Each year, in October, advocates, survivors, and supporters recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). It is an opportunity for the issue of domestic violence to rise above the noise of busy lives.

More prevalent than most realize, one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes. Anyone, regardless of gender, race, sexual identify or orientation, or socio-economic status, can become a victim of domestic violence. We don’t talk about domestic violence. Because of that, domestic violence thrives in silence. This year’s campaign theme, Every1 knows Some1 Shatter the Silence, Stop Domestic Violence, strives to highlight how common domestic violence is and that it is more than physical violence. To be able to support survivors, and to prevent domestic violence in the future, we all need to normalize talking about it openly and candidly. We need to change the conversation around domestic violence – and we need your help to do it.

As a society, we all have a role in changing the narrative about what domestic violence is, to whom it happens, and how we can support those who are experiencing it, and, ultimately, prevent it entirely. Every1 Knows Someone1 who is impacted by domestic violence, and Every1 has a part to play in supporting the Coalition’s work to end domestic violence.
ALL IN THE NAME OF LOVE

It is all dark in a theatre. A popular romantic film is running on the big screen. In a gripping scene, after an altercation with the parents of his love interest, the male protagonist is out of his wits angry. Enraged, he first warns the girl and then proceeds to slap her across the face.

A man in the audience hoots in appreciation. As for him, that slap is an expression of the male protagonist’s love for the girl and the power of masculinity.

For some, it was just a film. Yet, for many women, it was nothing short of a nightmarish dystopia. The year was 2019 and the film was Kabir Singh.

With studies in gender becoming more advanced and feminist ideas taking shape, one realizes that violence in the name of love is not justified. Causing a violation (whether physical or mental) of your romantic partner in the name of love is not justified. Time and again, our movies have not just normalized but portrayed violence in the name of love as powerful, intense love.

Media often perpetuates dangerous domestic violence myths, like:

- Blaming Victims
- Using sensationalized words and images
- Exploiting trauma

Survivors deserve better. Media must tell domestic violence stories correctly: supporting survivors and holding abusers accountable.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Every1 Knows Someone who has been impacted by domestic violence and every survivor deserves safety and support. Some things to say when a domestic violence survivor shares their story with you:

- I believe you.
- You deserve to be treated with respect.
- I’m glad you shared that with me.
- How can I support you right now?

Check out @nnedv’s 10 Tips to Have an Informed Conversation about Domestic Violence.

https://nnedv.org/content/10-tips-informed-conversation/

Another valuable resource is

https://nnedv.org/resources-library/tips-helping-friend-experiencing-domestic-abuse-covid-19/
Creating a Path of Peace, Justice and Safety
IN MARION COUNTY

Since 1991, Pee Dee Coalition has been providing crisis intervention and advocacy services to the citizens of Marion County. For 31 years, the Coalition has utilized donated office space designed for one County Coordinator/Advocate. With the acquisition of increased federal funding, the Coalition now has a full complement of staff to address the complex needs of victims as well as provide community education, training, and prevention education (child abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, and self defense) to increase reporting and responsiveness to local needs.

The long-term goal of the Coalition has been to secure permanent space in each of its eight counties to provide crisis intervention and support services to victims and their families. Now is the time for reaching that goal in Marion County — the last county to complete the long-term goal.

Pee Dee Coalition now owns the property located at 1328 North Main Street in Marion. The building is in need of renovations to bring it up to code. Creating a Path of Peace, Justice and Safety will support the renovation, equipment and furnishings of the new Marion County Satellite Crisis Center. For information on how you can be a part of this endeavor, contact Ellen Hamilton at echamilton@peedeecoalition.org or 843-669-4694.

Abuse is a lot closer to home than you may realize. Nearly half of all men and women experience emotional / psychological abuse from an intimate partner.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Are You a Victim?
Do you know someone who may be a victim?

Have you ever experienced any of the following – committed by your spouse, partner, or dating partner?

Physical Abuse: Hitting, punching, kicking, slapping, strangling, smothering, using or threatening to use weapons, shoving, interrupting your sleep, throwing things, destroying property, hurting or killing your pets, and denying medical treatment when you need it.

Sexual Abuse: Forcing sex, making you feel fearful about saying no to sex, forcing sex with other partners, forcing you to participate in demeaning or degrading sexual acts, violence or name calling during sex, and denying contraception or protection from sexually transmitted infections.

Emotional Abuse: Constant put-downs or criticisms, name calling, “crazy making”, acting superior, minimizing the abuse or blaming the victim for their behavior, threatening and making one feel fearful, isolating the victim from family and friends, excessive jealousy, accusing the spouse of having affairs, and watching where the partner goes and who they talk with.

Emotional abuse is a very effective tactic for abusive partners to obtain power and control and it can cause extreme danger to the victim’s self-esteem. Commonly, emotional abuse makes the victim feel like they are responsible for the abuse and to feel crazy, worthless and hopeless. It is so damaging that many survivors of domestic violence report that they would have rather been hit than to endure the ongoing psychic damage of emotional abuse.

