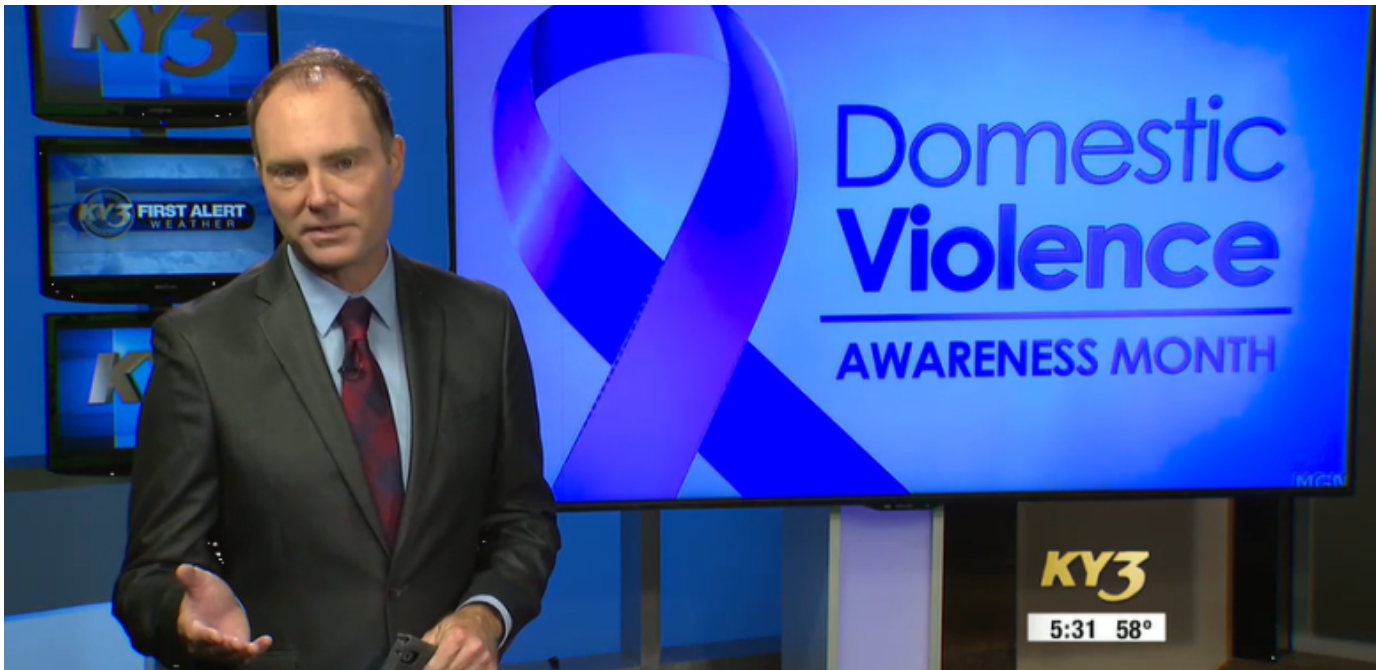


Stop the Domestic Violence Conference Returns to Springfield, MO



Stop the Violence domestic violence conference returns to Springfield on Monday.

It's hosted by a variety of partners to talk about the state of and resources for domestic violence in our community.

"This was a result of the increase of domestic violence incidents in our community. The first conference was very fortunate to have some really great sponsors and members of the planning committee to help bring this conference free of charge to members of the community," said Kristen Snell, director of engagement at Harmony House.

The conference is hosted by a variety of partners to talk about the state of and resources for domestic violence.

The conference did require registration. It takes place at the eFactory on Jefferson on Monday at 8 a.m.

Snell says this is a crucial thing for community members to educate themselves on.

"We always say that an educated community is a safer community. So the more we can talk about this issue and bring and the more safe spaces we create in the community for victims and survivors to come forward," said Snell.

Springfield-Greene County has some of the highest reported domestic violence cases in the state. In 2022 [Department](#) reported nearly 2500 cases of domestic violence.

“Springfield, Green County, has some of the highest rates of domestic violence in the state of Missouri. It’s cause, whether it’s incidents of domestic violence happening or more people coming forward to report those incidents, is because we are in a community that is very collaborative. So we have a lot of folks coming to the table to address this issue.”

There are many partnerships in Greene County to address the issue.

“We have agencies like us, Harmony House. We also have the Greene County Family Justice Center, which is a coalition of different agencies in the community, housed in one location where victims can access multiple services they need to have to drive across town to different agencies. We also have the victim center, we have the child abuse center. Multiple agencies in town who all come to the table regularly to address this issue,” said Snell.

The conference will discuss a variety of things with attendees.

“There will be takeaways of knowledge that maybe other agencies can implement, or just the community learning about domestic violence, which might be able to help them more quickly recognize signs of someone that they might be in a domestic violence situation. We have a panel that will be talking about prevention education in the community, and how the community can help spread the message,” said Snell.

Snell encourages everyone, whether you’re attending the conference or not, to educate yourself on domestic violence.

“The more educated we have, the more able we are to support survivors. So whether someone is disclosing a domestic violence situation they’ve disclosed before in the past, we want to be able to help them in whatever that journey looks like for them. Whether they’re staying in the relationship, the more support we give survivors the better chance they have of being able to get out of it,” said Snell.

If you or someone you know is struggling in a domestic violence situation, you can reach out to Harmony House. You can find that information [here](#).

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By [Savannah Harrison](#)

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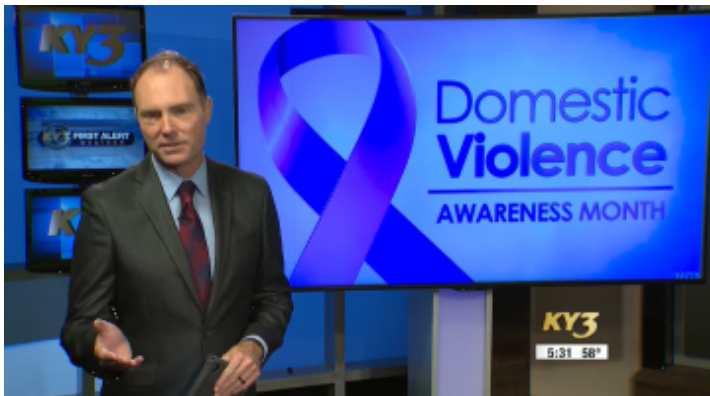


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