October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

UT SWORPS staff person Toni Lawal, a child advocate, asks that you stand with child protection and domestic violence agencies and survivors across the state and country to learn the facts about domestic violence and its impact on children.

What is Domestic Violence?
Domestic Violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.¹

Did You Know?

- 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner and 93% of the victims are females.
- Having a gun in the home increases the risk of homicide by at least 500%.
- 77,846 domestic violence crimes were reported to Tennessee law enforcement in 2017 according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.²
- 40% of Tennessee women and 32.5% of Tennessee men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.

How Domestic Violence Impacts Children and Families?

- Domestic violence is the 3rd leading cause of homelessness among families in the U.S.
- 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- Over the course of a lifetime, more than half of the children/youth who witness domestic violence also experience child maltreatment.
- Children may develop psychological and emotional problems such as depression and PTSD.

How to Make a Difference?
Many community-based organizations and not-for-profits addressing domestic violence need volunteers to serve in a variety of roles. Here are some ways YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE in your community.

- Attend an awareness event in your community & follow organizations via social media to learn more.
- Assist with projects to organize a food pantry, clothes closet, etc.
- Assist with front desk support such as answering the phone or follow up calls to clients.
- Donate new and gently used items especially to organizations that provide emergency shelter and housing OR make a financial donation.
- Share your time and skills - catering, communications, graphic design, marketing, etc.

List of Domestic Violence Organizations throughout Tennessee

- Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic Violence - https://www.tncoalition.org/help-in-your-area
- Family Justice Centers - https://www.familyjusticecenter.org/affiliated-centers (these statewide centers coordinate legal, medical, social services, and other services for domestic violence victims.)