

## **Silence Hides Violence**

By, Charlettia Burch, FFSC Norfolk's Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Coordinator

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed nationally. That same year, the first National Toll-Free Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) was instituted. The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1989. Ongoing legislation has passed every year with NCADV (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence) leading this effort. The Navy recognizes the importance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month with their October 2013 campaign of "Silence Hides Violence."

Fleet and Family Support Centers' (FFSC) Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (DAVA) collaborate with the local community Shelters services to offer support for our Domestic Violence victims. This year FFSC Norfolk supports one of our local shelters, TRANSITIONS, by teaming up with the Norfolk Admirals at a Domestic Violence Awareness Night. All proceeds from the Admiral's October 12<sup>th</sup> game will go to TRANSITIONS shelter that help many of our local military victims seeking help and support for themselves and their families. Please come out to support this great cause and enjoy a great hockey game all at the same time.

Norfolk Admirals Domestic Violence Awareness Night

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm

Wear Purple in support of Domestic Violence Awareness

\$11 Red Level Tickets

Purchase tickets at [www.norfolkadmirals.com/groups](http://www.norfolkadmirals.com/groups). Enter code: DV2013

**Did you know** Navy Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (DAVA) provide comprehensive support services to help ensure the safety of victims of abuse, assist all family members affected by or involved in the abuse, and help prevent further violence?

The DAVA can meet with a domestic abuse victim to discuss options and resources available and provide the following services:

- Safety assessment and safety planning
- Crisis intervention
- Education and support
- Information about rights as a service member or family member
- Referrals to community agencies for financial assistance, food, shelter, counseling and legal assistance
- Accompaniment to investigative agencies, legal appointments and court appearances
- Transportation to shelters, court, medical and legal appointments on case by case basis
- Advocate on a victim's behalf with commands, case managers, community agencies, and the court system

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, call your local FFSC to speak with a Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate.