary restraining orders, and provided crisis intervention to 35 sexual assault victims. The staff provided 200 peer counseling sessions to domestic violence and sexual assault victims and provided services to 198 adults and 36 children, along with hundreds of transports to appointments, court, and other locations.

The mission of the organization is to provide domestic violence and sexual assault support services, crisis intervention and education in Amador County. For more information call 209-223-2897 or visit www.operationcare.org and <https://www.facebook.com/operationcare>.

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