



March 24, 2009

Janice Traverso, City Clerk
City of Ione
P.O. Box 398
Ione, CA

Dear Ms. Traverso:

April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Throughout April, Operation Care is organizing a series of events to help every member of our community *Decide to End Sexual Violence*. Our goal is to encourage everyone in Ione to learn about sexual violence, how to help prevent it, and how to help survivors heal.

Operation Care is calling for city-wide participation to *Speak Out Against Sexual Violence*, and would be honored if the City Council would sponsor an official proclamation to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can further support Sexual Assault Awareness Month by scheduling a *Decide to End Sexual Violence* presentation for your staff, and by wearing a teal ribbon which signifies Sexual Assault Awareness. We would be happy to have a representative attend the Council meeting and accept the proclamation.

Operation Care is *Taking Action by Deciding to End Sexual Violence* in coordination with California's rape crisis centers and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault. We share the view of the World Health Organization that sexual violence is a serious health problem that profoundly affects the physical, emotional, mental and social well-being of victims. With leadership and commitment, we believe that we can work together with others to create short and long-term solutions to the endemic problem of sexual violence, including unhealthy and unsafe relationships.

A sample proclamation is enclosed. Please contact me to confirm your support of these critical violence prevention efforts. We look forward to partnering with you to achieve our vision of a world without sexual violence.

Sincerely,

Lynda Miller
Grants Director

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Operation Care is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 providing domestic violence and sexual assault support services, crisis intervention and education to our community.

Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person in **lone** as a victim/survivor or as a family member, significant other, neighbor or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own—we must work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victim/survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to victim/survivors; and

WHEREAS, **Operation Care** has led the way in **lone** in addressing sexual assault by providing 24-hour hotline services to victim/survivors and their significant others, responding to emergency calls, offering support and comfort to those impacted by sexual assault during medical exams, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual assault to chart their own course for healing; and

WHEREAS, ending sexual assault in **lone** must include active public and private efforts to *End Sexual Violence* in collaboration with **Operation Care**, including conversation about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs in **lone** work year round to encourage every person in **lone** to *End Sexual Violence* and to support survivors by providing prevention education and survivor empowerment information to schools, churches, civic organizations, as well as medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault issues;

WHEREAS, **Operation Care** has set an important example of how forging collaborative relationships between service agencies and organizations serves to improve the quality of service for those most profoundly and directly impacted by sexual violence, thus setting an important example for how the rest of the

community might work together to speak out and find solutions to sexual violence;

WHEREAS, **Operation Care** requests public support and assistance as it continues its effort to bring real hope for freeing **lone** from the tragedy of sexual violence to create a future where all women, men and children can live free from violence and exploitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I **(name)**, Mayor of **lone** do hereby proclaim the month of April as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

In **lone** and I commend this observance to all citizens.

(Mayor's Signature)