

## ***Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence***

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

October 1, 2008

### **“IT IS YOUR BUSINESS”—COMMUNITIES URGE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMEMORATING THE 21st NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

**Reno, NV**—This year marks the 21st commemoration of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), a time for victim assistance organizations, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders to work together in generating greater public awareness about domestic violence, prevention strategies, and effective responses for victims.

The 2008 slogan, “It Is Your Business,” serves as a reminder that communities must speak out in a unified voice to combat domestic violence, and to challenge all people in Nevada to support the many programs that provide support and services to victims. On average, one in three women reports being physically or sexually abused at some point in their lives. In 2007, over 36,800 people received services from domestic violence programs in Nevada.

Eliminating domestic violence requires collaborative prevention and response efforts from criminal justice professionals, victim service providers, prosecutors, educators, elected officials, and health care providers among others.

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence is engaged in various shared projects with statewide and community agencies. Among them is a joint effort with the Attorney General’s Office and area health care providers to address a wide range of health issues facing victims of intimate partner abuse, and to emphasize the need for domestic violence screening in all health care settings.

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“Doctors, nurses and other health care providers can do so much to help victims of domestic and sexual violence, but too often they miss this opportunity because they are not trained to inquire about abuse,” describes Kareen Prentice, Nevada’s Domestic Violence Ombudsman and a member of the Nevada Health Care Standards Leadership Team. Prentice continues, “*Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day* on October 8, 2008 will improve the health care system’s response to violence by giving medical professionals the information and support they need to help victims and their children.”

*Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day* is one of the key awareness-raising events taking place during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month. An array of other DVAM events is scheduled across the state, ranging from a gallery benefit at Lake Tahoe, to a Day of Unity in Winnemucca, to a Girls Night Out in Henderson.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was created in 1987 to promote increased rights and services for domestic violence victims, to educate the public about the crisis of domestic violence and the prevalence of this epidemic in all of our lives, and to encourage involvement and support from our community for domestic violence victims and those who serve them.

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**About [NNADV](#):**

*The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons. As Nevada’s statewide domestic violence coalition, NNADV is an inclusive network that supports its member programs, and educates the public at large. Our agency is based in Reno, but our member programs span the entire state. Affiliated agencies include, but are not limited to: Advocates to End Domestic Violence of Hawthorne, ALIVE of Yerington, Domestic Violence Intervention of Lovelock, Safe Embrace of Reno, S.A.F.E. House of Henderson, Safe Nest of Las Vegas, and Tahoe Women’s Services of Incline Village.*