

# Sounds of Survival

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

### Sexual Assault Program partners with local organizations for the Breaking the Silence Conference ~ April 2009



On April 2 and 3, 2009, Bemidji State University's American Indian Resource Center will host the *Breaking the Silence* Conference. The biennial conference and a commitment to the eradication of violence against women and children again brings several agencies to the planning committee. Planning partners include Bemidji State University's Departments of Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology as well as the BSU Hobson Union and the Women's Center; Northwoods Coalition for Family Safety; Anishinabe Legal Services; Red Lake Children's and Family Services; the Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties; and community members.

The first day of the conference is dedicated to domestic violence. Nationally renowned trainer Lt. Mark Wynn (ret.) will give the opening keynote session. He trains law enforcement and other professionals on a variety of topics, all relating to what he calls "domestic terrorism". Day one will also feature a film called *Listening to the Grandmothers*. Tribal elders speak of breaking their own silence about the violence and abuse they have suffered in their lives. Other topics covered will be Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Organizing Men to Proactively Work to End Violence.

The evening of the first day will offer a film first introduced to Bemidji last fall by the Sexual Assault Program. It is called *Searching for Angela Shelton*. Topics on day two will focus on sexual violence. Two other national speakers will travel to Bemidji to share their extensive knowledge. Olga Trujillo began her career as general counsel for the US Department of Justice; the first Latina to serve in that role. She later served as legal counsel and Director of the Special Projects Division at the USDOJ's Office of Victims of Crime. Presently, Ms. Trujillo is Director of Programs for Casa de Esperanza, based in St. Paul. Sarah Deer, visiting professor at William Mitchell College of Law. She has authored two textbooks about tribal legal issues and procedures and co-edited the book, *Sharing our Stories of Survival: Native Women Surviving Violence*. Ms. Deer also lives in St. Paul. Several local speakers will also be featured. The conference will close with a Survivor Panel. We are fortunate to have several local people willing to share how their lives have been affected by sexual and/or domestic violence.

In an effort to make this unique educational experience affordable for professionals, students and the entire community, the planning committee has set the cost for attending one day of the conference at just \$25 or \$40 for both days. Lunch is included and a limited number of scholarships will be available. Space is limited to approximately 100 attendees. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Cassondra or Kelly at the Sexual Assault Program's Bemidji office 444-9524 or email [sapbchc@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sapbchc@paulbunyan.net)

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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#### *Inside this issue:*

- Community Education and Outreach has a new face! 2
- SAP Staff graduate from MN Victim Assistance Academy 3
- New SAP Staff and Volunteers 3
- Beltrami County Support Group starting in Feb 3
- B-SMART Corner 3
- Mark Your Calendar 4

## Community Education has a New Face and New Energy

Greetings from the desk of Kelly Brevig! Now my feet are officially wet, and I've been very busy! Besides attending various trainings and workshops, I've had the opportunity to represent the Sexual Assault Program at several booths and speaking engagements. From making home-made stress balls at the health fair in Red Lake to handing out pencils that change color at the Transitions Expo at Bemidji High School, our display board has been in lots of places. One of the best things we can do is educate the community on sexual violence, the community, after all is where our jurors come from. We had that opportunity at the Suicide Prevention 5k run/walk, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diabetes Fair in Leech Lake, the Women's Expo and the Historical Trauma Conference.

My job also takes me on several speaking engagements. I've made lots of contacts, and so far I've been at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade health class at the Bemidji High School, the Girl Scout Leaders meeting, and most recently the health class at Trek North High School. This class was fabulous and yielded 15 students who were so inspired by our cause, they joined a group called "TEEVO", "Teens Engaged in Ending Violence Overall". Our new TEEVO group is underway and ready to learn more about sexual assault and prepared to pass that knowledge on to other teens. I am excited to see how far they will go!



Guided by the Minnesota Department of Health, I've also started a mass e-mail that is filled with brief tidbits and facts that can help to educate and encourage the medical professionals in our area. The mailings have been weekly and will continue into the New Year, providing information that can be used to better understand this kind of violence and the silence that so often accompanies it.

