

**GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc.**

**Press Release**

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**Woman’s Club hosts Domestic Violence Prevention Training**

A Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Training, with emphasis on Teen Domestic Violence, was held on October 3, 2016 at the Carroll Nonprofit Center. The training session was sponsored by Family and Children's Services in partnership with GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster, Inc. It was organized by the club's Home Life Community Service Program co-chaired by Mary Dudderar and Jean Picardi, and Kelley Rainey, Director of Domestic Violence Services for Family and Children's Services. The program was attended by professional s seeking training as well as club members and others wanting to learn more about the effects of domestic violence. Statistics provided on the training program state that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will be in a violent relationship during their lives and that young w omen between the ages of 16 to 24 are three times more likely to suffer abuse. The program was especially meaningful to the club women as "Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention" is a GFWC signature project.

The morning began with a continental breakfast and time for participants to mingle and chat, with the group being joined by County Commissioner, Stephen Wantz. who brought guests, State's Attorney Brian DeLeonardo and County Sheriff Jim DeWees. All three spoke on the topic of domestic violence, and Commissioner Wantz signed a proclamation that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Rainey welcomed everyone and spoke of the importance of bringing awareness of domestic violence to light and showing its victims that help is available. She thanked the Club members for their support in putting the training session together and introduced Judy Klinger, Supervisor of School Counseling for Carroll County Public Schools, and Jordyn Cohen, Regional Coordinator, Maryland of One Love Foundation.

Klinger spoke on "Teens and Domestic Violence" from the viewpoint of an educator and her experience as a counselor.

 The film "Escalation" was shown by Cohen depicting the abuse and murder of a young woman by her boyfriend. It was difficult to watch but showed the terrible consequences of abusive relationships.

There were 43 attendees at the training session, 19 of whom registered for continuing education units.

Club co-chairs of Home Life, Mary Dudderar and Jean Picardi, said that they are proud to have helped bring such a meaningful program to Westminster.

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