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## COLORADO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES BEGIN WITH OCTOBER 1 RALLY AT STATE CAPITOL**

(DENVER, CO – SEPTEMBER 30, 2003) The recent rash of high profile domestic violence incidents in Colorado is a sober reminder of why campaigns like Domestic Violence Awareness Month are needed, says the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), a 25-year old organization dedicated to ending domestic violence in all its forms. CCADV is organizing a month of statewide activities beginning with a 10am rally at the State Capitol in Denver on October 1.

According to the American Medical Association, family violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend and over half a million women are stalked by an intimate partner each year. Forty percent of teenage girls know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. In 2002, there were 61 domestic violence related deaths in Colorado, and over 200,000 crisis calls to shelters and counseling hotlines. More than 5,000 women and children spent the night at shelters and another 5,000 had to be turned away due to lack of space.

“Unless we start to dramatically change behaviors, domestic violence will continue to transfer from one generation to the next, impacting every community in Colorado regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation,” said Trish Thibodo, CCADV executive director. “We invite people to join us in a show of solidarity and hope on October 1.”

Highlights of the rally include African dancers, speakers, and a proclamation from the Governor.

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The rally will kickoff a full month of CCADV activities, including:

- A statewide Advocacy Training Institute in Steamboat Springs October 9-10
- The October 11 release of the *Stamp Out Family Violence Postal Stamp*
- A new PSA directed at young men produced in partnership with the Colorado Hip-Hop Coalition
- An October 17-18 joint spoken word event with the Colorado Hip Hop Coalition called *Speak Out, Speak Up – End the Violence* at the Cleo Parker Robinson Center
- An October 20<sup>th</sup> press conference with Attorney General Ken Salazar and the National Cosmetology Association to announce a new pilot program called *Cut it Out* to train salon professionals to recognize signs of domestic violence
- Activities to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

*Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) - [www.ccadv.org](http://www.ccadv.org) - is a 25-year old statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization providing resources, education, and training, and serving as a voice to more than 80 members and 60 programs serving some 40,000 battered women and children in Colorado each year.*