



WOMEN'S SHELTER OF EAST TEXAS, INC.

Connecting families & communities through safety & hope

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: HEATHER KARTYE
(936) 639-1681 OR
kartyewset@suddenlinkmail.com

**FAMILY CRISIS CENTER OF EAST TEXAS COMMEMORATES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN LUFKIN**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Family Crisis Center of East Texas will commemorate the occasion by holding numerous activities in the Lufkin area. This year's theme is "Awareness + Action = Social Change."

"We all have a responsibility to take a stand to prevent and hopefully one day eliminate domestic violence," said Heather Kartye, Executive Director for the Family Crisis Center of East Texas. "The activities planned during the month of October will create a greater understanding of the impact domestic violence has on our communities as a whole."

On October 7, 2016, the Family Crisis Center will have a display/informational table set up from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. during Harold's House-East Texas Alliance for Children's *Run the Runway* event at the Angelina County Airport. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

The Family Crisis Center will collaborate with Angelina College to host a FREE self-defense class for women instructed by Sergeant Amanda Kennedy of the Stephen F. Austin State University Police Department. The course will take place on October 11,

P.O. Box 510 • Lufkin, TX 75902 • Office: 936-639-1681 • Fax: 936-633-6280



2016, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Student Center Cafeteria on Angelina College's campus.

The Family Crisis Center will host the *Take a Dunk for Domestic Violence Awareness* event on October 12, 2016, at 12:00 noon at the Angelina County Courthouse where local celebrities will take a dunk in a dunking booth to create awareness of domestic violence. There will be a short program and a FREE pizza lunch will be provided.

The Family Crisis Center will have a display/informational table set up during the Angelina College Roadrunner and Lady Roadrunner soccer games beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Lufkin High School Soccer Field on October 15, 2016.

Lufkin Middle School Theatre is sponsoring the 2016 "Zombie Walk to Scare Away Family Violence" on October 15, 2016. The walk begins at 6:30 p.m. at Standpipe Coffee and participants will dress as zombies as they make their way through downtown Lufkin. Participants are to bring canned goods to benefit the Family Crisis Center of East Texas. For more information, visit the Facebook page at "Lufkin Zombie Walk."

Supporters can help honor survivors while bringing attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month by wearing purple on *Go Purple Day*, which is October 20, 2016. Schools, businesses, churches, and others that participate are encouraged to share their pictures on the Family Crisis Center's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fccet. Official Domestic Violence Awareness Month t-shirts can be purchased at www.FCCET.com.

The Family Crisis Center of East Texas continues to advance its mission of enhancing the safety of women, children and men by providing crisis intervention and advocacy services to reduce and prevent the occurrence of family violence and sexual assault through education and community awareness. In fact, during 2015, the agency provided 1,128 residential and non-residential clients with over 111,000 essential services.

The services the agency provides include emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline, access to food and clothing, information and referral, legal and personal advocacy, child advocacy, counseling, support groups, job readiness training, transitional housing, community education, primary prevention, battering intervention and prevention, and more.

For additional information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities occurring in the area, or to find how you can assist the agency, contact the Family Crisis Center of East Texas at (936) 639-1681 or visit www.FamilyCrisisCenterOfEastTexas.com.

#