

2018 Domestic Violence Awareness Month: What's Your #1Thing?

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Each October, we recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month in a variety of ways. We recognize and appreciate the hardworking advocates in all sectors of our community, and we honor the strength and perseverance of survivors.

The theme of this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month is **#1Thing**. We know that domestic violence affects millions of people each year (1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in their lifetime); even here in Delaware. The physical, emotional, social, economic, and health impacts are far-reaching, even beyond the individual. We all know and feel that we *should* do something to end domestic violence, but many people hesitate because they're not sure how or if they can ever make a difference.

But, all it takes is **#1Thing**. We can all do **#1Thing** to speak out, create awareness, or help create safer communities. If we all do our one small thing- all 7.4 billion of us on the planet- our collective action and energy can create true social change to end domestic violence. **What's your #1Thing?**

On Tuesday, October 9, 2018, Governor Carney did **#1Thing** and signed a proclamation declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We thank Governor Carney and Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long for their continued recognition of this issue and the work being done to prevent and eliminate domestic violence.





STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION IN OBSERVANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, 23,125 domestic violence incidents were reported to Delaware law enforcement agencies during FY 2018; and

Whereas, 12,961 of those domestic violence incidents reported were criminal incidents, of which 1,755 resulted in physical injury and 4,634 incidents had children present; and

Whereas, 3,111 calls were received by the domestic violence hotlines throughout the State, connecting victims with supportive services including shelter, counseling, transitional housing, medical and legal services to help them escape the cycle of abuse; and

Whereas, children exposed to domestic violence in their homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average; and

Whereas, research highlights the critical intersection between domestic violence and health, and the importance of creating coordinated system responses that include healthcare; and

Whereas, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, child welfare agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victims' services agencies to assist victims and their families in Delaware; and

Whereas, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn about preventing domestic violence and to show support for survivors and the organizations who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims.

*Now, Therefore, We, John C. Carney, Governor,
and Bethany A. Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor,*
do hereby declare October 2018, as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Delaware, and we urge all Delawareans to support community efforts to end domestic violence and promote safe and respectful relationships.



John C. Carney
John C. Carney
Governor

Bethany A. Hall-Long
Bethany A. Hall-Long
Lieutenant Governor

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