



## Opinion > Editorials

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### Domestic violence fight goes to streets

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Linda Wilk  
Hands of Hope

It is time to take a public stand against domestic violence and the devastation it causes to individuals, families and communities.

On Sept. 19, Hands of Hope and a committee of men led by Steve Newcomer will walk down the streets of Marion into Jonesboro to publicly show their support to end domestic and sexual violence. We are asking that everyone in Grant County join us for this walk.

The walk will begin with registration at 8 a.m. and a light breakfast on the south side of the Grant County Courthouse Square. A kick off rally will take place at 8:45 a.m. with law enforcement leading the way down Washington Street to Adams Street into Jonesboro. There will be two designated stops along the way for people to rest, along with vans and people movers for those who don't want to walk the entire route. The walk will end at First Presbyterian Church of Grant County in Jonesboro.

Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society, is a United Way agency that works diligently in the community to educate and eradicate domestic violence and sexual violence from our homes.

The six-mile walk will be a demonstration to victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as their children and families, that the community will not tolerate this crime. It will also show that the community wants to help those living shattered lives.

Hands of Hope offers a Flannery-Keal Home for victims and their children to stay at to escape the violence. Hands of Hope also has a 24 hour crisis hotline, support groups, case management and outreach services. There is no cost for anyone to utilize the free services which are just a phone call away at 664-0701.

A four minute promotional video about the Hands of Hope Community Walk has been created and can be shown by churches and other organizations by contacting me at 662-9971 ext. 123. There are also posters that can be displayed as well as registration forms. The cost to register is \$12 for adults, \$8 for youth 15 and under. The registration fee includes a T-shirt and light breakfast the morning of the walk. Walkers are encouraged to also collect donations through pledges for the walk.

Anyone interested in joining the Hands of Hope Community Walk on Sept. 19 can register by picking up the forms either from Family Service Society, Inc., 101 S. Washington St., Marion, by going to [www.famservices.com](http://www.famservices.com) and printing off the forms or by calling Linda Wilk, Hands of Hope Director at 662-9971 ext. 123 or email at [lwilk@famservices.com](mailto:lwilk@famservices.com)

In order to be successful, Hands of Hope needs everyone in the community to get involved. We must show our children that this is a crime that can be stopped and that we will do something about.

Linda Wilk is Hands of Hope Director, a division of Family Service Society, Inc.

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