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APRIL IS PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS MONTH



As we all know, pets are often a very important part of our everyday comforts, and offer us never ending, unconditional love. Unfortunately, in the realm of domestic violence, abusive family members may threaten, injure, or even kill beloved pets, just to gain control over other family members.

In fact, a study in 1997 surveyed 50 of the largest shelters for battered women in the United States and found that 85% of women and 63% of children entering shelters discussed incidents of pet abuse in the family. The increased abuse of a pet is often a sign of increased lethality of violent incidences among family members in the home.

In the past 4 months, the Detroit Free Press has reported on two very violent, torturous and disturbing incidences involving the death of two pets; both deaths were associated with domestic violent situations. Nationally, this connection between domestic violence and animal abuse is receiving much more attention, and law enforcement agencies are now training officers who respond to domestic violence calls to be alert for signs of animal abuse and neglect. If you know of an abused or neglected pet, please contact the Michigan Humane Society at (313) 872-3401 or your local police department. To find out more about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence [click here](#).

kNOw EXCUSES PROJECT LAUNCH

When: April 20, 2009 at 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Where: Michigan First Credit Union- 27000
Evergreen, Lathrup Village



The ***kNOw Excuses Project*** is designed to get important information to women. Community activists, HAVEN, elected officials, and

business leaders will come together for the April 20th kick off of the ***kNOw Excuses Project*** to place domestic violence awareness and information posters in public restrooms.

HAVEN CEO Beth Morrison, Michigan First Credit Union President/CEO Michael Poulos, Senator Gilda Jacobs, Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence, the Southfield Community Foundation Women's Fund, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the Women's Commission of Oakland County invite you to join them at the kick-off event. This coalition encourages women to know the signs of domestic violence and to not be afraid to ask for help.

The ***kNOw Excuses Project*** is funded by the Michigan First Credit Union and the Southfield Community Foundation Women's Fund.

To find out more about the project or to order posters, please contact Cristy Cardinal at ccardinal@haven-oakland.org.



HAVEN'S SECOND ANNUAL DENIM DAY

When: April 22nd

Where: All over Oakland County with an event at the Detroit Historical Museum

Denim Day commemorates a date in Italy when a rapist was set free because his victim was wearing such tight jeans, the judge decided she must have facilitated the attack. This incident raised awareness all over the world and serves a reminder that there are still many myths floating around about rape.

For more information about Denim Day and how your company can get involved contact Jennifer Parker at 248-334-1284 ext.350 or email jparker@haven-oakland.org.

Join us this year and wear your jeans, hold a jeans day fundraiser and/or join us at the Fashion Group International event at the Detroit Historical Museum. For more information on the Fashion Group International Event [click here](#).

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

When: April 24th 7:00 pm



Where: Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road Ferndale

Join HAVEN in partnership with Affirmations in downtown Ferndale, for our annual Take Back the Night Event, rally, march and speakout to empower and acknowledge survivors of SA. This event will be interpreted in American Sign Language. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Carli Luce at 248-334-1284 ext. 289 or email cluce@haven-oakland.org.



START YOUR BIDDING NOW**When: Today-Bidding ends May 15th****Where: www.promenadeofhope.cmarket.com**

Unable to join us at Promenade of Hope this year? Check out HAVEN's first online auction. New items will be added every week don't miss out! 100% of the proceeds are used to help us provide services to survivors of domestic violence. If you have any questions or are interested in donating an item to our auction contact Holly Thomas at 248-334-1284 ext. 341 or hthomas@haven-oakland.org.

HAVEN NEEDS YOU!!

Are you caring and kind? Are you good at making people feel comfortable? You may be just the kind of volunteer we're looking for to work in our First Response program. Volunteers carry pagers so they can respond when there has been an incident of DV or SA. Volunteers may be asked to meet the survivor at an Oakland County hospital, police station or at our START center. These volunteers are right there in what can be a person's darkest hour – to help start the recovery process immediately. We'll give you all the training you need for this position. HAVEN is recruiting volunteers for all its programs. To get involved, contact Belle Kleinberg at bkleinberg@haven-oakland.org or 248.334.1284x659.

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PONTIAC FARMINGTON ROYAL OAK BLOOMFIELD HILLS

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