

2017 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events

One in three American women has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. That's more women than are affected by breast cancer, ovarian cancer and lung cancer combined. Still, more than one-third of Americans have never discussed the issue.

Throughout the month of October, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is raising public awareness to end domestic violence with a variety of events as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). More details on all of these events are available at naplesshelter.org/dvam

Moe's Corporate Run: 6:15 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 5, Moe's (corner of US 41 and Immokalee Road) - Join this three-mile run/walk to benefit The Shelter. All levels of runners and walkers are welcome. This race is not chip-timed. To register, go to runsignup.com and search for Moe's Run.

Vino's Picasso Domestic Violence Awareness FUNdraiser: Saturday, Oct. 7, 4-6 p.m., Vino's Picasso, 2367 Vanderbilt Beach Road, #805 - Create a beautiful painting while supporting The Shelter's efforts to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence. For more information or to register, go to vinospicasso.com

Purple Party Masquerade: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 19, Cavo Lounge in the Mercato - Hosted by The Shelter's NextGen group, this year's party theme is "Masquerade, Unmasking Domestic Violence." The evening attire will be purple, and attendees are encouraged to wear masks. There will be a prize for best mask, dancing and drawings for prizes. Tickets for the party are \$65 and tickets for the drawings are \$20 each/3 for \$50/10 for \$100 available at naplesshelter.org/purpleparty

The Shelter's Purple Flash Mob: 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20, Second Cup at Mercato - Come join The Shelter's flash mob as we dance to raise awareness of domestic violence. Learn the dance online at naplesshelter.org/dance. Wear purple and meet up with us at the registration table in the common area outside Second Cup.

The Immokalee Peace Fair: 3-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23 at the Collier County Immokalee Sports Complex, 505 Escambia St. - The event is free and open to the public. Activities include a dove release, children's games, a petting zoo, food, entertainment, and information booths hosted by partner agencies.

For more information about any of these activities, contact Kaydee Tuff at 239.775.3862 or ktuff@naplesshelter.org.

FCB and TIF form a partnership

A partnership between Florida Community Bank (FCB) and The Immokalee Foundation has resulted in the FCB Impact Center, a collection of local nonprofit organizations serving Immokalee and Collier County with programs and services benefiting residents of the community.

In addition to The Immokalee Foundation, organizations housed within the FCB Impact Center include One by One Leadership, ICO Arts, Taste of Immokalee, Goodwill Job Link, AARP, Lighthouse Center for the Blind, H.E.L.P. of Collier County and Legal Aid.

"The combination of providers at the center reflects a broad scope of services available to the residents of Immokalee," said Steven Kissinger, The Immokalee Foundation's executive director. "By joining together, our organizations have made it easier for those in need to discover programs and services available to them. We're grateful to Florida Community Bank for their vision and commitment to The Immokalee Foundation and the community."

Luis Cartagena, FCB branch manager and board member for The Immokalee Foundation, worked with Kissinger to discuss ideas for a sizeable annex not needed for day-to-day bank operations. Kissinger immediately saw an opportunity for what this space could provide, which formerly housed FCB's back-office operations and administrative divisions. The Immokalee Foundation signed a lease, and Kissinger and Cartagena went to work converting the space to offices.

Kissinger used three offices for foundation staff. He then worked with the United Way of Collier County to identify partner agencies to round out the services offered to low- and moderate-income residents of Immokalee.

"Florida Community Bank believes in giving back to the communities we serve, and these organizations provide essential services to our customers and neighbors," said Kent Ellert, President and Chief Executive Officer of Florida Community Bank. "We are proud to provide a welcoming and accessible location for all Immokalee residents to access a number of vital resources that will benefit them."

Existing organizations were leasing space throughout Collier County, including Immokalee, but the FCB Impact Center now allows these nonprofit organizations to provide an array of programs and services, which ultimately benefit the community at large.

Not only does FCB provide the space to these organizations as an in-kind donation, the bank encourages associates to support these organizations by serving as board members, mentors, volunteers and advocates to promote their missions.

The FCB Impact Center is located at 1400 N. 15th St. in Immokalee.

The Immokalee Foundation provides a range of educational programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and post-secondary preparation while offering support, mentoring and tutoring, opportunities for broadening experiences and life skills development leading to economic independence. To learn more about The Immokalee Foundation and/or about volunteering as a career panel speaker or host, becoming a mentor, making a donation, including the foundation in your estate plans, or acquiring additional information, call 239-430-9122 or email them at www.immokaleefoundation.org.



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