**Voices of Hope Hosts Activities to Recognize**

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October**

Voices of Hope, Lincoln’s crisis center for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, will host several events and activities in October as part of their recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The events will start off on **Thursday, Oct. 12 with Voices of Hope’s annual Open House followed by the Candlelight Vigil in memory and honor of victims of domestic violence in our community.** The Open House, Candlelight Vigil and Vendor Showcase are all open to the public.

The Open House features tours of the facility, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet Voices of Hope staff and board members and learn more about the agency’s services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The annual Community Candlelight Vigil begins immediately after the Open House at 7:30 p.m. and is held outdoors in front of the facility. The theme of this year’s vigil is “Hope Unites”. Both events, which are are free and open to the public, will be held at Voices of Hope’s facility at 2545 N St. in Lincoln.

 On **Saturday, October 21, Voices of Hope will host a Vendor Showcase**, featuring the latest products of various vendors. The event will be held at Voices of Hope from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Participating vendors include Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, DoTerra, and more, all of which will be donating a percentage of their sales that day to the agency.

For the final week in October, **Voices of Hope’s has scheduled its 23rd annual Shop to Stop Family Violence campaign, to be held Sunday, Oct. 22 through Saturday, October 28.** Throughout the week, locally-owned retailers in Lincoln will be donating 2% of their sales to Voices of Hope. Participating retailers include: A Novel Idea Bookstore, Abesque Variations Boutique, Francie & Finch Bookshop, Goldenrod Pastries, Gomez Art Supply, Home & Closet, Indigo Bridge Books, Little Mountain Tee, Meier’s Cork ‘N Bottle, Mountain Gypsy Home Imports, omt! Divine women’s resale, Paint Yourself Sill, Paper Kite, Rachel’s Boutique, Scarlet Raven Tattoo, Stella Collective, Stem Gallery, The Black Market Clothing, The Funky Sister, The Mill, The Violin Shop, Ten Thousand Villages, Tsuru, and Uniform Connection. Corporate sponsors for this event include: Brester Construction, BryanHealth, studio951, and Union Bank & Trust.

In addition, **UNL’s PREVENT organization and and Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority are hosting “Rock for Respect” on Friday, October 6th at The Bay, 22nd & Y St**. This benefit concert for Voices of Hope features the following bands: The Way Out, Better Friend and Histrionic. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the bands begin playing at 7:30 pm.