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**Helena Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Working Group Announce
Officer of the Year Winners**
Attorney General Tim Fox to present the awards Nov. 6

Helena, MT – The Helena Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Working Group, along with The Friendship Center, is pleased to announce the recipients of the Officer of the Year award. The purpose of the award is to recognize the critical role law enforcement plays in serving victims of domestic and sexual violence in our community, and to highlight the role of uniformed officers in particular.

This year the DVSA Working Group chose to honor Officer John Kaleczyc of the Helena Police Department and Deputy Greg Holmlund of the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office for their exemplary work in the field of domestic and sexual violence. This is the third year for both officers to receive a nomination for going above and beyond in serving victims of abuse.

Officer Kaleczyc is a Senior Officer with the Helena Police Department and has been serving since 2012. Jaime Gabrielli, Senior Crisis Response Advocate at The Friendship Center, said she looks forward to working with Officer Kaleczyc “because of his trauma informed approach, ability to show compassion to victims and his strong relationship building skills.” Ms. Gabrielli noted how Officer Kaleczyc was able to put a victim of rape at ease “by using a nonthreatening, affable approach and by treating her with dignity and respect.” Officer Kaleczyc’s personable approach helped that victim’s demeanor change from one of fear to being visibly relaxed, engaged, and feeling safe. Officer Kaleczyc’s previous year nominations also highlighted his compassion for victims, kindness and professional.

Deputy Greg Holmlund has been with the Lewis and Clark Sheriff's Office for the five years. Dan O'Malley, VAWA Detective with LCSO, wrote that “Deputy Holmlund demonstrates professionalism and compassion on every call assigned to him. He understands the people he serves and has the incredible ability to put individuals at ease in almost every situation he encounters.” Detective O'Malley also stated that while Deputy Holmlund “treats every call with the utmost of importance”, when responding to victims of domestic or sexual violence “he goes above and beyond what is required.” Jocelyn Olson, Crisis Response Advocate at The Friendship Center, states that Deputy Holmlund goes above and beyond to ensure that the victims he is working with are receiving the best level of services our community has to offer.

The Officer of the Year award is an annual event for the DVSA Working Group.

The DVSA Working Group would like to recognize the other officers nominated this year: Officer Jared Ryan, HPD; Officer Russ Broadhurst, HPD; and Deputy Chris Rebo, LCSO. The DVSA Working Group is comprised of advocates, therapists, attorneys, law enforcement, educators, health workers and others.

Attorney General Tim Fox will be presenting the awards to the winners at the Mazurek Building at 215 North Sanders Street Monday, November 6, 2017 at 11:00 am.