Financial Abuse: Giving the victim an allowance, not letting the victim have their own money, hiding family assets, running up debt, interfering with the victim’s job and ruining the victim’s credit. Financial abuse is the most powerful tactic for entrapping a victim in the relationship.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS A VICTIM OF ONE OR MORE OF THESE BEHAVIORS, HELP IS AVAILABLE. CALL THE PEE DEE COALITION’S 24-HOUR CRISIS LINE FOR FREE CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE.
Calling All Runners

In Honor of October's National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Pee Dee Coalition Announces

Breaking Free From Domestic Violence
Pee Dee Coalition’s 11th Annual October 2022
Distance Challenge

Breaking Free will be a distance-challenge for individuals and teams that will be held virtually throughout the month of October. With violence on the rise since the pandemic we have set a goal of raising $50,000 through this event. This will be split between our New Beginnings Transitional Shelter in Wallace SC (4 miles from Cheraw) and our Emergency Shelter in Florence

30 Miles In 1 Month Challenge
Complete 30 miles at your own pace or compete in the Longest Distance Challenge

Shatter the Silence
Stop Domestic Violence

Register at

https://BreakingFree5k15k.itsyourrace.com/
Alternatives to Violence (ATV) is the Coalition’s domestic violence offender intervention program. ATV is dedicated to reducing domestic violence through:

- Group counseling for domestic violence offenders
- Case tracking
- Information and referrals
- Community education
- Training for professionals

ATV teaches alternatives to the anger, rage, frustration, fear, isolation, and desperation that are part of the abusive relationship. Every relationship has conflict and arguments, but not every relationship has abuse. Many couples fight in fair and non-abusive ways. Many couples ignore the abuse because at first it does not occur frequently. ATV can teach alternative ways of dealing with emotions without the use of violence.

Apologies and remorse do not stop domestic violence. The period of calm and closeness after an abusive episode is only a part of the cycle of violence. Chances are, the violence will happen again – and again – and again. Generally, each time the violence happens, there is a progression in its intensity.

The only way for change to happen is for the abuser to accept responsibility for the abusive behavior. Admit the abuse. Seek help. Support others in the ATV group. Replace abusive behavior with appropriate alternatives. Foster personal responsibility and accountability.

Any abuse in a domestic relationship is too much abuse.

Domestic violence awareness month is a call to action to educate ourselves and our communities about the impact of domestic violence and to support those who are affected. It is an opportunity to come together and make a difference.

Shatter the silence, stop domestic violence.

Domestic violence has grown in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak. It’s not just a number, it’s someone – a family member, a neighbor, a coworker, a friend, or even someone who sits near you in your house of worship. Domestic violence affects all of us, and all of us must be part of the solution. You can be a part of the solution by learning more about domestic violence and talking about it openly in your family and with your friends and coworkers.
A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

In the Spring of 2022, Kylie Mitchell, a local high school student was assigned a project on advocacy. Several months before, she and her mother were faced with the death of a family friend, who allegedly was a victim of domestic violence. The trauma they experienced in losing someone they were close to had an impact on their lives but with courage and determination, they turned that loss into an opportunity to share kindness.

Kimberly Mitchell is a local REALTOR® in Florence who assisted her daughter, Kylie in working through her project while making it an inspiration to help others. They made contact with Pee Dee Coalition where Shana Sullivan, the Florence County Services Coordinator, provided them with information on domestic violence and the services provided by the organization's victim advocates. They then met with the Florence Police Department to learn about their role in responding to domestic violence calls and how they work with Pee Dee Coalition to assist victims.

Out of that learning process, came a plan for the year: Kimberly and her daughter, Kylie are supporting the Coalition. Their financial gifts and fundraising efforts, their volunteer time, Kimberly's contacts throughout the community, Kylie's access to students and groups within her school – all are ways they can help and will be helping as they make this journey of kindness and caring.

Scion Health Awards Grant

Pee Dee Coalition received a grant award from Scion in the amount of $7500 for the Alternatives to Violence program. The funds will be used to support the groups meeting in Darlington County and overall program development. Scion is the parent company of Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center in Hartsville. In order to apply for the grant, Pee Dee Coalition was nominated by a Carolina Pines employee Miranda Peavy because “Pee Dee Coalition does so much for our community.”

Pictured are: Carolina Pines CEO Bill Little, President of the Darlington County Chapter Board Pat Segars, Darlington County Volunteer Coordinator Pam Johnson, and ATV Program Coordinator Priscilla Muldrow.

“How we raise our sons is going to make a huge difference for tomorrow. We have to raise sons who are capable of emotional literacy and love and compassion.”

By Jane Fonda and the Omega Institute
MISSION

Pee Dee Coalition is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to the needs of victims.

PHILOSOPHY

It is the belief of Pee Dee Coalition that the reduction of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse is a community issue and concerns the total community – not only women, not only service providers – but all who value the basic human desire to be free from physical threat and harm.

VISION

Through the efforts of Pee Dee Coalition in its entirety, the region will be a safer, more compassionate community.