



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners to establish power and control; and

WHEREAS, the effects of violence are visible in the burdens placed upon our health care, educational, social service, child welfare, and criminal justice systems and in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, overall last year violent and non-violent crime decreased in Florida, while domestic violence crime increased 3 percent with more than 116,000 new domestic violence related offenses reported for 2009; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crimes Report reflected an alarming 15 percent increase in domestic violence homicides and a 71 percent increase in domestic violence related manslaughters, ; and

WHEREAS, results from a recent research study of sample homicide cases reflected that 92 percent of the perpetrators were male, 57 percent of the perpetrators had prior criminal records for non-domestic violence offenses, and in nearly half of the cases ,family and/or friends were aware of a history of domestic violence in the home; and

WHEREAS, Florida has 42 certified domestic violence centers that provided emergency shelter to 14,667 survivors of domestic violence and their children, distributed 112,515 safety plans and responded to 149,660 hotline calls in 2009, and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the State of Florida was awarded nearly \$9 million in federal grants, and another nearly \$7 million in American and Reinvestment Act funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2010 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* and encourage all Floridians to join in a commitment to promote peace and prevent violence in Florida.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 1st day of October, in the year two thousand ten.

A blue ink signature of Charlie Crist, written in a cursive style.

Governor