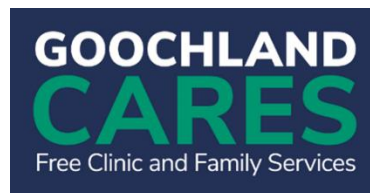


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Contact: Emily May, Tel: 804 556-0205

emay@GoochlandCares.org



For Immediate Release

Goochland, VA

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence impacts **every community** and affects people of **all genders, races, and sexual orientations** – **anyone** can experience or perpetrate domestic violence.

For nearly three decades, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) has been observed nationally in October as an opportunity to bring light to the issue of domestic violence and its effects on victims, survivors, families, and communities. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime. (Sited from Virginia Department of Social Services website.)

The SDV Program at GoochlandCares assists survivors of sexual and domestic violence through a range of services including a 24/7 hotline, court advocacy program, housing assistance, shelter, and personalized one-on-one support. According to Krista Riggleson, MSW, the Coordinator of the SDV Program, “GoochlandCares Advocates collaborate with survivors to address their trauma in a manner that feels secure to them and progresses at their own comfort level.”

In 2022, the GoochlandCares SDV Program extended its services and support to 118 residents of Goochland County, and effectively managed 48 hotline calls. Krista emphasized that this program plays a crucial role, as it serves as a lifeline of assistance, preventing numerous Central VA residents from experiencing crisis situations without a source of support.

If you have questions or feel that yourself, a friend, or a coworker might be experiencing sexual or domestic violence please call the GoochlandCares 24-hour **confidential** hotline - **804-980-6267** - to receive resources, information, and support.

The State of Virginia's 24-hour Family Violence and Sexual Assault hotline number is 1-800-838-8238.

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GoochlandCares is a private, 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that provides basic human services and health care to our Goochland neighbors in need. GoochlandCares envisions an equitable community in which all persons have their basic needs met, empowering them to lead lives of self-dignity and well-being.