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Annual vigil raises awareness of domestic violence

campus-news

October 5, 2010

KOKOMO, Ind. – In Indiana last year, 53 people lost their lives due to domestic violence. The annual Domestic Violence Vigil at Indiana University Kokomo helps remind the community of the seriousness of this social problem.

The event will take place on Tuesday, October 12, at 4 p.m. in Alumni Hall, and is sponsored by the American Democracy Project, the Office of Student Activities, and Family Services Association.

Amber Reed, assistant professor of education and organizer of the vigil, said it is important for students to be aware of domestic violence and be informed.

“It’s not just about the books they read, but being shoulder-to-shoulder with the people they will be serving,” Reed said of the students on campus who will one day be working in the surrounding communities. “We are hosting the vigil at a central place where the community can come together and support these efforts.”

Students, faculty, and staff at IU Kokomo are committed to raising awareness through this event and the annual Take Bake the Night/Angel Walk, which takes place in the spring. Reed said the vigil kicks off the year of events.

Last year, a record \$16,000 was raised at the annual rally and walk. This money is donated to the local domestic violence shelter, which has been filled to capacity since it opened nearly 10 years ago.



Some nationwide statistics during a one-day count in 2009 found:


- 65,321 domestic violence victims sought help from service providers — 24,224 were children;
- 32,797 victims were given refuge in either emergency shelters or transitional housing;
- two women miscarried as a result of domestic violence;
- four women were murdered by their intimate partners;
- seven children were killed by their fathers;

- seven babies were born to mothers living in emergency shelters.

For more information or to get involved, contact the student activities office at (765) 455-9203, or by e-mail at activities@iuk.edu (<mailto:activities@iuk.edu>).

Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.

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