

Coalition Commentary

Quarterly Newsletter of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault

ICASA centers celebrate SAAM

April filled with events marking Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Sean Black
ICASA staff

They walked in high heels and marched into the night, encircled courthouses and rocked nightclubs. There was shouting and there was silence.

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month and it was a busy time for the 33 community-based rape crisis centers in Illinois. Each center held activities, including the ones mentioned above, in their communities. They raised awareness and understanding. They raised money and hope. All with the goal of ending sexual violence in our towns, neighborhoods and state.

The following is a brief look into three events held this past April. Information on other events is included throughout this Coalition Commentary.

Friday, April 4

Brisk winds, cold temperatures and grey clouds weren't enough to dampen the energy whisking around the parking lot of the Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault (KC-CASA) as the center prepared to host its first *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* event. The event brought out more than 150 men, each adorning various types of women's shoes to walk a mile in support of ending sexual violence.

"We were very, very excited," KC-Casa Executive Director Susan Wynn Bence said. "Everyone had a great time."

Speeches from area State's Attorney's, law enforcement officials, Wynn Bence and Tom Green of KC-CASA opened the event. The majority of the walkers were teams representing area businesses or groups and the support for the event on this blustery day was uplifting.

The march began with a ride. The marchers and supporters were bused to the Kankakee County Courthouse downtown to begin the march back up Court Street to the KC-CASA office. Except for one man's high heels getting stuck in the soggy ground, the march started smoothly.

We marched down the sidewalk past numerous onlookers. The march benefited from its midday timeslot, garnering questions from people waiting in their cars, a few taking cellphone snapshots of men in high heels and significant attention from local media. We ended with a nice downhill walk into the KC-CASA parking lot where hot pizza waited for cold marchers.

"It kicked off Sexual Assault Awareness Month and kept us in the news all week," Wynn said. "It was a buzz in the community. People are still buzzing."

Wednesday, April 16

The giant video screens read "Start Now." That was the message for the more than 500 people piling into the ballroom at the Grand River Conference Center for a presentation by Jackson Katz. The event sponsored by Riverview Center, Inc. in Galena brought in audience members from

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A man shows off his footwear of choice for the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event held April 19 in Springfield. The event was part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities sponsored by the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault during April. ICASA centers across the state held a variety of events. For more information on events please see pages 6-15.

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Uproar isn't loud enough

Controversy over Cyrus photos needs to be more intense

The uproar was misplaced. It was needed, but misplaced. I'm referring to the uproar that followed the bare-backed, sheet-clinging photos of Miley Cyrus that appeared in Vanity Fair magazine. Photos that ignited apologies and accusations and outcry, but none of the three for long.



Sean Black

It's an outcry that is needed as Miley Cyrus is 15-years-old. She also happens to be Disney Television/Music Star "Hannah Montana," the apple of many a young girl's eye. If she wasn't that, she

would just be another video attempting to find space on YouTube.

But she's not, because the Cyrus/Montana apple is one that Disney shined to the tune of \$1 billion in profit last year. Yep, she's popular. Her image is everywhere. It's on backpacks, movie screens, CD covers, my daughter's T-shirt and everything in between.

The background to this story is that Cyrus was featured in a photo shoot by famed photographer Annie Leibovitz. Included in that photo shoot was a picture of Cyrus, all 15-years-old of her, posing topless holding a bedsheet across her chest while staring back toward the camera. It's a pose that is the staple of many a centerfold/ pinup/porn cover. It's a picture that depending on whose side you choose to believe was fine with Cyrus' parents, who attended part of the photo shoot, or a photo that was unexpected and was taken by a manipulative Leibovitz of a naïve teenager after her parents had left the

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building.

This is when the uproar entered the conversation. People were mad at Miley Cyrus for letting down her fans. People were mad because it came on the heels of Cyrus intentionally showing her bra strap in a picture that found its way to the Internet. People were mad at her parents for letting it happen. Discussion began about was it intentional to show Cyrus as a maturing sex symbol instead of a pre-teen idol. People expressed some discontent about Vanity Fair and Leibovitz taking the photos.

