

THE ADVOCATE

Quarterly Newsletter of the

Sexual Assault Crisis Center - Fox Cities Inc.

Fall 2008

Volume 4, Issue 2

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

~~Anne Frank

Sometimes, all you need are baby steps and a voice. The more you educate and listen, care and share, and the more you do within your family and community can make a huge difference toward improving our world. At SACC, we are committed to working toward a safer community by educating about sexual violence and providing hope and healing to those affected. Our staff continues to bring creative projects and initiatives to the forefront, and our dedicated advocates and donors continue their tireless support. Here are just a few highlights from the past few months:



❖ *Our 30th Anniversary gala, "Shall We Dance?" was a huge success.*

Held on April 30, 2008 at the Grand Meridian Ballroom, "Shall We Dance" was a festive evening of fun and good food. Local community "celebrity" dancers strutted their stuff with area professionals as we celebrated thirty years of service to the Fox Cities, while attendees enjoyed a sumptuous repast of hors d'oeuvres and other treats. The funds raised from this event helped support the Crisis Intervention program of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center. Over 100 friends enjoyed the evening so much, they requested an encore. So save the date, May 1, 2009 because it will be even bigger and better next year.

❖ *3rd Annual "Walk a Miles in Her Shoes - Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence" - A day of fun family activities.*

On June 1, 2008, more than 85 walkers participated in the third annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" at Appleton's Memorial Park. Walkers this year included representatives from area law enforcement agencies, students from Lawrence University and Appleton East High School's *Men's Club*, members of the Fox Valley Voices of Men group and area elected officials. Face painting, cookie decorating and a visit by McGruff brought a light hearted atmosphere to the day. A fantastic picnic lunch was prepared by our good friends, Mad Dog and Merrill. Thanks to the generosity of our walkers and sponsors, we raised over \$10,000. Next year's march is already being planned, so mark you calendars for Sunday, May 31, 2009.



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www.SACC-foxcities.org

The Sexual Assault Crisis Center is a United Way Partner Agency

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❖ *Victim Advocacy Update*

The Sexual Assault Crisis Center would like to welcome four new victim advocates who have successfully completed specialized advocacy training, and will begin taking victim advocacy requests this fall. Please welcome to the team: Missy, Lisa, Kristine and Trisha!

For more information about our victim advocacy program and training opportunities, please contact Sally at 733-8119, or at sally@sacc-foxcities.org.

❖ *SACC Support Groups*

As part of our continuing effort to expedite the healing process, SACC remains committed to offering a variety of Support Groups to those individuals who have sought counseling here at the center. As always, support groups are free of charge and are supervised by a therapist and several specially-trained facilitators.

This fall, we are running groups for Adolescent Girls, Parents, Women, and our first-ever group for Men. The Women's Aftercare group continues to be available each month.

The current groups are now closed; however, all Support Groups will be available again, beginning in February of 2009, as well as a group designed for girls at risk: *My Choices, My Future*. Please contact Sharon@sacc-foxcities.org for more information, or call 733-8119 to learn more about this important part of the continuing counseling process.

❖ *Sexual Abuse of Aging and Vulnerable Populations*

Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, class, ability or age. Older adults are often targets of abuse, and abusers are usually attracted to what they perceive as an inherent vulnerability. For these reasons, we are offering a new prevention education program, entitled "*Sexual Abuse of Aging and Vulnerable Populations*". It will be offered for the staffs of nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and others who care for this population, and will focus on recognizing and acting to prevent elder abuse by understanding sexual assault, learning how to minimize risks, knowing warning signs, and acting on suspicions.

❖ *Organizations*

Supporting SACC

AT&T / SBC Foundation	\$4,806.00
First Presbyterian Church – Bergstrom Foundation	\$2,500
Farrand Family Fund	\$4,690.00
JJ Keller Foundation	\$15,000
Roundy's Foundation	\$8,500
WCASA Teen Summit Grant	\$1,100
Women's Fund	\$1,386
K-C Foundation	\$500
Thrivent	\$1,000
Theda Care	\$1,000
Schmidt Oil	\$5,000
Miron Construction	\$500
L & S Electric	\$250
Menasha Corp	\$250
Azco	\$1,000
MediCap Pharmacy	\$250
Lifetime Retirement Planning	\$250

*Thank you for your
Generous Support!!!*

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❖ *Prevention Education*

At SACC, the ultimate goal is to create change: change in people's awareness level, attitudes and behaviors regarding sexual violence and abuse. A most important piece in this goal is prevention education.

The Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund estimates that Wisconsin spends \$8.07 million dollars annually trying to protect children from abuse and neglect, and 98 times as much, or \$789 million dollars, to repair the damage done by it. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recognizes sexual abuse as a public health concern, and emphasizes the necessity of *primary prevention* in order to stop it from happening in the first place.

Educators at SACC are committed to continuing our free prevention education presentations to students throughout Outagamie and Calumet counties, and New London. Our school calendar is now in full swing; however, there is still much more to be done. To that end, we continue to offer the *Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children* curriculum to parents and other adults, who are ultimately responsible for our children's safety. Adult participants in this free program will be able to learn how to safeguard their child's environment, recognize the warning signs of abuse, understand the offender's grooming characteristics, minimize the opportunity for offenders to act, and most importantly, learn how and when to intervene and report abuse, if necessary.

Connecting with adults and parents can have a far-reaching impact beyond the classroom. It will benefit neighborhoods and the community as a whole, and will serve to create a stronger bond between children and adults. For more information about bringing the *Darkness to Light* curriculum to your business, PTA, civic organization, church or school in-service day(s), please contact Sharon@sacc-foxcities.org.



❖ *Take Time to Listen, Make Time to Talk*

Through funding made possible from the Department of Health and Family Services, in cooperation with Outagamie County Public Health, we have created "*Take Time to Listen Make Time to Talk*", a booklet of interactive conversation starters. The basis of this "game" is to help open communication within families. It will be distributed to all Appleton Public Middle School students.

The more you know, the safer our community can be.

❖ *Fox Valley SART*

The tri-county SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) of the Fox Valley continues to meet and discuss issues related to sexual assault in our area. A new training will be offered in 2009 to initiate new members into SART and to provide a refresher to our existing members. The mission of the Fox Valley SART is to utilize a victim-centered approach when dealing with individuals who have been sexually assaulted. This means a systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a sexual assault victim, to ensure the compassionate delivery of services in a non-judgmental manner. This system must assure that all who report crimes committed against them will feel affirmed and supported.

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