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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Anchor Greg Carter to Speak on Surviving Child Abuse

Launch of WVCAN's Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities

Charleston, WV—April 8, 2015—Today in Charleston, WVVA News Anchor Greg Carter came forward with his story about surviving child abuse as a part of the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network's (WVCAN) April Child Abuse Prevention Month awareness campaign. WVCAN announced the launch of a statewide radio PSA recorded by Carter to bring awareness to the issue, break the silence often associated with abuse, and inspire adults to action.

Verizon Wireless has partnered with WVCAN to ensure that these efforts are reaching the public and raising awareness about the impact of violence on children's lives. Carter's radio PSA will start airing on radio stations statewide today.

"I'm here today to break the silence; someone has to be that voice," stated Carter. "For too long, my abuse was something that haunted me—that showed up in my nightmares. But today, I know that my story can be a catalyst for good. It can inspire survivors to step forward and adults to take action. Everyone needs to be 'One With Courage'."

"The 'One With Courage' campaign's goal is to inspire the courage required to take action against child abuse, whether it be starting a dialogue about the issue, equipping adults with the knowledge needed to recognize the signs of abuse, or volunteering at a local Child Advocacy Center," said Emily Chittenden-Laird, Executive Director of WVCAN.

Greg Carter remarked, "To know that Child Advocacy Centers are there to give kids a safe place to disclose their abuse gives me comfort. If there had been a Child Advocacy Center in my community when I was a child, I think my healing would have started sooner, and my life may have looked different."

To learn more about the One With Courage campaign, visit www.wvcán.org/one-with-courage.

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West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) provides statewide leadership in the fight against child abuse while working side-by-side with the 20 Child Advocacy Centers throughout the state. WVCAN provides training, technical assistance, leadership, legislative and policy advocacy, and overall coordination to Child Advocacy Centers around the state. A CAC is a child-friendly facility in which child protection, criminal justice, and child treatment professionals work together to investigate abuse, hold offenders accountable, and help children heal. Rather than having a child taken from agency to agency to endure multiple interviews, the CAC model brings the system to the child for an effective, child-centered, healing process. As the statewide authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, WVCAN's purpose is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse.