



## **Women Helping Women and YWCA Greater Cincinnati Join Forces with Community Supporters for Fourth Annual Purple Light Walk and Reds Game**

*Event to Shine a Light on Fight Against Domestic Violence in our Community*

**Cincinnati** (September 27, 2016) — Women Helping Women and YWCA Greater Cincinnati today announced the fourth annual Purple Light Walk at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30 at Fountain Square. The free, annual event is held in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October), and it is designed to raise awareness about domestic violence and to empower survivors with resources, advocacy, and community. Women Helping Women (WHW) co-hosts the event with YWCA Greater Cincinnati in collaboration with the Cincinnati Police Department and the Women's Crisis Center and with presenting sponsors: Reliable Transportation Solutions (RTS), Zonta Club of Cincinnati, Sisters of Charity, and other community partners.

Wearing the color purple, which is the color designated for domestic violence awareness, hundreds of men, women, and children will carry purple glow sticks for the approximately 0.75 mile walk.

Thanks to the generous contributions of the Cincinnati Reds, the Purple Light Walk festivities will continue inside Great American Ball Park, with recognition of the event participants during the Reds game. As an exciting new feature this year, 750 free tickets to Friday evening's Reds game will be distributed to all Purple Light Walk attendees. A public service announcement video on domestic violence will be broadcast along with live visuals of Purple Light Walk event participants on the LED video boards during the game.

Back by popular demand, Officer Princess Davis, the Citizens on Patrol Coordinator for Cincinnati Police District 1, will emcee the event again this year. Davis has worked with Women Helping Women through their Violence Against Women Act partnership since its inception and has worked with many domestic violence survivors over the years.

The Purple Light Walk Committee is co-chaired by Ellen Newman, Hamilton County Volunteer Coordinator at Women Helping Women, and Erika Yingling, Director, Family and Community Intervention at YWCA Greater Cincinnati.

"Women Helping Women is proud to team up with our event co-host, YWCA Greater Cincinnati, and our Purple Light Walk partners, the Cincinnati Police Department, the Zonta Club of Cincinnati, Women's Crisis Center and others to host the fourth annual Purple Light Walk," said Kristin Smith Shrimplin, President and CEO of Women Helping Women. "This walk is about empowerment and our region uniting to end this public health epidemic that impacts one out of three women and teens. Come join us and walk towards a solution."

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“On Friday evening, we will be walking on behalf of the more than three women and one man who are murdered by intimate partners every day in this country,” said Barbara C. Perez, President and CEO of YWCA Greater Cincinnati.

Cincinnati Police Chief, Lt. Col. Eliot Isaac said, “We are pleased to once again support our long-term partners Women Helping Women, YWCA, and others to shed light on the devastating effects of domestic violence and how we can empower those dealing with these issues in our community. Together we are committed to spreading the message of hope to those affected and helping to end the cycle of violence we see too often.”

“We are proud to sponsor the fourth annual Purple Light Walk, bringing together the Cincinnati community to form a powerful alliance in support of those impacted by domestic violence,” said Rebecca Varney, Director of Human Resources and Marketing, Reliable Transportation Solutions.

Zonta Club of Cincinnati President, Pat Jude said, “We are proud to team up with Women Helping Women, the Cincinnati Police Department, YWCA, and other community partners to shed light on the fact that domestic violence is a problem facing women and men of all backgrounds, sexual orientations, and abilities. Preventing violence against women is one of Zonta’s core missions.”

Those interested in participating may register online at [purplelightwalk2016.eventbrite.com](http://purplelightwalk2016.eventbrite.com) or in person on the day of the event. Registration is free for all participants; this is a family-friendly event appropriate for all ages. The Purple Light Walk will begin at Fountain Square with food, music, dancing, and a resource fair at 5:30 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m., and 0.75 mile walk through downtown Cincinnati at 7:00 p.m. After the walk, participants will walk together from Fountain Square to Great American Ball Park. Participants will be given free tickets to attend the Reds Game immediately following the Walk. There will be a limited supply of 2016 Purple Light Walk T-Shirts to those who arrive early.

Additional Domestic Violence Awareness Month events in Greater Cincinnati include the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bark Out Against Battering Pet Fest at Washington Square Park in Over-the-Rhine on October 1 at 11:30 a.m., and the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual “She Screams Without Sound” Candlelight Vigil on Tuesday, October 18 at 6:15 p.m. at the Hamilton County Courthouse.

## **ABOUT WOMEN HELPING WOMEN**

*Women Helping Women (WHW) empowers survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking by providing advocacy, support, and options for safety and educates the community to create social change. WHW is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1973 to serve women and men who are survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking in Southwestern Ohio. The agency provides crisis intervention services including hotline, hospital accompaniment, court advocacy, support groups, and face-to-face advocacy for abuse survivors and also conducts training and education in the community to increase awareness of these crimes and aid in their prevention. Funded in part by the United Way, WHW serves more than 12,000 people each year. For more information, visit [www.womenhelpingwomen.org](http://www.womenhelpingwomen.org).*



## **ABOUT YWCA GREATER CINCINNATI**

*The YWCA is the voice for every woman. The largest women's organization in the world, it is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA Greater Cincinnati has been serving the community for 147 years. Led by President/CEO Barbara C. Perez, the YWCA serves more than 35,000 women and families each year through programs in crisis intervention, health and wellness, education and training, youth services, and recognition and advocacy. For more information, call YWCA Greater Cincinnati at 513-241-7090 or visit [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org).*

## **ABOUT CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*The City of Cincinnati Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency for the City of Cincinnati and currently employs almost 1,100 officers and 120 civilian employees. Under the direction of Interim Police Chief Eliot Isaac, the Department provides a full range of police services within a 78.6 square-mile area and throughout Greater Cincinnati. Through core values of integrity, professionalism, diversity, accountability, and vigilance the Department is dedicated to making a difference by solving problems with community involvement, using technology to guide enforcement, and improving the quality of life for those they serve. The Department embraces a community oriented policing philosophy, implementing such programs as: computer aided dispatching, evidenced-based policing, a robust youth engagement platform, Mountain Bike Patrol, Citizens Police Academy, Student Police Academy, Summer Youth Police Cadet Program, Quality of Life Enhancement Officers and more. For more information, please visit [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/).*

## **ABOUT WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER**

*For 40 years, Women's Crisis Center has empowered survivors of domestic violence, rape, and sexual abuse throughout 13 Kentucky counties. In addition to crisis intervention and outreach services—including housing, individual and group counseling, basic needs support, hospital and court advocacy, and the operation of a 24/7 crisis line, the agency leads the community in the social change need to end domestic violence, rape, and sexual abuse via its innovative Green Dot program, which emphasizes bystander intervention. In 2015, Women's Crisis Center assisted 1,228 survivors of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault while honoring its grassroots origins—and the inherent dignity of every survivor—within the Northern Kentucky community. For more information, please call 859-491-3335 or visit [www.wccky.org](http://www.wccky.org).*

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