But the hoopla wasn't nearly enough. And it should have all been at Leibovitz and Vanity Fair. They should have society's full ire thrown down upon them. No one should buy their magazine. No one should hire her to take pictures.

Leibovitz called the photos art. Art in this case is another word for child pornography. Art is the defense when someone crosses the "good sense" line and wants a defense. Art is not taking pictures of topless 15-year-olds. It was criminal to take those photos. And if you or I did just that we would be talking to Mr. Policeman about the inappropriate photos stored in our camera, our computer or our

walls. It can't be said enough that Cyrus is 15 years old. I don't care if she's sold a gazillion things. She's 15. She can't drive. She just left junior high. She's 15. End of story.

It's wrong no matter who was behind or in front of the camera. It was a horrible display of sexualizing a child right before the public eye. It was a prime example of what is wrong in this rape culture. Why does Vanity Fair feel the need to "sex up" Hannah Montana? What does that say about the culture? It says that we need to get a grip on the damage this type of material does to all the young girls out there. Right now, I bet hundreds of 12-, 13-, 14-year old girls have been asked to recreate those photos by someone, a boyfriend, a friend, a family member, a lecherous neighbor. The ramifications of this type of sexualizing of young girls must be addressed.

We must also address the push for a young star/girl to think she needs to appear topless in a magazine. We must change the societal norm that says to be an even bigger star you must sexualize yourself for the objectification of men. Because those photos weren't for Cyrus' girl fanbase. Those were aimed at the men and boys. We must change the discussion. We must not allow men to get away with lusting after 15-year-olds and allowing the media to stoke that lust.

That's the uproar we need. That is why Vanity Fair and Annie Leibovitz should be taken to task. These photos won't hurt Miley Cyrus' star power. They might not really help, but she will still be a big star — a big star who has now been objectified for the audience, joining a long list of others who have been objectified. What we must do is work to prevent this type of normal pattern from taken place. We must work to prevent other names, names of the unknown 15-year-olds, from joining that list of victims. This is our call.

Sean Black is the Communications Coordinator for ICASA.

WHAT IS ICASA?

The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a not-for-profit corporation of 34 community-based sexual assault crisis centers working together to end sexual violence. Each center provides 24-hour crisis services, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual assault and conducts educational programs in Illinois communities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) is to end sexual violence and to alleviate the suffering of sexual assault victims. This work is inseparable from ICASA's commitment to eliminate oppression in all its forms. To accomplish these goals, ICASA advocates for public policy that prevents sexual violence, guarantees sensitivity to victims, and promotes social justice. ICASA uses the power of public education to change beliefs and attitudes about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and the devastation of oppression. Through community programs that provide advocacy, counseling and education, ICASA works for a safe, free and just society.

SUBMISSIONS

ICASA welcomes submissions and reserves the right to edit all submissions. The Coalition Commentary is published quarterly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Editor: Sean Black
ICASA est. 1977

SAAM

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Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Riverview Center Executive Director Josh Jasper set the tone by reading a passage from by Andrea Dworkin from the book, "Transforming a Rape Culture."

Katz, a noted filmmaker and educator, came to teach and inspire the audience to involve more men in the movement to end sexual violence. It was a message embraced by many audience members who stayed after the four-hour event ended to ask Katz questions and learn more about Riverview Center's services.

"I was very happy with the day but I'm even more excited about the residual effect of the event," Jasper said.

Thursday, April 17

In a conference room overlooking the Mississippi River several key community leaders in politics, business and media from Riverview Center's service area gathered for breakfast to discuss the next steps in engaging men and the community in the effort to end sexual violence. Katz spoke briefly to the group, but the majority of the hour and half was spent swapping ideas and hopes about how these influential community members can help change the culture and fight rape.

