



Lake County, Ohio

Lake County Board of Commissioners

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2021 "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH"

PAINESVILLE, OH, October 5, 2021 – With the staggering statistic, on average, of nearly 20 people in the U.S. being physically abused by a domestic partner every minute, the Lake County Board of Commissioners felt there was no time like the present to recognize October of 2021 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". In one year, this number equates to more than 10 million women and men. In their lifetime, 1 out of every 4 women and 1 in 7 men have or will be victims of severe physical violence by a domestic partner and on an average day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.

"Issuing this proclamation is a way to raise awareness and show our support to the victims and survivors", stated Board of Commissioners President, John Hamercheck. "Leaving an abusive environment can be extremely difficult and we are incredibly fortunate as a county to have agencies such as Forbes House, the Domestic Violence Shelter, for those in need", he added.

The Board presented Kathy Strancar, Executive Director of Forbes House, with the proclamation at their September 30th meeting. In 2020, Forbes House provided shelter for 276 adults and children ranging from newborns to 81 years of age. Advocates responded to more than 2,000 calls and 741 crisis calls from hospitals or police departments. "Currently, Forbes House is the only shelter located in Lake County that is dedicated to providing confidential services to domestic abuse survivors. They offer shelter in a safe and supportive environment and we are grateful for the important role they play in helping to rebuild lives", stated Commissioner John Plecnik. Commissioner Ron Young agreed, adding, "Healing from the trauma of abuse is extremely challenging and no one understands this more than the compassionate team at Forbes House. No one deserves to be in an unhealthy relationship and they treat everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve".

"The Commissioner's proclamation provides a level of recognition that naturally and immediately increases awareness of domestic violence. It sends a message to survivors that they matter, that our community cares and that abuse is unacceptable," said Kathy Strancar.

If you or someone you know is caught in the cycle of domestic abuse, please contact their helpline at (440) 357-1018 or visit their website at forbeshouse.org. Their team of trained professionals will make sure you get the help you need.

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