



SOLANO COUNTY

County Administrator's Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ribbons remind all to help stop sexual assault

SOLANO COUNTY – Teal and white ribbons streaming from Sheriff patrol vehicles in April will serve as a reminder that everyone has a role in stopping sexual assault.

“We all have a role in making sexual assault a thing of the past. Each of us has to be intolerant of sexual assault, no matter who commits it and no matter the circumstances,” said Supervisor Linda Seifert.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution today recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness month in Solano County as well as the collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Office, the Office of Family Violence Prevention, and community-based service providers, such as the Lift3 Support Group and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, in preventing and responding to sexual assaults.

The partnership will be demonstrated with a ribbon-tying event at 2 p.m. April 10 in front of the Solano County Government Center. Teal ribbons will be tied to the antennae of every Sheriff patrol car to remind citizens that sexual assault is a crime and law enforcement is a strong partner helping to end sexual violence. The white ribbon recognizes men's role in reducing violence against women.

“Law enforcement is strongly committed to the investigation of sexual assault, as well as the identification, arrest and prosecution of those responsible,” said Sheriff Gary Stanton. “We are equally committed to supporting programs needed to educate and support victims of sexual assault.”

This year's theme of *Decide to End Sexual Violence* challenges people to prevent this horrific crime by learning more about it. According to the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, there is one forcible rape every 56 minutes in California and an estimated 302,100 women and 92,700 men are forcibly raped each year in the United States. More information about how to end sexual assault is at www.solanocounty.com/stoptheviolence.

Other events to raise awareness of sexual assault include:

- LIFT3 Support Group is conducting its annual Bitter Cup campaign to highlight the trauma suffered by survivors of sexual assault and encourage all citizens to participate in ending sexual violence in their communities.

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“Sexual violence is a serious health problem that profoundly affects the physical, emotional, mental and social well-being of victims. By working together, we can create short- and long-term solutions to the endemic problem of sexual violence, including unhealthy and unsafe relationships,” said Carolyn Thomas-Wold of the Office of Family Violence Prevention.

For more information, contact Thomas-Wold at (707) 784-7691 or visit www.solanocounty.com/stoptheviolence.

EDITORS: For additional resources to help promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month, please visit www.calcasa.org and www.nsvrc.org/saam.

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