

For Immediate Release  
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### **Local woman to be honored for work on behalf of Latina victims of domestic violence**

Wilmington, Del. – A victims' assistant at New Castle County Police Department will be honored in two weeks for her work with and on behalf of victims of domestic violence. The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence will honor local advocate Carmen Mendez on October 13 at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center in Newark at their annual Purple Ribbon Event.

The 'Spirit of Advocacy Award' recognizes Ms. Mendez's advocacy work on behalf of Spanish-speaking victims over the past 12 years. As the only bilingual victim services worker at New Castle County Police Department, Mendez serves Spanish-speaking victims and their families with professionalism, compassion, and empathy.

Mendez participates in several state wide groups and has heightened awareness around issues affecting Latino crime victims. She is a frequent presenter at the Latin American Community Center's women's support group and assists the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program at the NCC Courthouse one day a week. Mendez has participated in the Delaware Grief Awareness Consortium and also coordinated a presentation on cyber security to Hispanic youths in an afterschool program at the LACC. Mendez has established a protocol within the NCCPD regarding U Visa applications, providing additional protections to the non-Citizen victims she serves.

Mendez inspires other advocates in the community as well as law enforcement personnel. She leads by example with her calm, patient and compassionate nature. As one mother of a victim said "the presence of people like Carmen make tremendous and life-enduring impacts... in those tragic life moments that we never forget." DCADV is honored to present Carmen Mendez with the 2016 Spirit of Advocacy Award.

### **About The Purple Ribbon Event**

The event will feature a cocktail party, live performance by Delaware's Rainbow Chorale, a survivors' art display, and presentation of two awards on Thursday, October 13 from 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center in Newark. State Senator Karen Peterson is also being honored with the Vision of Peace Award at the event.

HopeLine from Verizon Wireless is the Premiere Sponsor of this year's public awareness event, held annually during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Other sponsors include Highmark Delaware (Advocacy Sponsor), Delaware City Refining Company (Empowerment Champion Sponsor), Artisans' Bank, RE/MAX Associates, UBS Chahalis Ward Group, Bank of America, and MidCoast Community Bank. For more information about the event, visit [www.dcadv.org](http://www.dcadv.org).

### **About Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) is a statewide, non-profit organization with a membership including domestic violence agencies and programs providing shelter and direct services to adult victims of domestic violence, allied organizations, and caring individuals. Since its founding in 1994, DCADV has engaged in a variety of activities, including public education efforts, training and

prevention initiatives, and systems advocacy. DCADV works closely with the criminal justice, health care, education, advocacy and social service communities to facilitate the creation of effective policies and programs for battered women and their children. In all of these efforts, DCADV is a crucial voice for domestic violence victims and their families.

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For media only:

Media are invited to attend and cover the event. Contact Stephanie Ferrell at 302-228-0834.