

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in intimate relationships, used by one partner to exert power and gain control over the other; and
- WHEREAS,** Domestic violence can involve physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological threats or actions; and
- WHEREAS,** We have not forgotten the tragic deaths of Moscow residents Sarah Parks and her unborn baby in 2009 and Katy Benoit in 2011, all the results of domestic violence; and
- WHEREAS,** Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or education; and
- WHEREAS,** The statistics are sobering:
- Nationwide, one in four women will experience domestic violence sometime in her life;
 - Over the past year, the non-profit Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse provided 3,496 free in-person advocacy-based counseling sessions, including 1,623 sessions for clients from Idaho;
 - Domestic violence victim advocates from ATVP answered 3,727 emergency hotline calls last year, including 1,666 from Idaho;
 - 123 of those victims and their children found safety in ATVP's emergency shelter, for a total of 2,024 bed nights; and
- WHEREAS,** Due to reduced funding and other resources, domestic violence programs are strained to keep up with demands for services; and
- WHEREAS,** Growing up in a violent home can be a significant negative factor in children's development; and
- WHEREAS,** Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse works with law enforcement and other local partners to provide help, including shelter, to people in Latah and Whitman Counties who are affected by domestic violence; and
- WHEREAS,** Last year, ATVP provided 398 educational and regional outreach sessions to some 14,856 attendees; and
- WHEREAS,** Awareness of the problem is the first step, but it is incumbent on all of us to work together to prevent domestic violence, to respond to the needs of victims, to speak out, and to help ensure that offenders are held accountable;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Nancy Chaney, Mayor for the City of Moscow, do hereby proclaim October 2012 as

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

in Moscow, and I urge all citizens to help end domestic violence.



DATED this 1st day of October, 2012

Nancy Chaney
Nancy Chaney, Mayor