



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

November 18, 2016

The following statement regarding the continued commitment of DAIS to embrace diverse perspectives and work towards the DAIS vision of a nonviolent community that actively promotes safety, peace, justice, and hope may be attributed to Shannon Barry, Executive Director, and Melanie Schmidt, Board of Directors President, for Domestic Abuse Intervention Services:

“This has been a challenging year in our country, particularly for those affected by abuse. Many victims and survivors have been shamed, ignored, and belittled while the perpetrators of the violent acts against them were protected by institutions and individuals. As the election results take hold, many of our clients at DAIS are telling us they are even more concerned for their personal safety and the safety of their children and we take this very seriously. Our primary objective is to believe victims and survivors, to support them on their journey to safety and healing, and to create conditions where every survivor can reach her/his full potential. We know how difficult it can be for our clients to take a step toward safety, and we are reminded of this every day. It is critical for us as advocates to take a stand for justice, respect and for non-violence in our families and in our community.

DAIS will continue our work and our advocacy for social change through support, education, and outreach. We pledge to do that while living forward our values of mutual respect, openness, collaboration, and shared responsibility. Our actions as individuals speak volumes – and the activities of our institutions amplify the impact. We call upon our community leaders to model respectful, non-violent behaviors and speech. We also invite everyone to embrace their part in creating a community where abuse and violence in all of its forms is unacceptable; survivors are believed and supported; and, justice is attainable.

We all have a role to play in building a community for one – and for all.”

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DAIS' (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Inc.) mission is to empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education and outreach. DAIS operates the County's only domestic violence shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, legal advocacy, emergency safety planning, support groups, children's programming and primary prevention and education programs.

www.abuseintervention.org