

# PRESS ADVISORY

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**WHAT:** A program to highlight the efforts of Vision of Hope, a national campaign dedicated to prevention of child sexual abuse. Program includes a tour of Women Organized Against Rape, a rape crisis and sexual assault service provider in York.

**WHO:** Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and Women Organized Against Rape. Guest speaker is **Michele M. Ridge**, former Pennsylvania First Lady and chair of the Vision of Hope Advisory Council.

**WHEN:** December 2, 2008, at 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Box Hill Mansion at Regents' Glen Country Club  
1190 Regents' Glen Blvd., York PA 17403

**BACKGROUND:** The Vision of Hope was launched in July 2005 under the leadership of PCAR together with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The mission of the campaign is to make the future brighter and safer for our children. Led by former Pennsylvania First Lady and mother of two, Michele M. Ridge, Vision of Hope has grown into a national child abuse prevention campaign.

Vision of Hope raises funds for prevention, intervention and education surrounding the safety and well-being of children. The campaign is now returning those monies back to communities. In April, the Network of Victim Assistance in Bucks County became the first Vision of Hope grant recipient. Their gift will provide training to mandated child abuse reporters – an essential component to sexual violence intervention and prevention.

Statistics show:

- One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Seventy-three percent of rapes are committed by someone the victim knows.
- One in five adults say that they do not know how to intervene in the life of a child who they suspect is being sexually abused. Yet, four in five adults think that it is their responsibility to protect children.
- The Victim Assistance Center in York serves more than 28 children per month.

**ON THE WEB:** [www.theirhope.org](http://www.theirhope.org), [www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org), [www.woar.org](http://www.woar.org), [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

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