



COUNTY OF YOLO  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** October 9, 2012      **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
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**Yolo County DA's Office recognizes  
October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

(Woodland, CA) – October 9, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig welcomed October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981 and the intent is to connect advocates across the nation who are working to end violence against women and their children. Subsequently, in October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. This awareness is crucial because domestic violence is a dangerous, life-threatening crime that affects million of individuals across the United States regardless of age, economic status, race, religion or education.

While high profile cases of domestic violence attract headlines, thousands of people experience domestic abuse every day. One in four women will be the victim of domestic violence at some point in her lifetime, and, on average, three women are killed every day at the hands of a current or former intimate partner. Domestic violence awareness month seeks to educate the public concerning the impact of domestic violence on our community, and to encourage them to speak out against domestic violence. Domestic violence will continue until society stands up against this abusive behavior. As a community we must lead by example and teach our children what healthy relationships look like. In addition, members of the public are urged to donate their time and money to local, statewide or national anti-domestic violence shelters and programs

Although great strides have been made to raise awareness, the battle is far from over. The economic downturn has had a devastating effect on local domestic violence programs that are working to serve survivors of abuse. While a bad economy does not cause domestic violence, it can make life much harder for victims by increasing their fears concerning their ability to survive on their own financially or otherwise. According to the [2012 Mary Kay "Truth About Abuse" Survey](#), nearly 8 out of 10 domestic violence shelters nationwide reported an increase in women seeking help, while the vast majority have experienced decreases in funding.

Fortunately Yolo County District Attorney's Office has three dedicated domestic violence prosecutors and three victim advocates that are trained to assist victims of abuse. District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated that "even in these tough economic times we must continue our efforts to protect those victims who are most vulnerable and to ensure that they are protected from abuse."

Throughout October, communities across the country will mourn for those whose lives were taken by domestic violence, celebrate the tremendous progress victim advocates have made over the years, and connect with one another on a common course to end domestic violence. Please contact Yolo County District Attorney's Victim Services with any questions at 530.666.8187.

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