

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 25, 2010

Contact: Andrea L. Fehring
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
515 28th St.
Des Moines, IA 50312
Phone: 515-244-8028 ext. 312
andrea@icadv.org

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Recent Domestic Violence Murders Highlights Need for Prevention As Well As Intervention

Des Moines – October 25, 2010 – The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) welcomes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We at ICADV believe that raising awareness of this issue of domestic violence is vital to our efforts to prevent and end violence against women and children. Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive and controlling behavior that can include physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse or financial abuse (using money and financial tools to exert control).

Between **January 1 and September 30, 2010 there have been 10 women killed** by a spouse or intimate partner in Iowa. **In the last 12 days there have been two additional women allegedly murdered by a current or former intimate partner.** Because one of the victims sought out protection via appropriate channels, inevitably questions arise about the effectiveness of interventions in cases of domestic violence. Protective orders can act as a deterrent and are an effective tool for batterers to whom legal consequences matter. . Rather than focusing on whether or when interventions like protective orders are effective, ICADV hopes to raise awareness and bring focus to **preventing** this violence from occurring.

With historic focus on intervention services, the result has been an effective change in laws, increased access to services for victims and survivors, and educated providers. What we at ICADV have learned from years of work is that intervention services – no matter when they are sought out or how effective they can be as a deterrent – are not enough. Prevention is a unique opportunity for ICADV to encourage individual, organizational, and social change within our state. Preventing violence needs to happen at many levels within our community. We can reach individuals through class room activities. We can impact relationships through parent and mentor trainings as well as peers through bystander intervention training. We can impact the structures like school policies, class standards, and more. We can impact our local community through forums, cross-trainings, and campaigns. None of these things are enough alone, but preventing violence before it occurs is vital to saving women's lives.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to engage all people in a movement to change the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women. We do this through education, advocacy, and quality victim services. Throughout the month of October, ICADV will continue to share relevant data and information about Domestic Violence in Iowa. Please contact ICADV at 515.244.8028.

###