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AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH KICK-OFF, HUBBARD HOUSE AND PARTNERS REPORT LOSS OF LIFE, OPPORTUNITY FOR HOPE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – October 1, 2018 – At today's Domestic Violence Awareness Month kick-off press conference, Hubbard House and its partners released the results of the 2017 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report: In 2017, in Duval County, there were 15 domestic violence related deaths, nine deaths were specifically related to intimate partner domestic violence.

Of the nine deaths related to intimate partner domestic violence, seven were intimate partners in domestic violence relationships, husbands, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends. And, two of the deaths were of the children of victims of domestic violence – an adult daughter and a three-year-old boy – who were caught in the crossfire of an attack by an abuser.

The intervention and prevention partners – Hubbard House, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the City of Jacksonville, the State Attorney's Office, Northeast Florida law enforcement and others involved in the movement to end domestic violence – stood together at the conference to pledge commitment to serving victims of domestic violence and their families, and to saving lives. In keeping with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, they also implored both witnesses and survivors to reach out for help, hope and healing.

"Domestic Violence continues to be an issue in this country and it happens in every community, in all kinds of families and relationships," said Sheriff Mike Williams. "We come together once a year to remind the community that we are working behind the scenes 365 days a year committed to resolving these issues. Every time a victim finds the courage to call the police and ask us to intervene is a good day and the first step in the right direction."

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review 2017 Report is an examination of domestic violence homicides from Jan. 1, 2017 through Dec. 31, 2017, including an analysis of domestic violence homicides from December 1996 to December 2017. The purpose of the fatality report is to identify patterns and trends in domestic violence related deaths, which might have been preventable.

“Awareness as a community and as individuals is vital to ensure no one is lost to domestic violence,” said Adair Newman, Assistant State Attorney and Duval County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Chair. “If you believe someone is exhibiting signs of a problem, be the person they need in their time of crisis, before that crisis becomes a tragedy.”

Per the Fatality Report, 38 percent of the local domestic violence homicides involved intimate partners, and despite an overall decline in homicides, both locally and nationally, there has been no such decline in domestic violence homicides. Also, noteworthy, half of the intimate partner domestic violence homicide cases highlighted by Hubbard House occurred as or after the victim had left her or his abuser, proving again that leaving an abuser is often the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence. The Hubbard House Domestic Violence Hotline can help victims develop a plan to leave safely and to stay safe.

“Victims of domestic violence, I want you to hear this clearly: If your partner has ever threatened to kill you, threatened you with a weapon or you believe that he or she will kill you, you need help, now. Please. Find a safe place and a safe phone and call our hotline number, (904) 354-3114, and speak to one of our trained advocates. Calls are confidential and the help is free. You are not alone,” said Hubbard House CEO Dr. Gail Patin.

Individuals who are in an abusive relationship, or know someone who is, are urged to call Hubbard House’s 24-hour domestic violence hotline at (904) 354-3114 or 1-800-500-1119.

Hubbard House is a full-service certified domestic violence center providing prevention and intervention services to domestic violence survivors and their families in Duval and Baker counties in Northeast Florida.

For more information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, please visit www.hubbardhouse.org and follow Hubbard House on Facebook and Twitter. If you would like a copy of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review 2017 Report, please contact Melissa Sturgis at msturgis@hubbardhouse.org.

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