Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 2019

According to a survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one in four women and nearly one in 10 men in the United States have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime, and have reported some form of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)-related impact. More than 43 million women and 38 million men experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Artwork courtesy of youth at the Center for Adolescent Services
October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and at DYS, we recognize that we reflect our communities; we may have friends, family members, co-workers, and/or youth who are or have been victims of IPV, or we may ourselves be victims.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline gives these tips for helping someone in an abusive relationship: acknowledge that they are in a very difficult and scary situation, be supportive and listen; be non-judgmental; if they end the relationship, continue to be supportive of them; encourage them to participate in activities outside of the relationship with friends and family; help them develop a safety plan; encourage them to talk to people who can provide help and guidance; and remember that you cannot “rescue” them. Abuse is about power and control, so one of the most important ways you can help a person in an abusive relationship is to consider how you can help empower them to make their own decisions.

As an example of how we support efforts to address and prevent domestic violence involving young people, Cuyahoga, Warren, and Trumbull Counties are using Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and RECLAIM Grant funding to assess and target the needs of youth who would typically be charged with domestic violence and admitted to a secure detention facility. Instead, it provides them with respite home or emergency foster care services. Community-based services allow families to receive necessary support, and this scenario ideally allows time for family disputes to be worked out.

If you or someone you know is dealing with abuse in their relationship, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or chat online at www.thehotline.org.

Teens can access the National Domestic Violence Hotline’s loveisrespect project by calling 1-866-331-9474, chat live at www.loveisrespect.org, or text “LOVEIS” to 22522 to speak with a trained peer advocate.