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PRESS RELEASE

Annual Event Raises Record Amount for Voices Against Violence

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FRAMINGHAM - More than 100 runners and 70 walkers participated in the 7th annual Purple Passion 5K Run/3K Walk to Break the Silence on September 22nd, raising a record amount for Voices Against Violence, a non-profit domestic violence and rape crisis center serving 14 communities in the greater Framingham and Marlborough area of Metro West.

The annual event, which featured a timed 5K run, raised \$35,000, which is \$10,000 more than the organization's goal. "We had a larger field of runners and walkers, and even the number of volunteers working at the event were double the number we've had in past years," according to Patricia Hohl, Director of Voices Against Violence. "We are so grateful to everyone who participated and the generosity of so many companies that supported our event, especially our lead sponsor, Middlesex Savings Bank. We not only raised a record amount of money to provide services to survivors in our community, together we raised a great deal of awareness around the issue of domestic abuse and sexual assault."

Voices Against Violence (VAV) is a program of the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) that serves over 5,600 people each year through their direct services for victims and prevention programs.

Congresswoman Katherine Clark, who once again served as honorary chairperson, noted that, "Every year this event unites our community together to say no more silence and no more tolerance of intimate partner violence. Our community is made stronger by this event and the tireless support for survivors and fearless advocacy and leadership by this organization. Thank you to Voices Against Violence for another incredibly successful Purple Passion run."

Mayor Yvonne Spicer, Police Chief Steven Trask, State Representative Jack Lewis, City Councilors Cheryl Tully Stoll, Mike Cannon, Margareth Shepard, and Maria Robinson, candidate for State Representative in the 6th Middlesex District, also participated in the pre and post-race activities.

For more information about Voices Against Violence and the free services they provide, call 508-820-0834. Donations to Voices Against Violence are always appreciated. Please visit www.psmoc.org and click on the Donate tab and type in Voices Against Violence as the program you wish to support.

Media Contact:

Jane Lane

Email: jane@pwjohnston.com

Mobile: 617-543-6067