

Sounds of Survival

Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

Minnesota Department of Health: The Cost of Sexual Violence

After a long anticipated arrival, the Minnesota Department of Health has finally released a vital report that directly relates to each and every one of us that call Minnesota “home.” The article on “The Costs of Sexual Violence in Minnesota,” pinpoints the many ways that sexual violence crimes affect each and every one of us. Of course, no amount of research for a report can encompass, nor put a price on, the devastating effects of sexual violence faced by survivors and their families. This report is a useful tool to grasp the enormity of the problem in Minnesota.

This report did highlight that at the state level, not factoring in city, county or tribal monies spent, each Minnesotan paid \$1,540 in 2005 to cover costs associated with sexual violence; which made a grand total of almost \$8 billion. Over 77,000 cases of sexual violence were reported in 2005. To put this in perspective, if each case was represented by a victim, the total victims would fill the HHH Metrodome, and there would still be 16,000 victims left standing.

By and large, the writers and researchers admit to the shortcomings of this report, of which there are quite a few when reviewed with a critical eye. This report will be a groundbreaker for future endeavors and hopefully the next attempt to estimate costs of sexual violence will include a population of victims that rarely get a voice in the effects sexual violence; *secondary victims*.

When we think of a crime victim, usually the one who experienced this crime first-hand is who comes to mind. This understanding, however, is very limiting and does not encompass the scope of people that are affected in a very real way. These people are considered secondary victims, and can span from family members & friends, to employers & co-workers. These people suffer with the victim of sexual violence in ways that a price tag can never truly reflect; from severed relationships to lost work productivity, we all pay dearly for the effects of sexual violence.

The highlight of this report is that the State of Minnesota is recognizing the real social problems sexual violence creates for it’s residents. We sincerely hope that this will spark a new movement on how to tackle this issue, help victims, and initiate prevention at the state level.

*For the full article, please visit <http://www.health.state.mn.us/svp>



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THANK YOU

To all of our tireless volunteers, thank you from each of us at SAP for your hard work & effort to help those in your community by fighting back against sexual violence! Your long hours of dedication can never be repaid, but always know that you are making a difference for someone, helping them regain their own courage & happiness.

“Call It Rape” Speak Out

On Tuesday, July 12th 2007, Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment (PAVE) organized a nation wide speak out against a ruling by a Nebraska judge that words such as “sexual assault,” “assailant,” “victim,” “sexual assault kit,” and “sexual assault nurse examiner” could not be used in the case of Tory Bowen. SAP staff, board members & community members joined together on the Beltrami County courthouse lawn in support of this effort. The organized speak out was a protest against this chilling national trend.



SAP AT

SAP will be participating in the upcoming Women’s Expo on **Saturday, September 8th, 2007**. We will be partnering with the Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota and North Country Hospital’s Emergency Department. The expo will be held at the John Glas Fieldhouse, Bemidji State University from **8am to 3:30pm**. Our theme will be “Charlotte’s Web,” as together our organizations provide a “web of advocacy and care” for victims! You are welcome to attend the expo and don’t forget to drop by and say “hello!”



Activities & Funding Updates

Recently SAP has received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to enhance Comprehensive Health for elders and youth through surveying and educating health providers on the knowledge of sexual violence, screening, and services for survivors, as well as internal policies regarding sexual violence issues. Angie Laurain, our community education and outreach coordinator, will be sending out surveys to local health providers inquiring about their sexual violence screening process and providing training and technical assistance to health agencies

The Minnesota Department of Health & the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault also teamed up this summer to offer prevention

grants to agencies doing summer sexual assault prevention activities. SAP was one of the recipients for this one-time grant. Thus far, Angie, our Community Outreach Coordinator along with our other staff have done a tremendous job of initiating our “kool-aid campaign.” Packets of kool-aid have been attached to information on sexual assault & passed to many area communities through fairs & parades.

The Minnesota State Bar Foundation has also recently increased their giving toward the legal advocacy services we provide for victims and their families.

In collaboration with Northwoods Interfaith Caregivers, SAP staff participated in a “golf scramble” August 18 at Castle Highlands. Local businesses were asked to sponsor a hole and proceeds would be

split between the two non-profit groups. SAP & Northwoods Interfaith staff secured donations from five outstanding companies: Bumper to Bumper, Dunn Brothers Coffee Co, Caspers Insurance Company, Phelps Tackle Company, & Wal-Mart Super Store. This golf scramble fundraiser really was a “scramble” as we only had ten days to prepare! Thank you to all who supported us for this event!



Sexual Assault Program Booth at the Cass County Fair



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LOOKING TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

- ◇ *Upcoming advocacy training in the Park Rapids area! Training will start late August and interviews are currently taking place. If you are interested, call Kim at 444-9524.*
- ◇ Volunteer advocates make a difference everyday
- ◇ We also need help with recruiting volunteers. A few ways you can help are:
 - ◇ Hang volunteer posters at your workplace, gym, church, etc.
 - ◇ Contact people you think would be a good fit with SAP, encourage them to call us for more information
 - ◇ Contact groups to see if they are interested in volunteer opportunities or donating to SAP, or if they would like someone to speak to them about sexual violence issues
- ◇ PRIZES offered for the first person to recruit 5 new volunteers!
- ◇ Contact Kim with YOUR recruiting ideas: sap_kimzim@hotmail.com or 800-708-2727



SAP SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 30 YEARS!



SAP staff & volunteers are celebrating their 30 years of service to the area communities! You're invited to our OPEN HOUSE!

Take a tour of our new offices, meet the staff, discover the services we offer, and relax & enjoy an afternoon treat and cup of coffee!

*See you at our offices on **September 18 from 11am-1pm** at the MidCity Plaza (next to Slumberland), 1819 Bemidji Avenue, Suite 3, Bemidji, MN.*

Can't make the open house? Stop by anytime during regular business hours to see us!

**We will also be doing many other fun activities for our week-long anniversary celebration, including a silent auction. We will be advertising in the Bemidji Pioneer so please look for the exact dates as they are coming up!*



B-SMART CORNER



United Way Partnership fundraising

Each year, agencies do their part to support United Way's fundraising efforts. This year, SAP staff have put together some fun activities, such as a toll booth at the entrance of our office building! The booth will display United Way & partner info. as well as a "toll" (donation) jar! All proceeds will be donated to the United Way. If you are interested in participating, please contact Angie Laurain at 444-9524 for this fun activity and join our efforts to support the Bemidji area!

As always, our protocol team is hard at work. The Sexual assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team (B-SMART) is comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, advocacy, corrections, mental health, and medical representatives. Our meetings are held each month and we strive to enable all agencies that come into contact with sexual assault victims to be able to offer the most complete, victim-centered response that they are able to. The month of June was overwhelmingly busy for our team, so we decided to take a month-long break. However, in that time we also had our All-team Event, hosted by the Sexual Violence Justice Institute (SVJI). We are now gearing up to send out surveys to area organizations so that we may have a complete understanding of the services available to sexual assault victims in our communities; we hope to have this completed by October, 2007. The hard work that the team has put into this work so far is really starting to come together. We are looking toward some community forum sessions for this fall, so we may gain feedback from those we are working so hard to protect. Also coming up, the B-SMART is participating in the United Way chili cook-off for the Bemidji area! This is our way of giving back to our community and letting others know we are working for a victim-centered community response to sexual violence issues.



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**The Sexual Assault Program is
proud to be a United Way Partner
Agency**



United Way
of Bemidji Area



Mark Your Calendar

September 2007:

- Women's Expo, Saturday, the 8th at the John Glas Fieldhouse, Bemidji State University
- Week of activities for *SAP's 30th Anniversary Commemoration*, including a silent auction. The week will kick off with an **Open House on Tuesday, September 18 from 11am to 1 pm at our office** (1819 Bemidji Ave NW Suite 3)
- *SAP's 30 Anniversary Commemoration* continues on Wednesday, Sept. 19 Film screening at Bemidji State University 6pm (located in Hagg-Sauer 100)
- Tuesday the 25th, **Take Back the Night** in Bemidji 5 pm at Bemidji Senior Center.
- Sexual Assault Advocacy training in Park Rapids

November 2007

- Wednesday, the 14th, *SAP's* annual meeting

NEEDED ITEMS & WISH LIST

- ◆ White & colored copy paper
 - ◆ AAA & AA batteries
- ◆ Postage stamps (.41, .17, & .80)
 - ◆ Kleenex & Paper Towels
- ◆ "*Courage to Heal*" books & workbooks
 - ◆ Kitchen-sized garbage bags
 - ◆ White Noise Machine
 - ◆ Paper folding machine
 - ◆ Business card sheets
- ◆ "Gifts" that we may give to volunteers & as door prizes
 - ◆ Manilla File folders
- ◆ Ink Cartridges (HP 15, 17, 27, 28, 56, & 57)
 - ◆ 9 1/2" x 12 envelopes