

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in intimate relationships, used by one partner to exert power and gain control over the other; and

**WHEREAS,** Domestic violence can involve physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological threats or actions; and

**WHEREAS,** Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or education; and

**WHEREAS,** The statistics are sobering:

- Nationwide, one in four women will experience domestic violence sometime in her life;
- Eighteen domestic violence-related fatalities in Idaho have been reported by the news media this year;
- More than 500 victims of domestic violence and their children seek safety and services from community-based domestic violence programs in our State each day;
- In 2010, the Idaho State Police documented 5,945 incidents of violence between spouses, ex-spouses, and those in dating relationships, for an average of one *reported* violent incident every 88 minutes;
- In 2010, Idaho courts received 4,637 petitions for domestic violence civil protection orders;
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2003, health-related costs of intimate partner violence exceed \$5.8 billion annually, including nearly \$4.1 billion in direct medical and mental health services, and nearly \$1.8 billion in lost productivity or wages;
- In one 24-hour period domestic violence victim advocates answered 152 emergency hotline calls;
- In the same 24-hour period approximately 340 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups in Idaho last year, but at least 67 requests for services in Idaho went unmet;
- Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse provided support to over 400 individuals locally last year;
- Ninety-seven of those found safety in our local emergency domestic violence shelter, for a total of 1,921 bed nights; and

**WHEREAS,** Due to reduced funding and a shortage of staff, domestic violence programs are unable to keep up with increasing demands for services; and

**WHEREAS,** Growing up in a violent home can be a significant negative factor in children's development; and

**WHEREAS,** Responding to domestic violence calls poses a particular risk to law enforcement personnel, due to the emotionally-charged nature of such calls; and

**WHEREAS,** Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse works with local partners, including law enforcement, to provide help to people in Latah and Whitman Counties who are affected by domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS,** Domestic violence shatters lives, destroys families, and devastates communities; and

**WHEREAS,** It is incumbent on all of us to work together to prevent domestic violence, to respond to the needs of victims, and to help ensure that offenders are held accountable;


**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nancy Chaney, Mayor for the City of Moscow, do hereby proclaim October 2011 as

### *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

in Moscow and I urge all citizens to join Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, and other community partners in efforts to end domestic violence.



DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2011

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Nancy Chaney, Mayor