

# Sounds of Survival

*Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties*

## Looking Back and Planning Ahead: SAP holds Annual Meeting


The Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties held its 2007 Annual Meeting at the Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass Lake. Attendees were treated to home made sandwiches and snacks before being officially welcomed by Mistress of Ceremonies, board member Kathryn Lavelle. Keynote Speaker Danna Farabee, Chair of the B-SMART (Sexual assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team) and Beltrami County Victim Services Coordinator spoke eloquently about the history of the team and the eight - step protocol writing process that the team is currently working through. SAP then honored State Senator Mary Olson for her work on behalf of survivors of sexual violence during the 2007 legislative session.

Sexual Assault Program staff took some time to review the past year's activities: staff positions were added to manage several special project grants from the Mardag Foundation, North Country Health Services Foundation, and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Justice Programs; staff and volunteers distributed 1350 teal ribbons during April - Sexual Assault Awareness Month; staff and volunteers presented information to 4179 people (this includes presentations by a volunteer to several inmates in Minnesota's correctional facilities); staff trained two volunteer advocates and one community education volunteer; we said good-bye to a few veteran volunteers; we moved to a more suitable office location in Bemidji; staff organized and participated in a 3-day training for the B~SMART; we entered into a formal agreement with Clearwater County Sheriff's Office to serve survivors in Clearwater County; we received 11,106 donated hours thanks to our wonderful volunteers; and staff and volunteers served 230 survivors of sexual violence.

Some ideas shared for 2008 include: creating a Teen Advisory Group in a couple of the counties we serve (these teens will advise and possibly create peer education programs); continue our collaboration on the B-SMART, Beltrami CAPC, Take Back the Night, Breaking the Silence Conference 2009, Headwaters Alliance for Suicide; review our agency' strategic plan; and organize the first 5K Run/Walk for Sexual Assault Awareness in Bemidji.

Thanks to all board, staff, volunteers and community partners who worked for a successful fiscal 2007 and another remarkable Annual Meeting.

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



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Community Education News

For the past few months, our Community Education and Outreach Coordinator has been researching the prevalence, dangers, and effects of Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault. Unfortunately, it is happening with increasing frequency in our communities. All teens are at risk. The risks increase as our students leave home and go off to college.

We would like to thank the North Country Health Services Foundation and Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund for the opportunity to start this new form of educating our students about drug facilitated sexual assault.

We have also been busy with prevention activities funded by the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The first phase involved partnering with Bemidji CAPC to distribute Kool-Aid packets with prevention messages attached. In the second phase, we are partnering with Evergreen Safe Streets to hand out winter packs to youth ages 16-21 with prevention messages and incentives in the form of Winter Care Packages.

Search the Web and help SAP

Staff recently heard about a search engine called Goodsearch. Goodsearch donates a small amount of money to the charity of the user's choice for every search through their site. To get started, visit the Goodsearch website at

http://www.goodsearch.com

In the middle of the page, it will ask "WHO DO YOU GOODSEARCH FOR?" Please type either SAPBCHC or Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties. You may add Goodsearch to your toolbar or make it your homepage. This is simple way our friends can support the work of our staff and volunteers. Thank you and Good searching!

SAP thanks Itasca - Mantrap's Operation Roundup for their support

The Sexual Assault Program submitted a proposal to Operation Roundup ~ a program of Itasca Mantrap Co-op in Park Rapids. Itasca Mantrap members may "Round-Up" their electric bill payments to assist local non-profits. SAP is delighted that Itasca Mantrap is supporting a new Youth Advisory Group in Hubbard County. 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 2008. We are excited to start work on this project, and we thank the members of Itasca-Mantrap for their support!

