

AU graduate student organizes essentials drive for Owego women's shelter

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Alfred University graduate student Julie Ilowiecki is raising support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month by organizing a drive for the women's shelter in Owego, which was badly damaged in the recent flooding. Ilowiecki is a master of science degree in education/mental health. Originally from Montvale, Va., she attended Liberty High School and graduated from Old Dominion University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. In the aftermath of the recent upstate New York flooding, the women's shelter in Owego is without many basic essentials. Ilowiecki is working with John Dougherty, AU chief of Public Safety, to collect items to support the shelter and help its staff and residents recover from the loss. Items to be collected in the drive include household items such as dishes, pots and pans; bed and bath linens; personal care products, including baby diapers, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, deodorant and personal hygiene products; and children's books and toys. Collection boxes are located at the AU Lea Powell Institute for Children and Families, Sayles Street, Alfred; the AU Wellness Center, Park Street; the Science Center; and the Powell Campus Center at the Domestic Violence Awareness table. Additionally, Ilowiecki is asking students, faculty, and staff to wear purple on Wednesday, Oct. 19 to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month. October has been officially designated Domestic Violence Awareness Month by the U.S. Congress since 1989. An average of three women die from domestic violence in the United States every day, and one in four women and one in 13 men will experience some form of domestic violence in our lifetime. Domestic Violence Awareness month connects advocates across the nation who are working to end violence against women and children. For more information on the Owego Shelter Drive and Alfred University's efforts to support Domestic Violence Awareness month, contact Ilowiecki at ji1@alfred.edu. To learn more about Domestic Violence Awareness Month, visit <http://dvam.vawnet.org>.