

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. receives unexpected funding cuts despite declarations that "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

Contact Information:

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Overview: Despite proclamations of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. continues to face unexpected funding cuts from Federal, State, and Local levels of government. While the essential programming needs grow throughout Monroe County, the government funds continue to decrease.

September 15th, 2010 - Monroe County Commissioners declared October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. An honorable Resolution from the Board of Commissioners was accepted by Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc.

September 24th, 2010 – Representative John Siptroth writes a letter to the House of Representatives thanking them for Resolution 940, which recognizes October 2010 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

September 27th, 2010 – An honorable Citation sponsored by Senators Pat Brown, David Argall, Lisa Boscola, and Bob Mensch recognized Jennifer Grube, Executive Director of Women's Resource of Monroe County, for her dedication, excellence, and program leadership impacting thousands of children in need.

October 1st, 2010 – President Obama's Presidential Proclamation cites October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month – highlighting in his Proclamation about the strength of the 16 year old Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Program

October 6th, 2010 – An honorable Citation was delivered by the Office of Representative Mario Scavello to recognize Jennifer Grube, the Executive Director of Women's Resources of Monroe County – the only domestic violence center in the county.

This year Monroe County was cut 100% of its Federal VAWA funds, eliminating the Monroe County's STOP VAWA Coordinating Team – a team of crisis advocates, sexual assault response nurses, the district attorney's office, and the area police departments. "The need for funding is there," said Jane Koelble, Director of Programs, "last week we responded to 7 sexual assaults and/or rapes in 7 days. Usually, we respond to 3 reports a month."

Last week the Department of Public Welfare handed Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. an additional \$42,500 in unanticipated cuts directly impacting the already struggling programs, in the first week of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence's 2009 Fatality Report, rural Monroe County's domestic violence homicide rate is third to urban Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.

The once sustainable governmental program funds have cut Monroe County nearly \$200,000 in the last two fiscal years due to the economy. According to Jennifer Grube, L.C.S.W., C.S.W.M., Executive Director of Women's Resources of Monroe County, "Our staff have worked tirelessly to balance the substantial funding cuts by researching, applying, and obtaining fifteen, one-time new funding sources. However, managing Monroe County's increase in domestic violence and sexual assault with critical sheltering and counseling services is and uphill battle, requiring community support."

Women's Resources of Monroe County has provided 32 years of safe emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline, support, counseling, education, legal advocacy, and community outreach to Monroe County victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The 24-hour crisis hotline can be reached at 570-421-4200. For more information or to support this charity, please call 570-424-2093 x 19.