

News...

from the office of State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit

630-585-1308

Kifowit Organizes Cell Phone Donation Drive to Assist Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

AURORA, Ill. January 23, 2015 – To garner community support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, state Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, is encouraging residents to drop off used cell phones at her constituent service office to be donated to Mutual Ground.

“Many of us have outdated cell phones lying around and collecting dust, but these phones can act as a lifeline for people in abusive relationships,” Kifowit said. “Donating these devices is one way we can help victims get the assistance they need to break the cycle of violence.”

Kifowit’s office will be collecting cell phones, accessories and chargers on behalf of Mutual Ground. Donated cell phones will be reprogrammed and given to people in need or recycled with the proceeds going towards helping victims. Mutual Ground is one of the oldest and largest domestic violence and sexual assault service agencies in Illinois. They provide 24-hour hotlines staffed by trained crisis intervention advocates who counsel over 2,000 women a month. Mutual Ground’s Domestic Violence hotline can be reached at [630-897-0080](tel:630-897-0080). Their Sexual Assault hotline is [630-897-8383](tel:630-897-8383). Those interested in donating their time or money can reach Mutual Ground at [630-897-0084](tel:630-897-0084).

During her time in the legislature, Kifowit has fought to give victims of domestic violence and sexual assault stronger protections against abusers. She co-sponsored legislation that now gives judges the ability to require GPS tracking of people charged with domestic battery or kidnapping-related crimes as a condition of bail. A judge can do so even if the accused has not violated an order of protection. Kifowit also helped push for increased penalties of those who repeatedly commit acts of domestic violence.

“We are so grateful for Rep. Kifowit’s advocacy efforts on behalf of victims of domestic and sexual violence,” Executive Director Michelle Meyer of Mutual Ground, Inc. said. “The cell phones that her office is able to collect could be given as 911 emergency phones for victims who don’t have access to a cell phone or are in a situation where they cannot use their own cell phone. Cell phones that are broken or no longer work will be recycled and the proceeds will benefit Mutual Ground so we can continue providing vital services in our community.”

Those in need of emergency housing can contact Hesed House Shelter at [630-897-2156](tel:630-897-2156). Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Kifowit’s constituent service office by phone at [630-585-1308](tel:630-585-1308), by email at Stephanie.Kifowit@att.net, or by visiting www.ILDistrict84.com.

Representative Stephanie Kifowit

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