

## This Month at WSS

Welcome to our inaugural issue of **This Month at WSS!** Each month we will bring you a collection of updates, resources, and opportunities to engage with our work in the community. We hope you will be inspired to learn, grow, and connect!

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Women's Support Services is busy preparing for our **Annual Community Vigil**, which will be held on **Thursday, October 6th**. During the Vigil, we commemorate those who have lost their lives to domestic violence in Connecticut during the past year. We will begin at **Community Park in Lakeville** (10 Sharon Road, next to the Patco Mobil station) at **6:30 pm**. A candlelit Remembrance Walk from the park will bring us to our new offices at 13a Porter Street. At the conclusion of the program, we invite you to stay for an informal reception. Parking is available at both Community Park and behind the Lakeville United Methodist Church (adjacent to the rear of the WSS office building).

At this year's Vigil, we are excited to launch our partnership with [Red Sand Project](#), an ongoing participatory artwork by local artist Molly Gochman. This project is designed to raise awareness of human trafficking by filling the cracks of sidewalks with red sand. **Beginning at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 6**, you are warmly invited to join us at **Community Park in Lakeville** to participate in the creation of this Red Sand Project action along our Remembrance Walk route. **The Vigil will begin promptly at 6:30 pm immediately following the Red Sand Project action.**

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### Spotlight on WSS: Education

With the return to school this fall, WSS marks our return to the Region 1 classrooms with an expanded program of social-emotional learning workshops on building healthy relationships and communication skills. Our integrated curriculum now spans grades 6 through 12 and seeks to help our youth develop empathy, a sense of connection, and a justice-oriented mindset that they will carry with them within and beyond our schools. We are, as always, grateful to Superintendent Lisa Carter and all the Region 1 faculty, staff, and students for welcoming us into their schools.



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## RESOURCE ROUNDUP

- [The Child Welfare Virtual Expo](#) - 9/28
- [Behind Closed Doors](#) - This video addresses the impact that witnessing domestic violence has on infants and children and demonstrates the long-term effects on their behavior and relationships. Stream free on [Kanopy](#).
- Learn about teen dating abuse here: [Break the Cycle](#)
- [The National Dating Abuse Helpline](#) - 866-331-9474
- [One Love](#) teaches about the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships and empowers teens to bring this education back to their peers by becoming a One Love Student Leader. Get more information about this free yearlong program [here](#).
- Webinar: [The Intersectionality of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking](#)
- Human trafficking can happen anywhere -- even here. [What You Need to Know About Human Trafficking](#) is a collection of information and resources by [Blue Campaign](#) that will help you spot the warning signs and take action.



### CALLING ALL CARS!

Due to our rural setting and lack of public transportation, cars are a critical need for many of our clients. Make a life-changing difference by donating your car to WSS. A big thanks to Art, of [Art's Automotive Repair](#), for partnering with us on this important program!

[Click here for more information.](#)

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[Donate to WSS](#)

**Your support transforms lives!**

**24-hour Hotline 860-364-1900 [www.wssdv.org](http://www.wssdv.org)**



