

November 22, 2021

Zonta Club of Glens Falls brings “16 Days of Activism” to the area November 25 – December 10 in collaboration with SUNY Adirondack, the City of Glens Falls, Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls Hospital, Glens Falls National Bank, Catholic Charities, the Glens Falls Collaborative and approximately 14 Glens Falls businesses.

16 Days of Activism is a Zonta International Advocacy Project that brings awareness to end violence against women. It is springing into action in nearly 1200 Zonta clubs in 63 countries around the globe this year. Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive human rights violations and a global pandemic. During the 16 Days of Activism, all Zonta Clubs and districts are encouraged to take part in the “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women” campaign: no to abuse, trafficking, and childhood marriage. In doing so, the campaign takes local, national, and international actions to influence the creation and implementation of laws, as well as changing gender-based attitudes and behaviors to end violence against women and girls. This is Zonta International’s tenth year of the campaign.

The Glens Falls business and non-profit community will support the campaign by displaying “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women” posters in their windows. The City of Glens Falls DPW have volunteered to hang flagpole posters on Glen Street through the help of Mayor Hall. Some businesses will have giveaways “shining a light on violence” with orange, the campaign’s Zonta International Color, to educate the public on the issue, as well as where and how to get help if someone is in need. In addition, Zonta has collaborated with a breadth of community

partners to bring total awareness to ensure that “women’s rights are recognized as human rights,” and “in such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.”

The Domestic Violence Project of Warren & Washington Counties, a program of Catholic Charities, is contributing a community-wide display of the Silent Witness Project, a national memorial honoring women and others who were murdered in acts of domestic violence. This exhibit – on view locally during the 16 Days of Activism at SUNY Adirondack, and Glens Falls Hospital -- features red, life-size silhouettes. Each figure conveys the story of a local woman’s life and death. The Uncounted Woman figure bears witness to those whose deaths have not been acknowledged.

In 1990, women artists in Minnesota first created and launched the Silent Witness Project to memorialize the 26 women murdered in acts of domestic violence in the state that year, and to protest and spur public action to stop the killings. The project quickly spread across the United States. In October 1998, the first Silent Witness National March was held in Washington, D.C., with participants representing Silent Witness Projects in all 50 states and the Island of Guam. The ongoing and now international Project continues to create a visual testament to the human cost of domestic violence in our community and around the world.

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