

Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 1-31, 2022

History of Domestic Violence Awareness Month -

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981 and conceived by the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national level. The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes:

- Mourning those who have died because of domestic violence
- Celebrating those who have survived
- Connecting those who work to end violence

These three themes remain a key focus of DVAM events today. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with National Coalition Against Domestic Violence providing key leadership in this effort. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In June of 2022 the Brighton Police Department joined the 17th Judicial District Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) with the 17th Judicial District Attorney's, Thornton Police Department along with Community partners from Family Tree, Brighton Housing Authority, Servicios de la Raza, Project Safeguard, Probation, DHs, Adams 12 Five Star schools and 27J School district and Ralston House. The DVHRT is a pilot project funded through federal appropriations and will showcase the pilot DVHRT that started in Thornton and Brighton but will be expanding throughout Adams and Broomfield Counties. The DVHRT is the definition of what is considered a wrap-around service effort. It is literally a group people from the community that wraps around a victim of domestic violence and involved children to help protect them from further trauma caused by relationship violence. It is a victim-centered approach to try to end the cycle of violence that too often exist in families in Adams County. These cycles also have co-morbidity with issues of poverty, racial inequity, traditional gender roles, substance abuse, and isolation.

The City of Brighton joins the rest of the nation in proclaiming October Domestic Violence Awareness Month, shining a light on this serious problem, communicating to our community this issue is important and there is assistance available.