

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Department
County of Warren
www.co.warren.nj.us



DASACC Recognized as April Marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month

(WHITE TOWNSHIP, NJ April 14, 2021) The Warren County Board of County Commissioners proclaimed April as Domestic Assault and Sexual Awareness Month while recognizing the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center for the organization's efforts and dedication in preventing abuse, especially during the 2020 COVID pandemic.

DASACC Executive Director Jill Zinckgraf, Community Education Coordinator Ali Longo, and Community Engagement and Fund Development Coordinator Evan Austin accepted the proclamation on behalf of the organization, which provides temporary emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, counseling, legal advocacy, community education and more for those affected by domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

"It's my privilege to know Jill and I can't think of a more impactful organization for Warren County," remarked Commissioner Director James R. Kern III.

Sexual assault is recognized by the FBI as the most unreported crime. Survivors have lasting physical, mental and emotional effects and it is regarded as a national health issue because of the impact on family, friends and the community.

"Sexual assault take various forms and we have either been a victim or have known someone who has been a victim," said County Commissioner Lori Ciesla.



Marking April as Domestic Assault and Sexual Awareness Month in Warren County are (l-r) Warren County Prosecutor James Pfeiffer; Pohatcong Police Chief Scott Robb, president of the county Police Chiefs Association; County Commissioners Jason J. Sarnoski and Lori Ciesla; Executive Director Jill Zinckgraf, Community Education Coordinator Ali Longo and Community Engagement and Fund Development Coordinator Evan Austin of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center; and county Commissioner Director James R. Kern III.

The DASACC of Warren County provided services to more than 100 people in 2020 for those impacted by sexual violence without an increase in staff, and an increase of 188 percent in people needing shelter services.

“Across the board you’re seeing this increased need,” Zinckgraf said, adding “It takes a village and I want to thank you (commissioners) for all you do. The dollars we get from the County are so important to us.”

The leadership and commitment in preventing sexual assault comes from resources, education, community awareness and involvement, officials noted.

“They have grown to expand their programs, their professionalism and the way they handle issues,” commented Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski.

DASACC works everyday with law enforcement, lawyers and prosecutors to ensure all the correct information is gained for any situation.

“For officers, it’s a stressful time. To have your services while we try to sort everything out is appreciated. We are truly thankful for you,” said Pohatcong Police Chief Scott Robb, president of the county Police Chiefs Association.

“Thank you for all your office does and partnering together with us,” remarked Warren County Prosecutor James Pfeiffer.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH APRIL, 2021

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious crime that affects people of all ages, races, ethnicities, religions, genders, income levels, and sexual identities; and

WHEREAS, the FBI recognizes sexual assault as the second most violent crime; the first of which is murder. The FBI recognizes sexual assault as the most under-reported crime; and

WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault are often impacted by physical injuries, psychological effects, and post-traumatic stress disorder and the impact of sexual assault is a national health crisis that affects the survivor, family, friends, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, with leadership and commitment, we can make a difference in preventing sexual violence in our community by increasing education, awareness, and community involvement and in 2020, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center provided services to more than 100 people who have been impacted by sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren, in support of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County, hereby proclaim April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Warren County and urge residents to work together to raise awareness of this issue and offer support to those who have been impacted.

James R. Kern, III, Director ***Jason J. Sarnoski***, Deputy Director ***Lori Ciesla***, Commissioner