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Hutchinson woman receives statewide Volunteer of the Year honor

TOPEKA, KAN., FEBRUARY 21, 2011 — A dedicated volunteer working on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence has been recognized by a statewide advocacy organization. Mikaela Coon of Hutchinson received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) during its 8th annual Safe Homes, Safe Streets reception in Topeka on February 9.

“We honor Mikaela for her above-and-beyond commitment on behalf of victims of sexual and domestic violence,” said Joyce Grover, executive director of KCSDV. “The Volunteer of the Year award is given in recognition of efforts that often go unrecognized, but are critically needed to meet the increasing demand for services statewide.”

“Mikaela has been a breath of spring air for the Board of Directors. She has raised money for our organization, she has raised awareness in the community about the services that we provide to survivors, and she has raised the expectation of what a Board member can and should be doing to support survivors of sexual & domestic violence,” said Candace Anderson Dixon, executive director of the Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Center in Hutchinson.

The Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center provides support and services to victims of sexual and domestic violence and their families and friends. The Center also works with the community to increase awareness of the prevalence of sexual and domestic violence, to improve the community’s response to victims, and to prevent future violence from occurring. The Sexual Assault – Domestic Violence Center serves Reno, McPherson, Rice, Kingman, Harper and Marion counties.

Since 1995 KCSDV has been recognizing outstanding advocates and allies who are working to enhance victim safety, to increase perpetrator accountability, and to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in Kansas. In addition to the Volunteer of the Year award, one advocate from the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center was honored for her 10 years of service working to end violence against women in Kansas.

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