

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH: YWCA YORK RAISES AWARENESS OF INCREASES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19

York, PA (October 1, 2020) – Stay-at-home orders, intended to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, have resulted in victims being trapped in their homes with their abusers, leaving limited access to social supports and resources for help. Throughout the pandemic, YWCA York has provided essential services, including shelter, counseling, legal and medical advocacy to survivors. Once shelter-in-place orders were lifted, requests for services spiked. Ongoing stress, financial strain, and limited access to community resources continue to threaten the safety of survivors.

YWCA York is asking community members to join the national #NOMORE and #LISTENINGFROMHOME campaigns. NO MORE is a national campaign that aims to raise public awareness of and start conversations about domestic violence and sexual assault. Community members can participate by telling why they say “NO MORE” to domestic violence and sexual assault by printing out a custom NO MORE poster (found at www.ywcayork.org). Take a photo and share it on social media or email YWCA York directly.

The #LISTENINGFROMHOME campaign aims to heighten people’s awareness of domestic violence, and encourage people to safely intervene if they hear or observe incidents of domestic abuse. Specifically, people who hear of a family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker experiencing domestic violence, can:

- Contact the YWCA York, ACCESS hotline at 717-854-5400 to get support
- Call the police in an emergency
- Learn more about abuse and how to support survivors by following the YWCA York Facebook page or schedule a training or facilitated discussion with the Community Education Department by emailing Julie Himler at jhimler@ywcayork.org.

In addition, community members are invited to join YWCA York and PA Office of Victim Advocate on October 8th at 10:00 am to discuss how domestic violence service providers have pivoted to meet the demands in this challenging COVID climate.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we increase community engagement to support survivors and connect them to resources by checking in with family members, friends, and neighbors. Together we can end domestic violence and sexual assault. To support the critical, life-saving services YWCA York provides to survivors, consider making a donation by visiting www.ywcayork.org.

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ABOUT YWCA York

YWCA York is a nonprofit organization with the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Chartered in 1891, YWCA York has a long and rich history of creating opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power through a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Over 28,000 people are served each year through the programs and services offered throughout York County. Worldwide, the YWCA impacts more than 25 million people in over 120 countries. For information about the YWCA York, visit www.ywcayork.org