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| **Silent Witness National Initiative Newsletter** |

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| Issue: # 4 | Feb 2015 |

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| In 2014 the media coverage of acts of violence against women by major sports figures created a heightened awareness about domestic violence in the US.  In response to the newsworthy events, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) has issued an invitation to "Join us in asking the NFL to harness that power to shine a light on domestic violence by adding your name today."  I encourage you to visit the site at [http://nnedv.org/policy/takeaction/4370-urge-nfl-teams-to-wear-purple-this-october.html](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9Yo0RlsnHATEf0nFUKMvdHUx8DU9ys5uWcZRSFxqc9AKUebFeMRsbEjHDoFOqdhU5VLpDXQKdx1PMPvNcO39YGaf7b9X1xqpwhWah4IV-im3zsu3tW7Fxh9XSPc97Z1nxZodFCWfBVQDka1qZlhLrWYIAiXYOmJUC_6ZIv69isDWMF_9uXmZ9JpCQJTsMIis35rwZPSZ3QKGw=&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==) to add your name to the list and fortify the efforts of this national organization. What can each one of us do individually to make a difference?  Here are some ways you can help end the cycle of violence in your family, community, church, school and wherever you see the need:Become educated about the forms of abuse [http://nnedv.org/resources/stats/gethelp/formsofabuse.html](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9Y5ljCnJuPzEPrnZ3Gdv0VEM0HjrvVaAAiuO7CJeFdMiyp921t3HUkBwrg07fJidXek-76F9YRGmPqvehF_DuV1fvNprycDpK3eVc49iq8t7u0zJ2pzgfLq8U1NKFmYb9ISYtT5ZfhHTUAfLhj_lOPXuspsXwduKOz&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==)Know the red flags of abuse [http://nnedv.org/component/content/article/488.html](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9YmJL22qFV7KCPA8XUnhI8NBA9MUEtRtZUgl34QBW-TcJgI-MMMkt4kRVD_qQHaW1eTHPVqcn2yN2R_xixW066UffdsiwVD1XUXwGt0-SAl5RZmXVNoCJDUMkXH-3aGMZTjbX8chzHBk6ONexK8gdPgg==&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==)Join an organization in your community that takes action against all forms of abuseStart a Silent Witness Project in your communityEngage in programs to support survivors of abuseDonate to the programs and shelters that are dedicated to helping survivors of abuse stay safe We're interested in hearing about what you and your community have been doing to end domestic violence. We invite you to send us information about successful projects and programs in your area. Please email your info Nancy Rafi by clicking HERE.  Yours in Peace,Jacquie Skog, Co-Chair, Silent Witness Initiative Board of Directors  |

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| **New Silent Witness projects in the US****LOUISIANA**https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/4a2a3f0c-f7c4-4d9d-9e8e-64f77b8a4460.jpg  The Silent Witness project  started in Lafayette, La when we unveiled our lst Silent Witness of Alicia Issac and her cousin, our lst male Silent Witness, Ronald Fils, Jr. Their lives were taken April 08, 2004 by her ex-boyfriend who then took his life.  The Silent Witness Initiative got started when I lost my job and Ms. Linda Boudreaux,Executive Director of Extra Mile saw that I was highlighting domestic violence (Angels of Mercy) volunteering asked me if I was interested in becoming involved with this mission.  Flattered and compelled by this I approached the challenge. During this journey I became aware that there is an entire subculture of people who are in pain a society of sufferers which included people from every walk of life.  Although an easy answer doesn't exist, I offered what I 've learned through sharing unfairness from my own life, that I may drop some seeds of h ope for these hurting hearts and bring them out of the stained glass they've begun to view and acesses the world, people and circumstances through..               https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/501fe913-cd38-4104-895a-80dc22c001a3.jpg    https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/beb05432-80d8-4f87-9fad-a2da42a73aba.png |

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| https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/14a33bde-c883-430e-8e17-ee5c94017590.jpg**WYOMING**  Many thanks to Katie Hughes from WCADVSA for sending us information about the Silent Witness project in Wyoming.  Our Silent Witness Ceremony this year was a great success!   We also created a new website, feel welcome to take a look at : [http://www.wyomingsilentwitnessinitiative.net/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5cguaEAWwQIMJWfFlsg8MXdOamyE5hmqqpksf_Qi5SmfRfZgSQjrHsHcEkH2T68BGSLeZ-ybqQQdshEtuypIvc1cymCOlkBdqkhITDrv3COe&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==)We publish a book to accompany the ceremony each year with the Silent Witnesses stories, pledge, and information about domestic violence. Do you know if any other states publish a similar book, and whether they might be able to send it to us? We are looking for some new ideas. |