Plans are underway for "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in April, in which we will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Walk/Run on April 25<sup>th</sup>. "Take Back the Night" is also promising some exciting new additions, so keep your eyes peeled in the future for more information on how you can be involved and help us speak out as a community. April kicks off with a great conference called "Breaking the Silence" in which we, along with Bemidji State University, will be host to a great line-up of speakers to further educate our professional communities within the state.

I have been very busy and enjoying every bit of it. I would love to speak to employees, students, parents or any other group that would like some training. We cover topics from sexual harassment, date rape, child sexual assault, staying safe. I have told lots of educators in my short three months here that I "have car, will travel". I am anxious to get out there and continue to spread the news. If you are interested in more information, or would like to be included in the medical providers' weekly e-mail, I can be contacted at (218) 444-9524, or via e-mail at [Kellybsap@yahoo.com](mailto:Kellybsap@yahoo.com). I look forward to serving our communities!

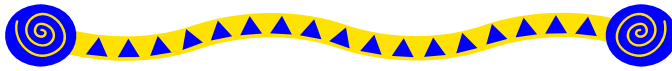


### Women's Support Group

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

The support group is free and confidential and will be held in Beltrami County.

Please Call 444-9522 or 1-800-708-2727 for time, date and location. Deadline to register is January 25th.



### Victims Assistance Academy!

Kate and Kelly teamed up and headed to St. Cloud for a week of intense training, new friendships and a diploma full of knowledge. After 5 1/2 days of concentrated and all encompassing topics, the dynamic duo proudly accepted their certificate from the Office of Justice. Patty Wetterling was on hand to speak to the graduating class of advocates from across the state, encouraging them to go out and continue advocating for those in need.

"The importance of the work we do must never be forgotten." Kate and Kelly returned with renewed enthusiasm and a broad understanding of victim's rights and the responsibilities of the advocate. They are anxiously awaiting the reunion tour when they can brainstorm again with their new colleagues.

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



### SAP welcomes new staff and volunteers!

Kelly Brevig joined SAP Staff as the new Community Education and Outreach Coordinator. Kelly has experience working in local schools for the past 5 years. She brings a great energy to SAP! A recent 40-hour volunteer/advocate training produced 2 new volunteers. We look forward to working with Rhonda Conn and Susan Yerhot! **We already have a waiting list for our next volunteer/advocate training which will start in January in Park Rapids. If you are interested in helping your friends and neighbors, call us today!**

### B-SMART CORNER

The B-SMART has been hard at work over the last few months. Those who previously had a protocol in place have been laying the groundwork for other members of the team. Thus far, we have had three agencies present their protocol to the entire team,. Our focus has been one team member/agency presenting per month, with the fourth on schedule for December 5<sup>th</sup>. Bemidji State University was the first. Randy Ludeman, Barb Eriksson-Capes, and Casey McCarthy shared with us the process of handling a sexual assault on campus. They did an excellent job explaining their procedures. Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) was particularly impressed with the BSU protocol and featured it in their statewide newsletter. The Sexual Assault Program presented their protocol for advocates. Most recently, the Department of Corrections (probation) presented their internal protocol. The benefit of this process is that the team is able to suggest changes in order to keep the protocol victim centered. At the same time, this process fosters a better understanding of what each agency does when dealing with sexual assault. The B-SMART expects to be finished with this process by May of 2009. All the protocols will then be combined into one manuscript for all participating agencies. A shorter version that is small and compact to put in police cars or ER rooms, for an easy reference, will also be made.



# Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

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## Mark Your Calendar

### December 2008

- **Thursday, December 4** ~ Annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse ~ Paul Bunyan Mall Bemidji
- **Tuesday, December 16,** ~ Fourth Annual Chocolate Affair Fundraiser ~ American Legion, Bemidji

### February 2009

- **Wednesday, February 11** ~ Action Day to End Violence Against Women ~ State Capitol, St. Paul

### April 2009 ~SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

- **Thursday & Friday, April 2 & 3** ~ Breaking the Silence Conference, AIRC on the BSU Campus
- **Saturday, April 25** ~ 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk for Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness, ~ Bemidji

### May 2009

- **Friday May 1** ~ Take Back the Night ~ First Lutheran Church in Bemidji (March, Free will meal and Concert)

## 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
  - ♦ Paper folding machine
- ♦ "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