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Lowest number of domestic violence homicide cases in Duval County in nearly ten years

Hubbard House Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign highlights continued services and support for survivors

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., (10/1/2024)- Duval County saw the lowest number of domestic violence homicide cases last year since 2015- one of the key findings in the newly released annual Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Report. Hubbard House and partner agencies have released that Report alongside the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month to highlight trends in local domestic violence-related fatalities and examine systems of support for survivors.

“I want all domestic violence survivors to know that our local law enforcement community recognizes your dignity and commits to stand with you throughout the criminal justice process. We strive to play an important role in your healing. Partnered together, survivors and law enforcement advocates will promote a culture of accountability that champions survivors. Until all survivors are safe, our work continues,” says Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters.

In Duval County in 2023, there were 10 domestic violence homicide cases, which resulted in 13 fatalities. Both the number of cases and homicide victims are the lowest numbers seen since 2015, with the exception of 2018, which had the same number of homicide victims. Among the 10 domestic violence fatality cases, eight were linked to intimate partner relationships, which accounts for nine of the homicide victims.

Among the trends identified by the Report, it is noted that 88% of the intimate partner domestic violence homicide cases had a history of domestic violence either within the relationship or by one party in the relationship against a prior partner. Co-habitation and the presence of a firearm were also identified as risk factors present in the majority of these cases.

“For any survivor who hears the findings of this Report and hears echoes of their own relationship, know that the danger is real. The Fatality Review Team does not want your story to be the next one we see in this Report. Please, reach out for support,” says

Assistant State Attorney Khary O. Gaynor, Director of the 4th Circuit State Attorney's Office Special Victims Unit and Chair of the Duval County Fatality Review Team.

The nearly ten year-low in the number of cases is worth recognizing, but even one domestic violence fatality is too many. That is why Hubbard House has also launched a Domestic Violence Awareness Month social media campaign, #UntilYouAreSafe.

"For survivors, the journey to safety may be scary and dangerous, but safety is possible. Survivor, until you are safe- and every moment after when you need us- Hubbard House is here for you," says Hubbard House CEO Dr. Gail Patin.

This campaign will be a month-long awareness push to bring attention to Hubbard House's life-saving, life-changing services, and to their continued commitment to supporting survivors on their path to safety.

Hubbard House is joined by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Courts, City of Jacksonville, 4th Circuit State Attorney's Office, and other key partners in releasing this Report and marking Domestic Violence Awareness Month. DVAM offers the community many opportunities to learn more about domestic violence, Hubbard House resources, and how to support local survivors.

Opportunities during Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- Attend the Barbara Ann Campbell Memorial Breakfast on October 16th. More information about this event can be found at www.hubbardhouse.org/events.
- Share Hubbard House's #UntilYouAreSafe social media campaign on Facebook (@HubbardHouseInc) and Instagram (@hubbard_house).
- Spend time in personal reflection outside of the Duval County Courthouse, where 6,546 purple flags will be planted beginning at 3 PM on October 1st and will remain through October. The flags represent each injunction for protection filed in Duval County in 2023.
- Host a donation drive to help stock the Hubbard House pantry and support the 100+ survivors and children in emergency shelter each day. Learn more at www.hubbardhouse.org/in-kind-donations/
- Invite a representative from Hubbard House to your business, social club, or other groups to provide information about domestic violence and resources. Learn more at www.hubbardhouse.org/host-a-speaker/.

Survivors of domestic violence can access help through the 24/7 Hubbard House Hotline at (904) 354-3114 or Textline at (904) 210-3698. Survivors can also make an appointment or walk into the Hubbard House Outreach Center at 6629 Beach Blvd, Monday-Friday from 10AM-2PM. All Hubbard House services are free and confidential.

View the full Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report: www.hubbardhouse.org/press

About Hubbard House:

Hubbard House is the certified domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker counties in Northeast Florida. Hubbard House offers free, confidential shelter and services, including counseling, employment support, housing help, and related areas for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Speak with a trained advocate any time through Hubbard House's 24/7 Hotline at (904) 354-3114 or Textline at (904) 210-3698