National Stalking Victim Awareness Month

Stalking is a crime that affected 7.5 million victims in one year. Unfortunately, many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for female homicide in abusive relationships. Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia. Victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population, and many lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization.

Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts and/or a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. One in four victims reports that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning system devices, or hidden cameras, to track the victim’s daily activities. Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute.

Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

Tips for Victims:
- Be familiar with your state’s anti-stalking law.
- Ask police whether you should first seek a PFA against the stalker. In some states (including PA) a violation of a protective order converts a stalking charge from a misdemeanor to a felony.
- Contact DVI at 273-7190 for more information.

PFA Assistance Available
Our PFA Office is located in Room 308 of the Lebanon Municipal Building.
PFA Office hours are:
Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Domestic Violence Counseling Available
Individual counseling is available for adults and for children ages five and older. (Counseling is free of charge)
Please call our hotline at 273-7190 to schedule an appointment.

DVI is a United Way Member Agency
Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Human Trafficking Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness of sexual slavery and human trafficking worldwide. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labor or commercial sex purpose. Every year, millions of men, women, and children worldwide are victims of human trafficking. Victims are often lured with false promises of well-paying jobs or are manipulated by people they trust, but instead are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for investigating human trafficking, arresting traffickers and protecting victims. Human Trafficking Awareness Month seeks to end this slavery, return rights to individuals and make the world a safer place for all inhabitants.

Report suspected human trafficking activity to law enforcement (available 24/7, in over 300 languages and dialects at):

Call 1-866-347-2423 (toll free)
Report online: www.ice.gov/tips

FEBRUARY: Teen Dating Violence Awareness

Dating violence is intimate partner violence that occurs between two people in a close relationship. The nature of dating violence can be physical, emotional, sexual, or stalking.

• Physical—This occurs when a partner is pinched, hit, shoved, slapped, punched, or kicked.
• Psychological/Emotional—This means threatening a partner or harming his or her sense of self-worth. Examples include name calling, shaming, bullying, embarrassing on purpose, or keeping him/her away from friends and family.
• Sexual—This is forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not or cannot consent. This can be physical or nonphysical, like threatening to spread rumors if a partner refuses to have sex.

Stalking—This refers to a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics that are unwanted and cause fear in the victim. Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name calling, are a “normal” part of a relationship. However, these behaviors can become abusive and develop into more serious forms of violence.

DVI Position Opening

Part-time Shelter Support Advocate

Please forward resume to: DVI
P.O. Box 42
Lebanon, PA 17042

DONATIONS NEEDED
- Pillows (New)
- Diapers (size 3 and up)
- Baby Wipes
- Spiral Notebooks
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Dryer Sheets
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Art Supplies for Children
- Large Plastic Bins