



**WOMEN'S SHELTER OF EAST TEXAS, INC.**

*Connecting families & communities through safety & hope*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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**FAMILY CRISIS CENTER OF EAST TEXAS COMMEMORATES DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN NACOGDOCHES**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Family Crisis Center of East Texas will commemorate the occasion by holding numerous activities in the Nacogdoches 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 6, 12 & 19, 2016, *An Empty Place at the Table* will be on display in the SFASU Baker Pattillo Student Center Spirit Lounge from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. This exhibit, hosted by the Family Crisis Center, will include a table with place settings that will illustrate individuals killed by their intimate partner. Survivors of domestic violence and unreported incidences of domestic violence will also be depicted through the display.

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The Family Crisis Center will partner with the SFASU Leadership and Service organization on October 6, 2016, to host an informational exhibit in the SFASU Baker Pattillo Student Center Spirit Lounge from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. There will be a photo booth and donations for the Family Crisis Center will be collected during the event. *An Empty Place at the Table* will also be showcased.

The Family Crisis Center of East Texas will partner with the Nacogdoches Farmers Market on October 8, 2016, for their *Annual Fall Fling*. From 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the agency will have FREE popcorn, a carnival game for the kids, and a photo booth for participant entertainment. The “Love Should” campaign will also be presented in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Family Crisis Center will collaborate with Stephen F. Austin State University to host a FREE self-defense class for women instructed by Sergeant Amanda Kennedy of the SFA University Police Department. The course will take place beginning at 6:00 p.m. on October 12, 2016, in the HPE Building on SFASU’s campus.

The Family Crisis Center of East Texas will join the Stephen F. Austin State University tradition of tailgating prior to the SFASU vs. Southeastern Louisiana football game on October 15, 2016, beginning at 12:00 noon until game-time. Community members are encouraged to come out and enjoy the Family Crisis Center of East Texas photo booth and props.

The Family Crisis Center will partner with SFASU’s Alpha Phi Omega for the *Take a Dunk for Domestic Violence Awareness* event, which will take place at the SFASU Baker Pattillo Student Center Plaza near Barnes & Noble beginning at 12:00 noon on October 19, 2016. SFASU campus leaders will take a dunk in a dunking booth

to create awareness of domestic violence. A FREE pizza lunch will also be served during the festivities.

The Family Crisis Center will collaborate again with SFASU's Alpha Phi Omega on October 19, 2016, to host a candlelight vigil in remembrance of those who lost their lives to domestic violence. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the SFASU Baker Pattillo Student Center Plaza near Barnes & Noble and will include poems, statistics, and moments of silence. *An Empty Place at the Table* will also be showcased at the vigil.

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](http://www.facebook.com/fccet). Official Domestic Violence Awareness Month t-shirts can be purchased at [www.FCCET.com](http://www.FCCET.com).

After the game, the fun really begins! The Family Crisis Center will partner with the NAC-CAN Coalition for the *5<sup>th</sup> Quarter* event at North Pointe Church from 10:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight on October 21, 2016. The *5<sup>th</sup> Quarter* is an event held after the Nacogdoches Dragons football game that will provide teens an outlet to enjoy themselves in the company of peers without the use of drugs and/or alcohol. The agency will provide games, activities, a photo booth, and popcorn at the event.

The Family Crisis Center will participate in the Residence Hall Association (RHA) Fall Fest and Trunk-or-Treat with a display and will give away goodies and present the "Love Should" campaign in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The

festivities will take place on October 26, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the SFASU Baker Pattillo Student Center Plaza near Barnes & Noble.

Active Tricks, Healthy Treats...the Family Crisis Center of East Texas will participate as an exhibitor at the Healthy Nacogdoches Healthy Halloween on October 29, 2016, with activities for children to learn about healthy relationships. The event will take place at Festival Park in Nacogdoches from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

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](http://www.FamilyCrisisCenterOfEastTexas.com).

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