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\*\*\*For Immediate Release

**CRIMELINE FOR THE HAMPTONS, INC.**  
**TO HOST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS FORUM**

*Expert panel will lead public discussion about domestic abuse issues*

Hampton, NH – Crimeline for the Hamptons, Inc., will host a Domestic Violence Awareness forum on Thursday, October 22, 2015 from 6:15 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Lane Memorial Library in Hampton, NH. A panel of experts from A Safe Place/Sexual Abuse Support Services, Seacoast Youth Services, law enforcement, and religious leaders will lead the public discussion and answer questions.

Crimeline hopes that the event, held during national Domestic Violence Awareness Month, will provide information about the range of domestic violence issues.

“Our goal for this event is to let people know that there is community support available for victims of domestic violence,” said Crimeline’s Chairperson Karin Breen. “Domestic abuse affects so many people. They need to know that they’re not alone.”

"If people knew more about the range of abuse and how to find help for loved ones who are suffering from abuse, more people would be able move themselves and their children out of violent situations to live healthier, happier lives," said Officer John Mounsey of Seabrook Police Department.

Statistics reveal that 33.4% of women and 24% of men in New Hampshire have experienced a physical assault by an intimate partner.

"For families living with domestic violence in their lives, it is rarely a one time or situational event," said Kathy Beebe, Executive Director of A Safe Place/Sexual Abuse Support Services. "Reaching out for help can be frightening," she added. Beebe said that any time a friend, family member or acquaintance witnesses questionable behaviors, they can contact her organization at (603) 994-SAFE (7233).

According to Beebe, domestic abuse is a pattern of behavior used by one person in a relationship to gain and maintain power and control over the other. The abuse may include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or intimidation. Domestic abuse can include name-calling and verbal threats, as well as psychological, emotional and economic abuse.

“Anyone can be the victim of domestic abuse, it doesn’t discriminate. It doesn’t take into account your age, your gender, your race. It doesn’t matter how much money you have or how educated you are,” Beebe explained.

The event will be held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which was conceived in 1987 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The movement’s goal was to unite those working to end domestic violence, especially violence against women and children, and to remember those who have been victims of domestic violence.

Crimeline organizers hope that the team of experts will provoke further discussion about domestic abuse issues in the community. “We are here to support our police departments and our communities by helping to make our neighbors safer and more secure,” said Karin Breen, Chair of Crimeline for the Hamptons, Inc. “Domestic violence and abuse are difficult topics for people to discuss, but we hope to let victims know that they have support in our communities and that they’re not alone.”

Since its inception in 1994, Crimeline is a non-profit organization that assists local police departments in solving crime by offering money for tips that lead to arrests or indictments. The group awards an annual scholarship to graduating seniors from Winnacunnet High School who wish to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice, and to children of police officers from the Hampton, North Hampton, Hampton Falls, or Seabrook Police Departments.

Crimeline also works closely with police department liaisons from Hampton, North Hampton, Hampton Falls, and Seabrook to develop ways to become more effective in its mission.

For more information about Crimeline for the Hamptons, Inc., please contact <http://www.hamptonpd.com/crime/crimeline.htm> or visit Crimeline on Facebook.

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