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**For Immediate Release**

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**State Coalition Hosts Annual Training and Advocacy Day**

**Topeka, KS, 2/05/2016** – Next week, the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) will host its annual training and Advocacy Day to increase awareness about the issues of sexual and domestic violence in Kansas. The week's events, called "Safe Homes, Safe Streets," will bring over 100 victim advocates and allied professionals from across Kansas to Topeka to participate. This is KCSDV's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Homes, Safe Streets event.

The week kicks-off with the "Engaging Communities to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence" prevention summit. Featured national presenters will include Jeffrey Bucholtz, Director of We End Violence, and Tyler Osterhaus, Anti-Violence Educator and Prevention Consultant. Over 100 people are expected to be in attendance at the training.

The Sunflower Safety Luncheon and Awards Ceremony will take place on the second day of the summit. Individuals and communities from across Kansas who do outstanding work on behalf of survivors of sexual and domestic violence will be recognized.

The Advocacy Day will take place on Wednesday at the Kansas Statehouse. There will be a Silent Witness Silhouette display on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Statehouse Rotunda, featuring stories of victims who lost their lives to sexual and domestic violence in Kansas. "This will be one of the rare occasions when all Silent Witness Silhouettes will be featured together on display," said Joyce Grover, KCSDV executive director. "This is a powerful visual of the true impact of sexual and domestic violence in Kansas." The 29 sexual and domestic violence advocacy programs from across Kansas will also have displays on the 1st floor of the Statehouse. A program and press conference will occur 12:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Rotunda. All Advocacy Day events and displays are open to the public.

Kansas sexual and domestic violence advocacy programs regularly serve over 20,000 victims, respond to over 25,000 crisis hotline calls, and provide over 50,000 hours of crisis counseling annually. "It is our hope that the Safe Homes, Safe Streets events will help educate policy makers and the public about the impact of this violence in Kansas and the life-saving services available statewide," said Grover.

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*Founded in 1982, the purpose of KCSDV is the prevention and elimination of sexual and domestic violence through a statewide network of programs providing support and safety for all victims of sexual and domestic violence and stalking, with primary focus on women and their children; direct services; public awareness and education; advocacy for victims; comprehensive prevention; and, social change efforts. Learn more at [www.kcsdv.org](http://www.kcsdv.org).*