

# PRESSRELEASE

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Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219) 873-1400 • Fax: (219) 873-1515  
www.emichigancity.com

## For Immediate Release

**Date:** October 2, 2008  
**Contact:** Cindi Gonzalez-Walus  
**Phone:** (219) 873-1400  
**Fax:** (219) 873-1515

## Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence

Michigan City, IN – The Domestic Violence/Communities Against Rape Task Force of LaPorte County has announced plans for a community-wide Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence on Monday, October 6, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at the Jaycee Stage in Michigan City's Washington Park.

Mayor Oberlie stated, "I encourage our citizens to participate in this program to demonstrate that there is assistance for those experiencing domestic violence, and to demonstrate that domestic violence will not be accepted in our community. This program provides each of us with an opportunity to show that we will be vigilant of our neighbors needs."

The efforts of the Task Force are aimed at eliminating domestic violence in our community and Monday's event will both memorialize those who've lost their lives to domestic violence and communicate the message that all citizens must remain observant and vigilant to prevent further acts of domestic violence. The Mayor noted, "Abuse is a local issue. In LaPorte County for the year 2007, there were 193 reports of Sexual Abuse, 366 reports of Physical Abuse, and 1157 reports of Neglect. The Stepping Stone Shelter for Women provided assistance to 112 Women that included 184 children."

The theme of this year's observance and candlelight vigil is entitled "Love Shouldn't Hurt--A Circle of Support." The program will reinforce the concept that "it takes a village" to respond to the devastation left behind in the wake of

domestic violence and highlight the roles and responsibilities we all have in preventing such tragedies.

Several organizations will participate in Monday's Candlelight Vigil including the Soul Steppers of Michigan City and the Children's Choirs from: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Michigan City; St. Joseph's Catholic Church of LaPorte; and New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Michigan City.

Additionally, local clergy will participate and Michigan City Police Department Officer Dion Campbell will provide the keynote address.

The Candlelight Vigil will include several visual reminders of the impact of domestic violence with the Silent Witness silhouettes and the Victims' T-Shirt Clotheslines displays. Attendees will receive purple awareness ribbons and beaded remembrance bracelets.

An audio segment is planned after the keynote address to replay actual recordings of 911 calls seeking assistance.

A time for prayer and a moment of silence for 4-year-old Savannah Pioch will also take place at Monday's Candlelight Vigil.

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