

YWCA and VCU Partner for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

VCU Institute for Women's Health facilitates weekly brown bag speaker series in October

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RICHMOND, VA - During the month of October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the YWCA of Richmond and the VCU Institute for Women's Health partner for the "Empowerment Through Education" event series.

During the brown bag lunch series running Thursdays from Oct. 3 through Oct. 24 at the YWCA's downtown location, VCU faculty experts will discuss topics from domestic violence affecting teens to the aging and military populations. All events are free and open to the public with advance registration.

"We want to be part of the solution to stop domestic violence through providing education and creating awareness," Linda Tisiere, YWCA of Richmond CEO, said. "Partnering with the VCU Institute for Women's Health on this issue allows us to empower a wider audience to act -- whether for themselves, for a friend or for a family member.

The YWCA has been a leader in providing services to survivors of domestic violence in the Greater Richmond Region for over 40 years. Through providing therapeutic services to women, men and children in crisis, the YWCA served 2,554 survivors last year across Chesterfield, Henrico and Hanover.

The collaboration with the VCU Institute for Women's Health will bring awareness for the YWCA Domestic Violence Program to a new audience. There is no cost to participate in this program that includes counseling, access to a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, safety planning, legal assistance, and referrals to other services as needed.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with the YWCA to share information on the latest research and best practices in the area of domestic and sexual violence." Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Executive Director, Institute for Women's Health, said.

The lecture series culminates with a memorial, "Remember My Name," the evening of Oct. 24 at Unity of Richmond featuring community advocate and survivor Lisette Johnson. Family members of victims will release paper lanterns honoring loved ones at the conclusion of the event.

A full schedule of events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is below and registration is online at www.ywcarichmond.org/get-involved.

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Teen Dating Violence

Thursday, Oct. 3, 12-1:30 p.m.

YWCA of Richmond, 6 North Fifth St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Featured speaker: Saba Masho, MD, MPH, DrPH, Associate Professor,
VCU Department of Family Medicine & Population Health

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Violence Against Women & the Military

Thursday, Oct. 10, 12-1:30 p.m.

YWCA of Richmond, 6 North Fifth St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Featured speaker: D. Gay Cutchin, MS, VCU Wilder School of
Government & Public Affairs

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Domestic Violence in Later Life – It Matters To Us All

Thursday, October 17, 12-1:30 p.m.

YWCA of Richmond, 6 North Fifth St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Featured speaker: Lisa Furr, M.A, VCU Center on Aging

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Intimate Partner Violence & Reproductive Coercion:

Understanding the Connection

Thursday, Oct. 24, 12-1:30 p.m.

YWCA of Richmond, 6 North Fifth St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Featured speaker: Candace W. Burton, PhD, RN, FNE, Assistant Professor,
VCU Department of Family & Community Health Nursing

Memorial Event: Remember My Name

Thursday, Oct. 24, 6-8:30 p.m.

Unity of Richmond at 800 Blanton Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221

Join the YWCA of Richmond for its signature domestic violence memorial and awareness event with featured speaker Lisette Johnson, community advocate and survivor.

Toast to RVA for the YWCA

Monday, Oct. 28, 5-11 p.m.

Toast, 7007 Three Chopt Rd, Richmond, VA 23226

Coinciding with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Toast hosts a special evening and gives back 10 percent of food sales to the YWCA of Richmond.

The YWCA of Richmond has been helping women and children since 1887. The YWCA is a safe haven for those escaping violence and provides a head start for children's education. Services are provided with a mission of caring for those most in need and through offering equal opportunities for women, children and families of all ages, races, and income levels. Connect at ywarichmond.org, facebook.com/ywcarva or on Twitter at [@ywcarva](https://twitter.com/ywcarva).

Established in 1999 with approval from the VCU Board of Visitors, the Institute for Women's Health seeks to improve the health of women through research, clinical care, education, community outreach and leadership development. The institute was created to bring

together these diverse activities, generate synergy within VCU and foster coordinated alliances with the greater community. Connect at www.womenshealth.vcu.edu.