

MICHAEL C. O'MALLEY CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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October 20 Donation Drive to Support Local Shelters

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office wants to spread the word.

"Statistics from the advocacy group, <u>No More</u>, show that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience violence from their partners in their lifetime," said Marya Simmons, supervisor of the Victim-Witness Unit for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. "So many people in our community are affected by domestic violence that we want to raise awareness and provide resources for the victims."

The Prosecutor's Office is partnering with the <u>Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center</u> (DVCAC) to hold a **bake sale from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11 in the Justice Center lobby**. Employees of the Prosecutor's Office and the DVCAC will offer treats in the month's signature color, purple. All proceeds will benefit the DVCAC.

On Friday, October 20, the Prosecutor's Office and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office are holding a donation drive based on the wish list items from DVCAC. "These items, while common for most of us, are scarce for women and children in crisis because they leave with little more than the clothes on their backs," said Diane Russell, Criminal Division Chief of the Prosecutor's Office.

Donations can be dropped off at the Multipurpose Room, located on the south side of the Justice Center lobby, 1200 Ontario Street, from 12:30-4:30 p.m. There will also be a special drop-off location on Ontario Street outside the Justice center.

"We see the need first-hand," said Prosecutor Michael O'Malley. "Our Victim-Witness Unit and DVCAC provide essential services to survivors of abuse and domestic violence, but the safe houses and shelters rely on donations."

Some of the items on the DVCAC's wish list include: Target, Visa, and Giant Eagle gift cards; diapers (4, 5, and 6 only), feminine hygiene products, deodorant, socks, underwear, combs and brushes, laundry detergent, pajamas (2T - 4T), winter coats (4T - 10/12), and adult winter coats. <u>Click here for the complete wish list</u>.

"If you know someone who works at the Justice Center, please give them your donation if you can't make it downtown," recommends Russell. "Every donation counts."

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