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| **MICHIGAN**https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/a404ba97-1d89-4243-9706-0f770ed4333c.jpgWayne State University in Detroit Michigan just had their Silent Witnesses displayed for the first time this past October. They partnered with a local high school who created the silhouettes for them. Many thanks to Dr. Sara Byczek of the Counseling and Pshychological Services department for sending along the info and great photographs!  |

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| **New Silent Witness PRODUCTS available**https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/cdf0cef6-7780-4253-8ce8-128251c5bee9.png The Silent Witness National Initiative has added two shopping carts full of items that can make your next vigil or event even more meaningful.  We have a logo generator for you to make a custom logo with your name and choice of silhouettes. Now you can create your own custom logo (The Silent Witnesses of STATE NAME) and choose the three silhouette shapes of your choice, and that logo can be used in any of your marketing materials.  It's a great way to customize your project, and stay connected to the international program that started it all. Also now available is a beautiful song written by Leslie Monaghan of the New Brunswick Silent Witness Project, I'll Stand in the Rain. The song is available in English, French and Spanish. You can hear an English excerpt and read the words at [http://www.silentwitness.net/ill-stand-in-the-rain-mp3.html](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9YpTBRx03n9a3f4r8c0IsREyDhQtSEDyaQvm0gE3-H2rEqJTSHNf9tVOxMfa6ZiIoOWy7N4KcaSvKUiv2NHeHNQvQSvc5GzuC5p15ivjTU4ocWfdMd-WMM4YHpQxpKgxu-njahzMFprqU3BFkpCdb4DrnFv7MNktUF&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==) The cart for these items is available at [http://www.silentwitness.net/store/c1/Featured\_Products.html](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9Yz00_ExNBOGlFbUQbfMWLUjKBmiskmv_AX-TUbClZRRpxdFUa_FWvsnNGorYKz0K72CQGPxFAOqKJ0SH37X46VCRljudEoykgreMJgzlnBS6PWemLGJ_jr3KJTSZWaU-fgG-GzCBmIKry1LaT33CiDwN6Vp9MgYuC&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==)  There is a second shopping cart with a selection of over twenty Silent Witness logo items including hat, jewelry, buttons, car magnet, t-shirts, stationary and much more at [http://www.cafepress.com/silentwitnessinitiative](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9YxoissTV8uPvDsxI2aybC5_WjskbK04NWjZdj2ACu-OwEJIy5ONTsgZWfuFPXI8ijDKbM5PCkEDXC2F-RYmaz3YwtY-PqGpcj5TRH1Heggn7vhbJjcGe03GqGWJKZecckEaWYu1Mf9R0=&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==) And last but not least, we have worked with Newville Celebration Candles to give you a choice of two designs that can be put on their candles and candleholders for your events. Learn more at [http://www.silentwitness.net/silhouttes-shield-and-candles1.html](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fmnm0rjcVFXj_Fs66yUqKzNnlyrGqncE3LAwL3esyzvytxpVJlAj5afDFPtL6s9Yi6pHJ3mDaqEKWhoHKxEOG1ipfBcPAJxgWZThIer44XL5rvYxEFrQgkEmGMKjXKVPlrjuYrSnlrhWEJkiVAcr4EEzWBfN8ddM_6qAem_6OQcJRjh7spfc1A5oA4IU26H8Z0DQMC2s2fQK5g3XxhB-NZTUlAVv7E09&c=jHq4OFADqJuZqwYO2ysReHkJIVcCRgUBBdeBhV99BhHWpnC1gtipZQ==&ch=3FGewPy-5mMCZL_IePDDrtA8wQ0mH-HTyu35wBIWgIQeOWI4wKPfrQ==) We hope these items will help you with your next event or vigil. https://files.ctctcdn.com/f1ec2470401/7a64f1fb-5b7c-4ffd-900c-4301448ad611.jpg  |

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