



KEWAUNEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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Tourism Coordinator/Public Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kewaunee County Raising Awareness of Child Abuse and Sexual Assault

KEWAUNEE, WI – The Kewaunee County Department of Human Services, Violence Intervention Project (VIP) and Kewaunee County Victim Witness Program are asking the public to help raise awareness in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

During 2017, the Kewaunee County Department of Human Services received 133 reports of child abuse or neglect, which is dramatically up from the 79 reports received in 2016.

“It is really important that all community members be aware of child abuse and neglect and come together to protect our youth,” says Bob Mattice, Kewaunee County Department of Human Services Director. “Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing home.”

Last year, Violence Intervention Project provided services to 69 individuals in Kewaunee County, including women, men and children, as a result of sexual assault, an increase from 49 individuals in 2016.

“If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual assault or domestic violence, you are not alone,” says Laura, Violence Intervention Project Agency Advocate. “VIP services are free, confidential and accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.”

If you have concerns or suspicions of child abuse, neglect, sexual assault or domestic violence, please contact local law enforcement, Kewaunee County Department of Human Services at (920) 388-7030 or Violence Intervention Project at (920) 837-2424 for help.

To show support for prevention efforts, the Kewaunee County Department of Human Services, VIP and Kewaunee County Victim Witness Program are asking the public for their participation in the upcoming events and activities, which includes a #MeToo movement. #MeToo boxes will be on display across the community until April 13th for the public to place cards with their stories or words of encouragement for survivors.

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Raising Awareness Events

Friday, April 6: Wear BLUE

The public is asked to wear the color blue to help raise awareness about child abuse.

Saturday, April 21: Stamp Out Violence

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Road, Luxemburg
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The public is invited for a day of stamping fun and card decorating for all occasions. There will be games, raffles and prizes. Registration is required, call VIP at (920) 487-2111.

Tuesday, April 24: "Hands Around"

Location: Kewaunee County Human Services Parking Lot
810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee
Time: 3:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join hands and take a stand against child abuse and sexual assault in Kewaunee County. There will also be crafts and games for kids, snacks as well as resources and educational materials for parents to follow. It is FREE to attend.

Wednesday, April 25: Denim Day

The public is asked to wear denim to help raise awareness about sexual assault. This coincides with displays of jeans decorated by survivors, volunteers and community members that will be hung up across Kewaunee County for the month to serve a physical reminder of the impact.

Saturday, May 5: Self-Defense Class

Location: Kewaunee High School
911 3rd Street, Kewaunee
Time: 10:30 a.m. – NOON

The class is FREE to attend, but participants must be 12 or older. Waivers must be signed.

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