



# THE SALVATION ARMY

FOUNDED IN 1865 BY WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH

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April Taplin  
Salvation Army  
960 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Erie County Legislators

September 27, 2012

Dear Erie County Legislators,

As an Agency that provides services to women and children who are potentially affected by domestic violence, Salvation Army, urges Legislators to pass a resolution declaring domestic violence as a human rights issue. Erie County is already known as a county where the medical community, social services, psychiatric services, police and the courts have come together in a coalition that takes a unified approach to reducing the occurrence of intimate partner violence. Recognition that freedom from domestic violence as a fundamental human right is the next step toward protecting the thousands of women, men and children who experience domestic violence in Erie County.

Local governments have a responsibility to protect and secure the human rights of their citizens to ensure safety and quality of life. Domestic violence presents a dangerous threat to Erie County, as one in four women will suffer from domestic violence in their lifetimes. The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health recognizes domestic violence as a predictor of substance dependence and mental health issues.

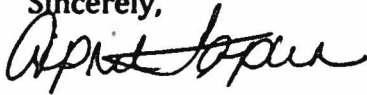
Salvation Army is an integral part of the Christian Church, although distinctive in government and practice. Collaborative efforts offer opportunities to improve services and achieve greater efficiencies. Promoting human rights of women and children and quality of life are intrinsic to our mission and core values.

On a day to day basis, The Salvation Army- Buffalo Area Services provides services to victims of domestic violence through our family

shelter and emergency family assistance programs. We also strive to preempt domestic violence by offering conflict resolution and anger management training to perpetrators.

Please consider adopting this resolution during Domestic Violence Awareness month, October 2012. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring education and public awareness to the issue of Domestic Violence on local and national levels. Adopting this resolution will protect the rights to life, liberty and personal security of all citizens of Erie County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Taplin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "April" being more prominent than the last name "Taplin".

April Taplin

Salvation Army - Director of Social Services