

# Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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## **MEDIA RELEASE – MAY 19, 2020**

### **Hunterdon County Prosecutor and DASACC Team Up to Recruit Volunteers for Those Impacted by Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office and the Domestic Abuse Sexual Assault Crisis Center are tirelessly working to recruit Volunteer Response Team Advocates in Hunterdon and Warren Counties. These advocates are specially trained community members who provide empathy and information to empower victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault to make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

"DASACC is committed to serving survivors and meeting the community's needs," stated Jill Zinckgraf, DASACC's Executive Director. "We are grateful and honored to have the opportunity to work closely with the prosecutor's office and serve the increased needs of Hunterdon County.

Around the world there are increasing reports that social distancing, aimed to stop the spread of the coronavirus, is making violence in homes more frequent, more severe and more dangerous. Mounting data suggests that domestic abuse is on the rise, and not being reported, in the current conditions created by the pandemic."

Michael J. Williams, Acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor, stated that "The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office is very pleased to partner with the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center as we offer support and assistance to those crime victims most in need of help. Although most citizens believe that prosecutor's offices exist to investigate & prosecute crimes – indeed, these are core office functions – another, often overlooked bedrock function is assisting crime victims in navigating the criminal justice system during the most traumatic and challenging times of their lives. These most vulnerable individuals are deserving of our continual support and guidance, which we perform hand-in-hand with partners such as DASACC."

"We in the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office encourage anyone interested in volunteering as advocates for victims to contact DASACC, which now serves our County, and become part of our team in fighting domestic violence and sexual abuse," Mr. Williams added.

Please assist DASACC in their mission *to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change.*

To volunteer with DASACC, please contact, Hailey Fritzsich at [hfritzsich@dasacc.org](mailto:hfritzsich@dasacc.org) and enact real change within your community!