

Contact: Stephanie Shoe  
SShoe@ywcacin.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 22, 2020**

### **YWCA Greater Cincinnati Honors Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It evolved from the Day of Unity conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in October 1981. The goal was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state and national levels. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed, and the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline was established. In 1989, Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since.

In Hamilton County, local agencies including YWCA Greater Cincinnati, Women Helping Women, MUSE Women's Choir, Greater Cincinnati Legal Aid Society, Talbert House, Cincinnati Police Department and Parents of Murdered Children have been remembering victims of domestic violence with a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Hamilton County Courthouse for 32 years. During the evening, victims are remembered and survivors are celebrated, while families are consoled in their search for healing. Due to COVID-19, the She Screams Without Sound Candlelight Vigil will not take place in person. However, YWCA Greater Cincinnati is honoring victims and survivors all month. Their partnership with the Cincinnati Bengals continues as player Kevin Huber and announcer Dave Lapham lend their names to this cause in a PSA that will air inside the stadium and during radio broadcasts for the duration of the 2020 season. This is the fourth year of the partnership with YWCA and the Bengals.

The activities will culminate at the end of the month on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> when the Duke Energy Convention Center will light the iconic CINCINNATI sign purple, the color representing domestic violence. The city will also be lighting up the Genius of Water on Fountain Square and the public is encouraged to wear purple to show their support. From 6:30-7:30 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup>, YWCA Greater Cincinnati and Projection Connections will present a visual tribute to victims of domestic violence during a screen projection onto the rear of the YWCA building at 898 Walnut Street (access from 9<sup>th</sup> Street). The public is invited to spend a few minutes watching and reflecting on this cause. There will be ample space for social distancing at the outside vigil. For more details, visit YWCA Greater Cincinnati's Facebook page or website: [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org).

YWCA Greater Cincinnati is grateful to all of our partners, especially during this month.

#### **About YWCA**

YWCA Greater Cincinnati serves more than 8,500 women, men, and children through direct services, 2,700 through their domestic violence hotline, and an additional 1,000 through community trainings. YWCA Greater Cincinnati focuses on three key pillars: empowerment & economic advancement, safety, and racial justice & inclusion. YWCA Greater Cincinnati is a United Way partner agency. For information call YWCA Greater Cincinnati at (513) 241-7090 or visit [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org).