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A 'loud' cry against domestic abuse

By Matt Gryta
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The self-described loud guys in four of the area's top hard rock bands will stage a show next month to raise public awareness about recent fatal domestic violence incidents in Western New York.

Under the sponsorship of the Family Justice Center of Erie County, the "Loud Guys Against Violence Against Women" concert will begin at 7 p. m. Aug. 25 in the Town Ballroom, 681 Main St.

Admission to the concert is \$5, with show proceeds benefiting the Family Justice Center. It will feature musical acts Krysz, Rev, Floozie and Critt's June Joint featuring multi-instrumentalist Eric Crittenden "And Friends." Guitarist Al Kryszak, event producer and leader of Rev, said the show will also feature a projection of the names of the 13 women killed in domestic violence incidents in Erie and Niagara counties between May 2008 and May 2009.

"This awareness concern is about protecting the right of a woman to stay alive while she's in a relationship," Kryszak said.

The "Loud Guys" concert, Kryszak said, "updates the violent stereotypes of hard rock and hard rock fans and the intent of the concert is that you don't hit a woman, period. Now shut up and play your guitar!"

Julie Doerr, the Justice Center's community relations manager, said the musicians "are determined to show that real men are against violence and abuse" and want to highlight the fact that domestic violence is a serious problem in Western New York.

The Justice Center at 237 Main provides free, one-stop wraparound services to

victims of domestic violence and their children. Doerr said the center is a collaborative effort of on-site partner agencies including the Buffalo Police Department, Erie County district attorney, Erie County Probation Department, Neighborhood Legal Services, Crisis Services, Haven House and Hispanics United of Buffalo. Also the International Institute of Buffalo, Child Advocacy Center and the State University at Buffalo's Department of Family Medicine.

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