Take Back the Night 2007

Once again, the community gathered on September 25 to march through the streets of downtown Bemidji to bring attention to violence against women and children. Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women partnered with the Sexual Assault Program to put together the annual Take Back the Night event. This year, community members gathered at the Bemidji Senior Center to listen as Mayor Richard Lehmann proclaimed that the streets of Bemidji should once again be safe for women and children. Neen Lillquist gave an awe-inspiring invocation prior to the march. Mr. Joe Dahlby and his horses, Omar and Josie, again carted marchers through the streets as they chanted. Following the march, folks

gathered back at the Senior Center for a hot meal of Chili and Cornbread courtesy of Headwaters Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Several local artists and crafters displayed their wares before and during the program. Johnny Lee Walker served once again as Master of Ceremonies. Featured Speaker Sherry Ellefson spoke of her many years of experience working with victims/survivors of gender violence, most recently at the Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota in Bemidji where she was doing forensic exams and interviews. Special music was provided by The Lonely Bog Stompers, Sisterlight, and Shylan Rose & Friends. Attendees were able to view the 2004 Minnesota Clothesline Project. The project involves designing

shirts to remember the women and children murdered as a result of domestic violence and child abuse. The purpose is to create a visual memorial to the casualties and survivors of the war against women. Please join us for another Take Back the Night event in Spring 2008.



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## LOOKING TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

- ◇ Advocacy & Community Education training starts December in Park Rapids and Bemidji. If you or someone you know are interested now, or for future trainings, please contact Kim

### OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- ◇ Assistant Volunteer Coordinator
- ◇ 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 receives Touchstone Energy Community Award from Beltrami Electric Cooperative

The Sexual Assault Program was recently awarded the Touchstone Energy Community Award and \$250 from Beltrami Electric Cooperative. Community members are asked to nominate an individual, agency or business and describe the positive impact they make on the community. Winners at the local level are then able to compete for the \$1000 statewide award given at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting in February. Thank you to Beltrami Electric Cooperative and Jayne Hanson for nominating the Sexual Assault Program.

## Chocolate Affair on December 10 @ Tutto Bene from 2pm-6pm



There are a couple of ways to enjoy Bemidji's favorite decadent delight. You may enter a home made Chocolate Treat with a chance to win a fabulous prize. Call 333-8261 to register as a participant. Prizes include a Kitchen Aide Mixer, an iPod and a Tutto Bene Gift Certificate. You will want to purchase one or more tickets for \$5 each. One \$5 ticket allows you to attend the event, taste test 10 entries and vote for a winner.

Attendees may purchase a platter of their favorite treats to take home or give as a gift. You may also purchase a recipe booklet of all the entries. Two Fools Winery will be on hand this year to give samples that compliment your favorite chocolate treat. Join us on **Monday, December 10th at Tutto Bene in Downtown Bemidji.** All proceeds go to help Northwood's Interfaith, Community Resource Connections, Bi-CAP and the Sexual Assault Program.

## B-SMART CORNER

The Sexual assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team (B-SMART) have been extra busy these last couple of months! Currently we are organizing focus groups to be held in our local communities. The focus groups will hopefully give us much needed community feedback regarding current services and what services are still needed. We are very excited about this opportunity to hear from our community members! Also, we recently sent out surveys to area service providers and are using the results to form an on-line service provider spreadsheet that can be accessed by each of our B-SMART members. Now every B-SMART agency will have access to updated and accurate information for resources and referrals! We are also in the final stages of gathering statistics on sexual assaults in our communities.

The results from all of our work will be combined in a narrative report. This report will help us address unmet needs, give us an idea of what is working well, and what we need to change, to better serve victims of sexual violence. In April 2008, we will be hosting a community forum to address the findings of the report.

Over the last few months, the B-SMART has grown to include many passionate professionals, and agencies are working harder than ever to help victims in our communities. As we come to a close on 2007 and enter into a new year, I can only imagine what we will be able to accomplish in 2008!

# Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

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## Mark Your Calendar

### December 2007

- \* Thursday & Friday, December 6th & 7th ~ *Radiothon to End Child Abuse*
- \* Monday December 10 ~ *The Chocolate Affair, 2pm to 6pm at Tutto Bene in downtown Bemidji*
- \* Tuesday, December 11 ~ *Communities Against Sexual Violence Focus Group, 4pm to 6pm at Bemidji State University, Ozawiindib Room*

### January 2008

- \* *Communities Against Sexual Violence Focus Groups ~ Blackduck on Jan 15, Bagley on Jan 22, Bemidji on Jan 29, call for location and times.*

### April 2008

- \* Saturday, April 5 ~ *SAP Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's in Bemidji*
- \* *Take Back the Night ~ Bemidji*
- \* *Sexual Assault Awareness 5K Run/Walk*

## 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