

# PROCLAMATION

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - OCTOBER 2021

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a prevalent social problem that not only harms the victim, but also negatively affects the victim's family, including child witnesses, friends and the community at large; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence knows no boundaries; it exists in all neighborhoods and cities, and affects people of all ages, racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions have caused an increase in domestic violence, yet a decrease in the number of calls to domestic violence agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men 18 years of age or older experience domestic violence as well as 1 in 10 children are sexually abused before their 18th birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, in Illinois alone, there are approximately 115,000 – 125,000 domestic crimes each year and roughly 200 reports of child abuse in Illinois per day; and

**WHEREAS**, the national economic cost of domestic and family violence is estimated to be over 12 billion dollars per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the numbers of individuals affected by domestic violence is expected to rise over the next 20 years with the increase in the elderly population; and

**WHEREAS**, Sarah's Inn, a local domestic violence agency, serves over 17,000 individuals annually through its mission to improve the lives of those affected by domestic violence and to break the cycle of domestic violence for future generations through intervention services for victims and their families, violence prevention programs that educate children on healthy relationships, and trainings to create a skilled network of community advocates to ensure an appropriate community response to violence; and

**WHEREAS**, during this month, we recognize the survivors and victims of abuse and commit to offering a helping hand to those most in need and reminding them that they are not alone.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as “**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**,” in the Village of Oak Park and call on all citizens to take action this month by partnering with Sarah’s Inn and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.

**DATED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

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Vicki Scaman, Village President

**ATTEST**

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Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk