

Sounds of Survival

Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

Action Day to End Violence Against Women is February 27 2008 in St. Paul

The Sexual Assault Program is once again traveling to St. Paul for Action Day to End Violence Against Women; an annual event sponsored by several entities committed to ending violence against women and children. The coalitions sponsoring this event are Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life (MNALL), and Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW). Many other local and statewide groups have an active presence on Action Day to End Violence Against Women: Minnesota Men's Action Network, OutFront Minnesota and Teens Against Dating Abuse (TADA).

Evolving from Battered Women's Action Day to include sexual violence, trafficking, and prostitution, Action Day to End Violence Against Women has become a tradition for victim service agencies, survivors, and allies to come together and raise our collective voice to policy makers on the importance and impact of violence against women in Minnesota.

Action Day is informed by the members of each Coalition and survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Our focus is on the key policy issues facing victims of sexual and domestic violence and as organizers. This year, there are two significant changes. The new title of the day is the first change. "Action Day to End Violence Against Women" replaces Violence Against Women Action Day. Secondly, the new theme is "Don't Stand By, Stand Up to End Violence Against Women". Participants believe that these changes better symbolize the impact we are trying to make, not only at the Capitol, but also in our own communities.

The Action Day Rally is the culmination of the two days of activities at the State Capitol. The rally, which will be held at Noon on February 27th, is a time for us to reflect on our work and the impact of violence against women as well as a time to rally our base. The Rally is an important time for the movement to end violence against women to unify and become energized for long term work throughout 2008 Legislative Session. In addition, attendance at the Rally is crucial in illustrating to policy makers that hundreds of people from around Minnesota are *standing up* to end sexual and domestic violence!

The Mission of the Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties is to provide support for all victims of all levels of sexual violence, to educate the community about the issues of sexual violence, and to promote changes in attitudes and behaviors that will stop sexual violence



Volume 1, Issue 7

February 2008

Inside this issue:

Community	2
Education News	
SAP gets "seal" from Charities Review Council	2
In April ~ give to SAP by Feeding <i>Flanagan</i>	2
Support Groups Offered	2
Meet new SAP staff, volunteers and Board	3
Volunteer	3
B-SMART Corner	3
Mark Your Calendar	4

Play Trivia, Listen to Good Music, Feed Flanagan and Support SAP!

The Sexual Assault Program will be the featured non-profit for April at Brigid's Cross in Bemidji. Monday is trivia night and Brigid's donates \$1 per for every Trivia Team member in attendance. SAP will also receive a percentage of the proceeds for live musical acts featured during April. And, as always, Flanagan, the Winged Piggy Bank is available to accept donations. Visit Brigid's in April and support the Sexual Assault Program during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Support Groups Offered

We will be convening a support group for Teens, beginning in March. The support group will be facilitated by program staff and is free and confidential. The group is designed to assist teens in healing from all forms of sexual violence and be provided education in a non-threatening environment, while receiving support from their peers. This 12 week group is structured and is open to new members for the first 2 weeks and then becomes closed.

Groups will be held separately in Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard counties. Actual dates and time details will be worked out with those registered. Registration deadline is March 7th.

Our support group schedule:

Teen groups will be every March - May and held in all 3 counties.

Beltrami County Women's Group February - April - held in Bemidji

Cass County Women's Group May - July - location determined by participants

Hubbard County Women's Group September - November - held in Park Rapids

Community Education & Outreach News

As many of you know, April is a big month here at SAP! Preparations are underway for this years Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Some of the Activities planned include:

- * 5K Walk/Run at BSU April 26th
* Take Back the Night- April 29th. The night includes musicians, speakers, and a march through downtown Bemidji.
* Chat About w/ Mardy Karger on April 2nd at on KB101
* Displays in area public libraries and at area health fairs, etc.
* Local businesses kindly supporting SAAM by displaying messages on marquees
* Having area cities/towns and counties issue a proclamation declaring April Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Please contact Jolene at 218-444-9524 with any questions

SAP receives MEETS ALL STANDARDS seal from Charities Review Council

Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties has been awarded the Charities Review Council "Meets All Standards" Seal indicating that it meets all sixteen of its Accountability Standards.

Nonprofit organizations, such as the Sexual Assault Program, earn the Seal by voluntarily participating in the Council's online Accountability Wizard. The Accountability Wizard is available to all nonprofit organizations soliciting in Minnesota and addresses a nonprofit organization's performance in four critical areas: Public Disclosure, Governance, Financial Activity and Fundraising. By participating in the Accountability Wizard, nonprofit organizations



can demonstrate responsibility, integrity and transparency to their constituents Sexual Assault Program is now listed as a reviewed organization on the online Giving Guide of the Council's Smart Givers Network, www.smartgivers.org and the Council's Smart Giver newsletter distributed to more than 18,000 subscribers in Minnesota.

"While the Accountability Wizard is very thorough, the process was very user friendly. The staff at Charities Review Council were very willing to answer any question," said Cassondra Johnson Blackbird of SAP.

The listings help a nonprofit organization demonstrate its commitment to accountable ethical practices to the public and that it is a trustworthy organization. The Council's Smart Givers Network is the source of unbiased information where smart givers come for help and resources on responsible giving. The giving public can investigate an organization's mission statement and programs, so they can be sure of what their money supports and determine whether it meets widely accepted standards.



Volume 1, Issue 7

LOOKING TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- ◇ Assistant Volunteer Coordinator
- ◇ Volunteer Advocate/Crisis Line
- ◇ Office help; secretary/receptionist, typing, computer work, creating brochures, power point presentations, web design/updates, etc.
- ◇ "Poster hangers" to call when we need posters hung up in your community.
- ◇ Community Ed presenters / Speakers Bureau
- ◇ Fundraising Coordinator

IF YOU HAVE A TALENT OR HOBBY, TIME AND COMPASSION WE NEED YOU. CALL FOR OTHER IDEAS.

All opportunities are flexible

Contact Kim with questions or for more information:
444-9524 or 800-708-2727 or
sap_kimzim@hotmail.com

SAP welcomes new staff, volunteers and board members

Late last fall, SAP welcomed a new part-time advocate, Valerie Olsen. Valerie has worked at NCBW and for Women of Nations in St. Paul.

At the Annual Meeting, SAP members voted to welcome a new person to the board of directors. Alicia Wagner is the FBI Victim Specialist in Bemidji.

SAP is a Rural MN CEP Work Site. Our new CEP staff is Fawnda Parkhurst. Fawnda started in January

In January, Jolene Engelking filled the position of Community Education and Outreach Coordinator. Jolene had recently moved back to the area after graduating from the College of St. Benedicts.

Two new volunteers have recently completed their 40 hours of mandated training. Samantha Warner and Breanna Priebe are our newest Volunteer Advocates for Beltrami, Cass & Clearwater Counties.

SAP receives a United Way of Bemidji Area Venture Grant to support Teens Engaged in Ending Violence Overall (TEEVO)

The Sexual Assault Program is delighted to announce The United Way of Bemidji Area is supporting a new Youth Advisory Group in Bemidji School District. This group will advise our community education presentations, create their own peer educational project, and possibly participate in the *Teen Leadership Summit to End Dating and Sexual Violence and Girls Rock! The Capitol* in February 2009. We are excited to start work on this project, and we thank the United Way of Bemidji Area's Venture Grant Program for their support!

B-SMART CORNER

Hello from the Sexual assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team! We are working hard at creating victim-centered protocols for agencies that serve victims of sexual violence. The agencies currently on our team include advocacy, corrections, education, medical, mental health, law enforcement & prosecution. Each month professionals from Beltrami, Clearwater, Leech Lake, & Red Lake come together to discuss the protocol process, lay the groundwork for creating and implementing victim-centered guidelines for their agencies. Recently, we held 6 focus groups seeking community response to sexual violence issues. Thank you to all our focus group host locations: Bemidji State University, Bagley, Blackduck, Red Lake, Bemidji, and Leech Lake Tribal College/Cass Lake. The feedback we received will guide us in creating protocols that will help victims of sexual violence heal. We are also nearly done with our resource book that will be available in electronic format to agencies soon.

We are also looking ahead to our community forum that will be held in April 2008. This forum will highlight sexual violence issues in our area and discuss how this affects each community member. Everyone is invited; the time & location will be announced soon. This will be an eye-opening experience for some. It may also confirm what many victims already know; sexual violence is all too common in our communities and we each have the responsibility to stop it! See you in April!



Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

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Mark Your Calendar

February 2008

- * **Wednesday, February 27** ~ *Action Day to End Violence Against Women, Capitol Building, St. Paul*

April 2008 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month

- * **Wednesday April 2nd** ~ *SAP staff will be on Chat About with Mardy Karger @ noon*
- * **Saturday, April 5** ~ *SAP Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's in Bemidji, Breakfast service begins at 8 am*
- * **Saturday, April 26** ~ *Sexual Assault Awareness 5K Run/Walk. Starts at 9am at Bemidji State University*
- * **Tuesday, April 29** ~ *Take Back the Night at the Bemidji Senior Center. Starts at 5pm. Sponsored by SAP, Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women, Healthy Communities/Healthy Kids and the BSU Women's Center*

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
- ◆ "Gifts" that we may give to volunteers & as door prizes
 - ◆ Manilla File folders
- ◆ Ink Cartridges (HP 15, 17, 27, 28, 56, & 57)
- ◆ Journals (bound blank) for client usage