



# Letters to the editor: October 23, 2024 (Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Saugerties Animal Shelter, A wake-up call and more)

by **HV1 Staff** — October 22, 2024 in Letters

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## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the challenges faced by survivors and to honor their strength and resilience. We must come together as a community to support those affected by domestic violence, raise awareness about its impact and advocate for change. It's important to listen, believe and empower survivors as they navigate their healing journeys.

Together, we can foster a culture of compassion and safety for all, which begins with immediate assistance in the aftermath of violence to begin to create a safe space for healing. Counseling and therapy, especially trauma-informed therapy, helps survivors process their experiences, develop coping strategies and rebuild their lives. Also important are advocacy and support services to assist survivors in accessing legal aid, housing and healthcare, ensuring they have the resources needed to regain independence. Finally, community education is important to raise awareness about domestic violence and promote prevention through workshops and outreach programs.

At Astor, we have the privilege of witnessing the incredible resilience and strength of our clients who have experienced domestic violence. Each journey is unique, but it is always inspiring to see clients begin to reclaim their sense of self and agency. Initially, many feel overwhelmed by fear, but with work they learn to set healthy boundaries, advocate for themselves, and make choices that prioritize their safety and well-being. Another key area of progress is in the development of healthy relationships. Clients often start by feeling isolated, but as they heal, we've witnessed many begin to form supportive connections with friends, family or community resources. These relationships can provide essential support and encouragement as they navigate their journey.

Please reach out to Astor Services if you or a loved one is experiencing domestic violence.

Virginia Guerrero, Care Manager

Astor Services