



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Trish Radke, 515-237-5078**

**tradke@dmdiocese.org**

**[www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org)**

## **The Impact of Violence**

**Public invited to free lunch and learn series in October highlighting violence and its effects on vulnerable populations including immigrants and children**

Catholic Charities, in collaboration with other local organizations, will host a lunch & learn series during the month of October entitled “The Impact of Violence.” The series is being held in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month and will feature topics on violence including domestic violence among immigrants, the effects of violence on children, and services available to help victims of violence, including a special segment on what churches can do. The schedule is as follows:

- **Wednesday, October 5, 2011 from 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.**  
Theme: Documentary on Domestic Violence Among Refugee and Immigrant Women  
Presenters: Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa and L.U.N.A. (Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer)
- **Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.**  
Theme: Domestic Violence shelters and services available: Film “Domestic Violence: What Churches can do”  
Presenters: Children and Families of Iowa and Catholic Charities Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program
- **Wednesday, October 19, 2011 from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.**  
Theme: Global violence and the impact at home including impact on children and dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)  
Presenters: Jeffery Weiss, Executive Director of Catholic Peace Ministry in Des Moines, David Drake, DO Psychiatry and Stacie Weires LISW Catholic Charities Counseling Program

The series is free and open to the public. It will be held at Catholic Charities in Des Moines at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave. in downtown Des Moines. The series is sponsored by Catholic Charities' Migration and Refugee Services and local organizations that assist individuals effected by and working to end violence. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch and questions. Coffee, lemonade and water will be provided.

*"Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion and competence, advocate for justice, and encourage all people of good will to share in these efforts."*

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