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MARJAREE MASON CENTER INVITES FRESNO COUNTY TO RAISE AWARENESS THIS OCTOBER

Marjaree Mason Center encourages community participation in DVAM with social media campaigns and events.

Fresno, CA (September 29, 2017) – The Marjaree Mason Center is marking the 30th annual occurrence of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) this October with several social media campaigns and educational events the Fresno community is encouraged to participate in.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was created by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and began as an occasion titled “Day of Unity” which was held in October 1981. The Day of Unity soon grew into a week and in October 1987, the first National Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed.

“Domestic violence continues to be an unspoken epidemic in our society,” said MMC Executive Director Nicole Linder. “By participating in Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are pulling back the curtain and saying abuse is never OK.”

The Marjaree Mason Center works to raise awareness about domestic violence and abuse in Fresno County year round, but DVAM is a time when everyone can contribute to the cause to better the community.

Here’s how the media, schools, organizations, businesses and individuals can get involved:

- **Share MMC PSAs.** MMC produced two PSAs to raise awareness about DV in recent years: one highlights the [emotional trauma of DV](#) and the other [calls men to action](#) to play a part in ending DV.
- **Go #MakeupFreeforMMC.** Post a makeup-free selfie (group selfies are encouraged) on social media to raise awareness about domestic violence and refuse to cover up abuse. Use #MakeupFreeforMMC and tag @MarjareeMasonCenter.
- **Attend the Top Ten Professional Women & Leading Business Awards Luncheon.** Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Two-time Olympic gold medalist and DV survivor Ruthie Bolton is the keynote speaker. Public tickets are sold out, but media is encouraged to attend. Email communications@mmcenter.org for more.
- **Purple Thursday.** October 19. Wear purple to raise awareness. Use #PurpleThursday and tag MMC!
- **Understanding Domestic Violence and the Church.** October 20, 2017, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at People’s Church. Julie Owens, a pastor’s daughter and a survivor of domestic violence, will discuss how the church can educate and support members. CEUs available. Register online at www.dvandthechurch.eventbrite.com.
- **Donate.** In one year, MMC provides services for over 5,700 adults and children. Your gift can make a difference in the lives of domestic violence victims. Visit mmcenter.org or call 559.237.4706 for more information.

About Marjaree Mason Center

For nearly four decades, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence in Fresno County. Currently, the Center operates the county's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services, including education for victims and youth. The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. The Marjaree Mason Center supports and empowers adults and children affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent and end the cycle of abuse through education and advocacy. To contact MMC, call the business center at 559.237.4706, the 24-hour confidential emergency hotline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or visit online at www.mmcenter.org.