

Sounds of Survival

Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

Sexual Assault Program and TEEVO Youth at the Capitol for Action Day to End Violence Against Women



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Sexual Assault Program staff accompanied four members of Trek North Junior and Senior High School's TEEVO (Teens Engaged in Ending Violence Overall) youth to the annual Action Day to End Violence Against Women. The day, February 11, began with a private meetings with Representative Brita Sailer and Representative John Persell. Before the noon Rally in the Rotunda, staff and TEEVO youth went back to their hotel for breakfast. While there, members of the group spotted Governor Pawlenty in the lobby. Caleb Blackbird, a seventh grader at Trek North, approached the Governor. He introduced himself to Governor Pawlenty as a member of TEEVO from Bemidji, and asked the Governor to sign the pledge on the back of his TEEVO designed T-shirt. The pledge read, "I Pledge to create a Violence Free Minnesota."



Governor Pawlenty signing the Pledge on Caleb Blackbird's shirt

and men who were killed in 2008 as a result of intimate violence were read aloud. Following the rally, the students and SAP staff attended private meetings with Senators Rod Skoe and Mary Olson. Each Representative and Senator that TEEVO visited signed at least one T-Shirt Pledge.

As in years past, Action Day to End Violence Against Women was sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, and Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life.

Staff and TEEVO youth made it back to the Capitol steps just in time to witness a rally sponsored by Minnesota Men's Action Network: Alliance to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence. A very educational and inspiring Rally at noon in the Capitol Rotunda featured personal stories from survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Other featured speakers were State Senator Bill Ingebritson, Representative Erin Murphy and Commissioner of Public Safety, Michael Campion. The names of Minnesota women, children



Brandi Granger, Representative John Persell, Jordan Bush, and Caleb Blackbird

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

SAP's Community Education has been Busy!

The past few months have been very full of activity at the Sexual Assault Program. Presentations were given to students at the Alternative Learning Center at Cass Lake-Bena during a winter retreat on healthy relationships, teachers and staff at Nevis school, and the Evergreen boy's shelter on date rape. We also spoke with the Peer Educators at BSU, Upper Mississippi Mental Health Care, the Emergency room staff at St. Joseph's hospital in Park Rapids, and Hubbard County social services. Upcoming trainings include a return visit to the Bemidji High School 10th grade health classes, Para-Professional training at Century Elementary and Middle school in Park Rapids, and the Dental Access Center in Bemidji. We also had a presence at the Pine River-Backus Health Fair, and look forward to the 4th North Country Women's Expo in Walker on March 7, as well as the Evergreen conference and Sister Song concert at the end of March. "TEEVO" kids at Trek-North, (Teens Engaged in Ending Violence Overall) have also been busy for the cause. Using their funding from the United Way of Bemidji and the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Beltrami County, the kids ordered prevention posters to distribute to high schools and movie theaters on the topics of date rape and respecting women. The group also put together a valentine, urging others to "be yours too" with the concept of healthy relationships in mind. These valentines were distributed to the student councils at all the high schools in a 4 county radius. It was also printed for the public in the Buy Line. In all their spare time, a select few TEEVO kids made the trip to the capital to rally for and end to violence against women and children. It was very "neat". Whew, all that and busy planning "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" too

3rd Biennial Breaking the Silence Conference

Thursday & Friday, April 2-3, 2009
8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

American Indian Resource Center,
Bemidji State University

Featured Speakers include:

Lt. Mark Wynn, (Ret.) Nashville PD
Olga Trujillo
Sarah Deer

Caroline Palmer
Chuck Derry & Frank Jewell
Valerie Evje

Dr. Kathleen Annette
Dr. Rochelle Scheela
and a Survivor Panel

Costs are \$25 per day or \$40 for both days. (Lunch is included)
Limited Scholarships are available.
Continuing Education and POST credits available

Registration materials may be downloaded from www.sapbchc.org

SMILE!



Caleb Blackbird, Representative Brita Sailer, Jordan Bush, and Brandi Granger

MORE PHOTOS FROM ACTION DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ST. PAUL



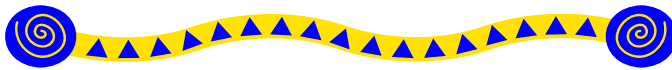
Left photo: TEEVO with Senator Rod Skoe. Right Photo: Brandi, Jordan, and Mollie Lavelle



Teen's Support Group

The Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties will be starting a 12 week teen's support group for survivors of sexual violence in March.

The support group is free and confidential and will be held in Beltrami, Hubbard & Cass Counties. Please Call 444-9522 or 1-800-708-2727 for time, date and location. Deadline to register is March 9th.



Remember us when you are searching the web. Go to www.goodsearch.com and type in **SAPBCHC** where it asks "Who do you Goodsearch for?"



Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities Planned

April kicks off with the "Breaking the Silence" conference, (sponsored by the Sexual Assault Program, Northwoods Coalition for Family Safety, Anishanabe Legal Services, BSU's Criminal Justice, Sociology, Social Work, Psychology and Women's Studies Departments, and the BSU's Women's Center and Hobson Memorial Union). The 2nd annual 5K run/walk is also winding up and registration materials are on our website for interested runners! Listen for us on "Noon Day Live" and "Chat About" radio shows in April, and don't forget to wear your teal ribbons! (More information on that yet to come!) The end of the month celebration is a night you won't soon forget, the annual "Take Back the Night". This year promises to be memorable with guest speaker Dr. Dada Maglajlic of BSU, Theodora Fair's Mid-Eastern Dance Performers, and performers from "Sister Song" gathering for a one night only- special concert, just for us. There is a way for everyone to be involved in speaking out sexual assault. For our mothers, our daughters, our sisters and our friends, now is the time to stand up and speak out. We want and end to sexual violence, help us win this fight!