"That breakfast that morning initiated a snowball effect of people jumping on the bandwagon and being interested in violence prevention," Jasper said. "It's been very exciting."

Saturday, April 19

The downtown Springfield streets filled up quickly as more than 150 marchers, the majority men wearing red shirts and women's shoes, poured onto the pavement to begin the second annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event sponsored by the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault.

"It was a tremendous success and the awareness about sexual violence this event brings to our community is invaluable," said Catherine Walters, Executive Director of the Prairie Center.

The marchers made their way



Marchers lead the way at the start of the *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* event sponsored by the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault on April 19 in Springfield. The event drew more than 150 participants.

through the downtown area, much to the interest of a busload of elementary students beginning a tour of the Old State Capitol. It's that type of exposure that helps make marches effective. Those students had something to think about, something to show their friends, something to talk to their teachers and other adult chaperones about. And it was likely more a topic of conversation than the tour of an old building, even one as nice as the Old State Capitol.

From downtown, the marchers made their way to the State Capitol where friends and families gathered. Standing in front of a statue of Abraham Lincoln on the Capitol's east side, the husband of a rape survivor gave the keynote address at the rally, speaking about the importance of support from significant others in the recovery of rape survivors. State Senator Larry Bomke and Springfield Urban League President Larry Hemingway also addressed the crowd. The event culminated with a celebration at a downtown eatery.

April has passed, but we can hope that the understanding and awareness raised during that month by the efforts of Illinois rape crisis centers will be remembered.

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

PRAIRIE CENTER



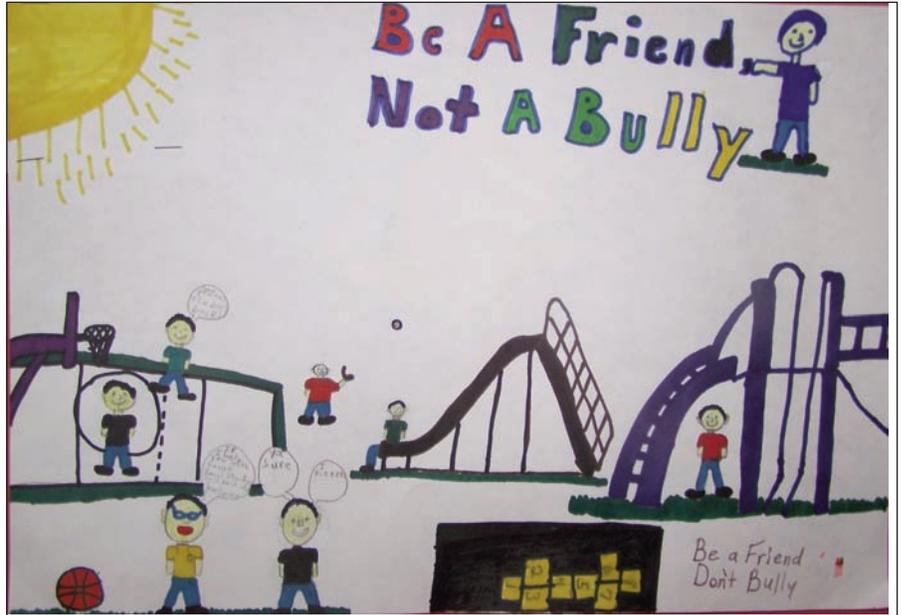
Who: Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault, Springfield, IL

What: Bully Prevention Poster and Essay Contest

PCASA held a poster and essay contest at the five area schools that the center is working with to implement the Steps to Respect anti-bullying prevention project. The winning entries received a \$50 savings bond courtesy of US Bank in Springfield. The contest received more than 50 entries. Representatives from US Bank selected the winners. The winners were presented certificates and their savings bonds during school assemblies in May. Prairie Center is one of 10 ICASA centers taking part in the anti-bullying project funded by the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority.

Information

Contact Shelly Vaughn at 217-744-2560 for more information.



