

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Clothesline Project Brings Awareness of Violence Against Women and Others**

**Macomb, Illinois, April 14, 2010** – The Clothesline Project will be on display at Western Illinois University in the Free Speech Area on Friday, April 23 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

“The Clothesline Project is one way to speak out in solidarity against violence perpetrated on women. Creating the shirts is an opportunity for survivors to acknowledge their pain, and tell their own story. By creating a t-shirt it is hoped that each survivor can begin anew emotionally, and to help family members to come to closure over the death of a loved one lost to violence,” says Victim Services’ Director, Diane Mayfield.

The WIRC-CAA Victim Services’ Clothesline Project is one of 500 national and international displays to be exhibited in an effort to recognize violence against women. The Project has grown from a single, local grassroots effort into a national campaign. Fourteen years ago, WIRC-CAA Victim Services joined the movement and began to exhibit the Clothesline Project with shirts created by survivors served by the program, and members of area college campus communities. Since then, shirts have hung side-by-side to “Break the Silence” and to bear witness to violence against women. The Clothesline Project allows those who are suffering in silence to understand that they are not alone, and to remind the public that sexual violence, pain and survival are something survivors face in their everyday lives. Victim Services will have staff available at the exhibit to provide support and information.

The shirts included in the display are color coded to represent the form of abuse and if the victim survived the abuse they experienced. White represents women who died because of violence; yellow or beige represents battered or assaulted women; red, pink and orange are for survivors of rape and sexual assault; blue and green t-shirts represent survivors of incest and sexual abuse; purple or lavender represents those attacked because of sexual orientation; and black is for women attacked for political reasons.

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