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**For Immediate Release**

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**TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY AND LEADERS RALLY TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS**

*October 2023 Marks 35<sup>th</sup> Year of Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

**Boise, ID** – On Friday, September 29, at 10 a.m., the Women's and Children's Alliance (WCA) will host a press conference to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October 2023. This important event will bring together a consortium of victim service providers and community leaders, including Advocates Against Family Violence, Faces of Hope, and the Nampa Family Justice Center. The press conference will be held at the Idaho Peace Officers' Memorial, 700 S. Stratford Dr., Meridian, Idaho, and livestreamed on the WCA's social media channels:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/WCAboise](https://facebook.com/WCAboise)
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@WCA Boise>

The event will feature a ceremonial proclamation to officially declare October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the Treasure Valley.

Keynote speakers include:

- Bea Black, CEO, WCA
- Rod Beck, Commissioner, Ada County
- Shawn Sopoaga, Deputy Chief, Caldwell Police Department
- Shawn Rayne, Chief, Ada County Paramedics
- Kim Deugan, Executive Director, Advocates Against Family Violence
- A Survivor of Domestic Abuse from the Treasure Valley Community

"In 2022, Idaho reported 5,940 incidents of intimate partner violence and 10 domestic violence-related fatalities. As of September 2023, nine fatalities have already been reported," said Bea Black, CEO of WCA. "These numbers highlight the critical need for community awareness and action to support survivors and prevent future tragedies."

"I'm deeply honored to recognize the critical role that law enforcement and first responders play in providing survivors immediate, often lifesaving assistance. Domestic violence calls are among the most dangerous situations first responders face, and their courage and commitment are vital to our community," Black added.

The WCA invites community members to attend the press conference in person or join the livestream to show their support for survivors. For more information about the WCA and its services, visit [www.wcaboise.org](http://www.wcaboise.org).

***About the WCA***

*The WCA provides safety, healing, and freedom from domestic abuse and sexual assault. The WCA operates secure shelters and offers professional counseling, legal advocacy, crisis services, and case management to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. For more information, visit [www.wcaboise.org](http://www.wcaboise.org)*

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