The winners of the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault bullying prevention poster contest were:

Top: 3rd-5th grade division, Kolten Miller of North Elementary School in Taylorville.

Middle: K-2nd grade division, Emily Ducaji of Christ the King Elementary School in Springfield.

Bottom left: 6th-8th grade division: Ashley Lascody of St. Aloysius School in Springfield.

The Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault also held an essay contest with the following winners:

K-2nd grade division: Nicholas Sepanski of Christ the King School for *Be a Friend and Stick Up*.

3rd-5th grade division: Jake Barber of North Elementary School of Taylorville for *Bullying Solutions*.

6th-8th grade division: Sam Notz of St. Aloysius School for *Be a friend, Don't bully*.

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R**RESPONSES, RIGHTS AND RESOURCES FOR CRIME VICTIMS**

What: Sponsored by the National Center for Victims of Crime and the Oregon Attorney General Sexual Assault Task Force. It will emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to sharing promising practices, current research, effective policies, research developments and skill-building workshops.

Date: June 2-4, 2008

Where: Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, OR

More Information: www.ncvc.org

SNAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

What: Sponsored by the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. This conference features Frank Keating, Wendy Murphy, Angela Shelton and Marci Hamilton. The program will also include break out sessions dealing with acupuncture, yoga, and hiking as a tool of healing, support groups for women, men, loved-ones of survivors, and those abused as vulnerable adults, as well as how to discover the work history of a predator and how to reach out to the media to get your story told.

Date: July 11-13, 2008

Where: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Chicago, IL

More Information: www.snapnetwork.org

COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION EN LA COMUNIDAD

What: This event will be a two-day national bilingual conference for improving outreach to marginalized Latina victims of sexual and intimate partner violence and for building effective connections with Latin communities at large. The goals of this capacity-building event include: eliminating victim service barriers and engaging our communities as active partners in prevention, risk reduction and advocacy efforts.

Date: August 18-19, 2008

Where: Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade, San Antonio, Texas

More Information: www.arte-sana.com/nuestras_voces_08.htm

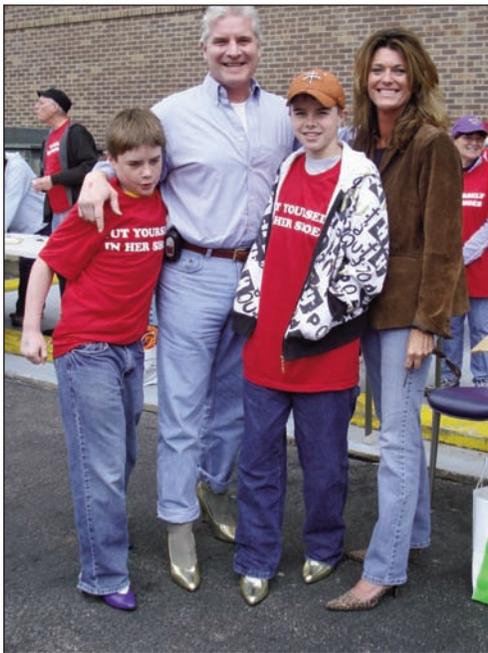
STRENGTHENING THE HEARTBEAT OF ALL OUR RELATIONS

What: The 11th Annual Indian Nations Conference will provide opportunities for education, skills building, and strategies on a wide variety of important issues pertaining to victimization in tribal communities.

