

## **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

In 2009, President Obama was the first President to declare April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month as a way to highlight the importance of this issue and challenge citizens to become educated and involved in finding solutions. The U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey, is heeding the President's call to be a partner in raising awareness on this issue.

Although sexual assault disproportionately victimizes women, sexual violence affects all Americans regardless of age, race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. Sexual assault can affect us at school, at work or at home. It hurts not only the victims of assault, but their family and friends. Children, people with disabilities and the elderly are particularly vulnerable.

We all share responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice. The U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey has designated a violence against women coordinator, a child abuse contact, child exploitation and obscenity contact, and a Victim-Witness Assistance Unit.

Our office and the U.S. Department of Justice view public safety not only as our job, but as our moral imperative. We hope is that more citizens will join us in our quest to meet the needs of victims, hold offenders accountable, and put an end to sexual violence.