



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Multiple Organizations Join for April’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Ohio’s federally recognized anti-sexual violence coalition and its members will hold multiple events in April in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) is a non-profit responsible for training service providers to help rape survivors, building the state’s capacity to collaborate across agencies, spreading prevention strategies, and advocating for legislation to help survivors.

The organization also provides stop-gap services, ensuring survivors across the state have legal services as needed and housing. The group provided 556 nights of shelter to sexual violence providers in 2023, a service not offered in most states, and they provided legal representation to 106 survivors in the same year. More information can be found in OAESV’s 2023 annual report, published on their website at [www.oaesv.org](http://www.oaesv.org)

In 2024, the group plans to continue these services and expand them to include additional housing opportunities.

April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Ohio, as well as across the country. Many rape crisis centers around the state will join OAESV in programming to support survivors and spread prevention education. Almost 200 people will attend OAESV’s Advocacy Day to End Sexual Violence on April 30<sup>th</sup> and will meet directly with Ohio legislators.

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a chance for all of us to focus our energy on a shared cause: safer, happier, and healthier communities in our state,” says OAESV’s Chief Engagement Officer, Taylr Ucker-Lauderman. “There are 33 rape crisis programs across the state that are working hard to support survivors who need help, and they’ll all be holding events you can join – we can shape Ohio together and end sexual violence.”

Community members can find the rape crisis program closest to them by going to OAESV’s website: [www.oaesv.org/Map](http://www.oaesv.org/Map)

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*Interviews are available upon request.*

*As Ohio’s statewide coalition, OAESV uses an anti-oppression lens to advocate for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence.*