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## **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center Joins Global Campaign “One Billion Rising” To End Violence Against Women and Girls**

*Center bands together with local community organizations to put an end to domestic violence*

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., February 11, 2013 – at 5:00, on February 14, 2013, in Market Square, Newburyport, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center will join with activists around the world for ONE BILLION RISING, the largest day of action in the history of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

ONE BILLION RISING began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. On February 14, 2013, V-Day’s 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis will join activists, writers, thinkers, celebrities, and women and men across the world as we express their outrage, demand change, strike, dance, and RISE in defiance of the injustices women suffer, demanding an end at last to violence against women.

“This important movement sheds light on the issue of violence against women, something we at the Center work to combat on a daily basis. We are proud that our local community has decided to rise up together to put an end to this unnecessary violence,” said Suzanne Dubus,

The Center will have an informational booth during the ONE BILLION RISING movement in Market Square, Newburyport, MA. Local Zumba instructor, Tracey Kimball, Nancy McCarthy of Natural High Fitness and Fontaine Dubus of The Dance Place have organized a flashmob that will descend on market square at 5:00pm, on February 14<sup>th</sup> and again on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. In addition, from 5:15 – 7:00pm at the Masonic Center in Newburyport, *The Dance of 100 Women* will be taking place in memory of local area teachers Nikki Staszewski & Evie Spodnik, whose lives ended in acts of domestic violence

“When we started V-Day 14 years ago, we had the outrageous idea that we could end violence against women,” said Eve Ensler, activist, award-winning playwright and founder of V-Day. “Now, we are both stunned and thrilled to see that this global action is truly escalating and gaining force, with union workers, parliament members, celebrities, and women of all backgrounds coming forward to join the campaign. When we come together on February 14, 2013 to demand an end to violence against women and girls it will be a truly global voice that will rise up.”

**About One Billion Rising**

One in three women on the planet is raped or beaten in her lifetime. That is ONE BILLION WOMEN violated. One billion daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, lovers and friends. On 14th February 2013, V-Day's 15th Anniversary, we are inviting ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence. ONE BILLION RISING will move the earth, activating women and men to dance across every country. V-Day wants the world to see our collective strength, our numbers and our solidarity across borders. Join V-Day and ONE BILLION RISING today and SAY NO to violence against women and girls. To sign up and learn more, visit [www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org)

For 30 years, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been helping individuals and families at risk because of domestic violence. What began as the compassionate mission of several volunteer parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newburyport in 1982 has grown into a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization serving victims of domestic violence from Amesbury, Merrimac, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury, and Groveland. The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is to empower community members to live free from fear, intimidation, violence or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy, and education. For more information, call 978-465-0999, visit [www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org](http://www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org) or call the 24-hour confidential crisis hotline at 978-388-1888.

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