Join us for the
2nd Annual
5K Run/Walk for
Sexual Assault
Prevention and
Awareness

9 am

Saturday, April 25 @
Bemidji State
University's Gillett
Recreation/Fitness
Center

Visit www.sapbchc.org
for registration
information

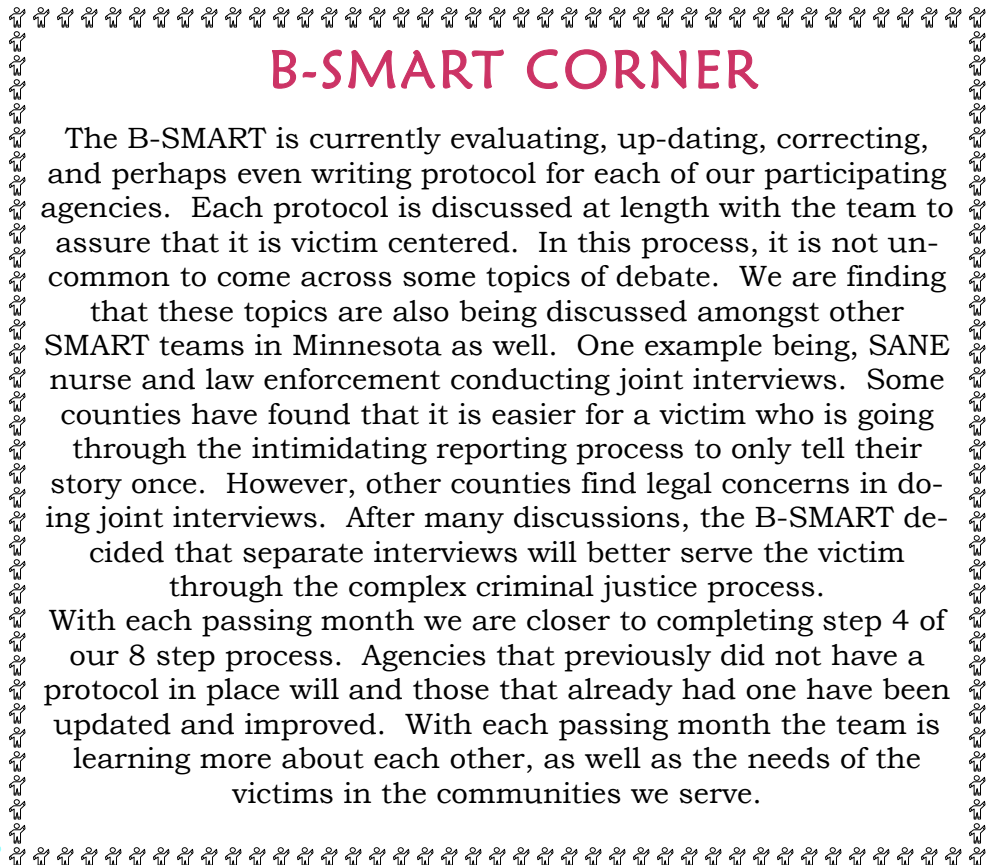
Event sponsors include
Anytime Fitness, Health
Quest for Women, Harrington
Shoes, and BSU's LifeSkills
Program.

Event will be held indoors if
weather is poor.

B-SMART CORNER

The B-SMART is currently evaluating, up-dating, correcting, and perhaps even writing protocol for each of our participating agencies. Each protocol is discussed at length with the team to assure that it is victim centered. In this process, it is not uncommon to come across some topics of debate. We are finding that these topics are also being discussed amongst other SMART teams in Minnesota as well. One example being, SANE nurse and law enforcement conducting joint interviews. Some counties have found that it is easier for a victim who is going through the intimidating reporting process to only tell their story once. However, other counties find legal concerns in doing joint interviews. After many discussions, the B-SMART decided that separate interviews will better serve the victim through the complex criminal justice process.

With each passing month we are closer to completing step 4 of our 8 step process. Agencies that previously did not have a protocol in place will and those that already had one have been updated and improved. With each passing month the team is learning more about each other, as well as the needs of the victims in the communities we serve.



Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

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www.sapbchc.org



Mark Your Calendar

April 2009 ~SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH & Child Abuse Prevention Month

- **Thursday & Friday, April 2 & 3** ~ Breaking the Silence Conference, AIRC on the BSU Campus *Register now at www.sapbchc.org*
- **Saturday, April 25** ~ 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk for Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness, ~ Bemidji State University Gillett Rec Center ~ 9am *Register now at www.sapbchc.org*

Listen for SAP staff on the radio throughout the month

- *Every Monday on Mid Day Live on the River 92.1*
- *April 15th on Chat About with Mardy Karger*

May 2009

- **Friday May 1** ~ Take Back the Night ~ First Lutheran Church in Bemidji (March, Featured Speaker, Open Mic, Free will meal and Concert) 5:30 pm

WISH LIST

- ◆ White & colored copy paper
 - ◆ AAA & AA batteries
- ◆ Postage stamps (.42, .18, & .80)
 - ◆ Boxes of Kleenex
 - ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ "Courage to Heal" books & workbooks
- ◆ Kitchen-sized garbage bags
 - ◆ White Noise Machine
 - ◆ Automatic Coffee Maker
- ◆ "Gifts" that we may give to volunteers & as door prizes
 - ◆ Manila File folders
- ◆ Ink Cartridges (HP 15, 17, 93, 96, 97, 98, Q6000, Q6001A, Q6002A, Q6003A)
- ◆ Journals (bound, blank) for client use
 - ◆ Vacuum Cleaner

