

ILLINOISAN

Cell phone drive aimed at helping protect women from domestic violence

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SPRINGFIELD - Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon is launching a statewide cell phone drive next week that will help fund organizations for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The drive will run in conjunction with Verizon Wireless' HopeLine campaign, starting Monday. Simon will be on hand to kick off events in Springfield and Chicago.

For those not in Chicago or Springfield, phones, batteries and accessories can be dropped off at any Verizon Wireless store during the week of Oct. 3. To find the store closest to you, visit www.verizonwireless.com.

For each phone, Verizon will donate \$10 to the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence or the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, up to \$10,000.

At the Springfield HopeLine launch, Simon will join representatives from the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence to release its first-ever state homicide report and advocate for better statewide tracking of domestic violence-related crimes.