

Posted March 01, 2016

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Belchertown High School students to participate in White Ribbon campaign to end violence against women

By [Jim Russell](#) | [Special to The Republican](#)

on March 01, 2016 at 2:45 PM

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[Don McLean, 'American Pie' singer, arrested on domestic violence charge](#)

[BELCHERTOWN](#) -- [Belchertown High School](#) Students Against Destructive Decisions, in solidarity with victims of [domestic violence](#), have organized a fundraiser this week with proceeds to benefit [Safe Passage of Northampton](#).

Student members of the group plan to sell white ribbons during lunch periods on March 3. Special Education teacher Virginia Bilz serves as the SADD faculty adviser.

The money raised will be donated to [Safe Passage](#) of Northampton.

Founded in 1977, Safe Passage helps survivors of domestic violence.

The effort is part of a [White Ribbon](#) campaign to increase awareness of the problem, and to foster concrete actions that can make a difference, according to District Attorney David E. Sullivan.

The DA's Task Force on Domestic & Sexual Violence "will join Jane Doe Inc., and violence prevention organizations across the state to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and to increase the ranks of White Ribbon

ambassadors," agency spokesperson Mary Carey said in a prepared statement.

The White Ribbon Campaign [began in Canada](#) two years after a horrific attack – when a male killed 14 female students at École Polytechnique University in Montreal in 1989.

"Starting in 1991, we asked men to wear white ribbons as a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Since then the White Ribbon has spread to over 60 countries around the world," the [White Ribbon website](#) says.