Date: December 11-13, 2008

Where: Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel, Palm Springs, CA

More Information: 323-650-5467



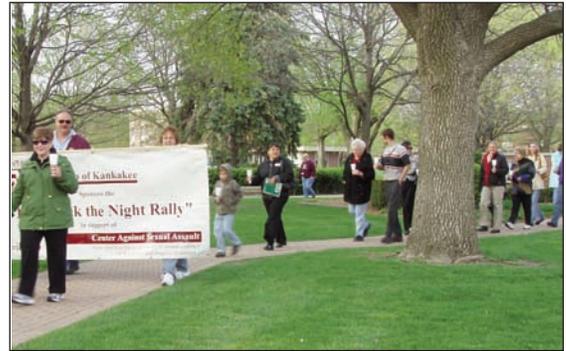
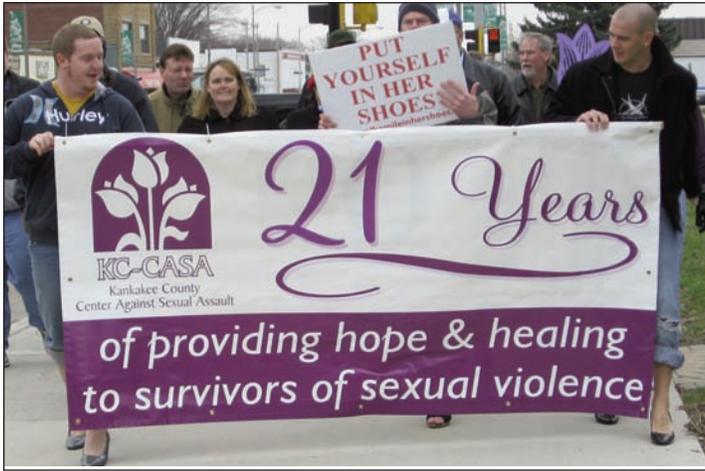
WALK A MILE IN SPRINGFIELD

The Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault held its second Annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event on April 19. The event featured more than 150 walkers and raised \$14,000.



Above: Marchers walk down Capitol Avenue toward a rally at the Illinois State Capitol. Below right: Larry Hemingway of the Springfield Urban League and his son Larry Hemingway Jr. address the crowd: Below left: State Senator Larry Bomke prepares to talk to the crowd at the end of the march. Left: Tim Farley was joined by his sons, Nick and Luke, and Ann Frescura at the event.





MARCHING IN KANKAKEE

The Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault held a *Walk a Mile In Her Shoes* event on April 4 in Kankakee. The event drew more than 150 marchers and raised awareness about sexual violence throughout the community.

Above: Hospice of Kankakee Valley sponsored a group of marchers at the event.

Above left: Zack Zwanzig, left, and Eric Hoots show off their footwear prior to the talk.

Left: Bernie Anderson, left, presents a check for \$5,000 from Nicor to KC-Casa Executive Director Susan Wynn Bence.

Above right: KC-Casa held a Take Back the Night Rally on the campus of Olivet Nazarine University.

**Kankakee County
Center Against Sexual Assault
KC-CASA**

*hope and healing to survivors of sexual violence
in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties*

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Northwest CASA

Hotline: 888-802-8890 Business: 847-806-6526

AURORA

Mutual Ground, Inc.

Hotline: 630-897-8383 Business: 630-897-8989

BELLEVILLE

Call for Help/Sexual Assault Victim's Care Unit (SAV-U)

Hotline: 618-397-0975 Business: 618-397-0975

BLOOMINGTON

Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Services

YWCA McLean County

Hotline: 309-827-4005 Business: 309-622-0461

CARBONDALE

Rape Crisis Services of the Women's Center, Inc.

Hotline: 618-529-2324 Business: 618-549-4807

CHARLESTON/MATTOON

Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service (SACIS)

Hotline: 888-345-2846 Business: 217-348-5033

CHICAGO

Chicago Hotline: 888-293-2080

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago/Quetzal Center

Business: 773-765-0612

Mujeres Latinas En Accion

Business: 1-773-890-7676

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Sexual Violence and Support Services

Business: 312-762-2772

Rape Victim Advocates

Business: 312-443-9603

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, South Suburban Center, Sexual Violence and Support Services

Hotline: 708-748-5672 Business: 708-754-0486

DANVILLE

Vermilion County Rape Crisis Center

Hotline: 888-549-1800 Business: 217-446-1337

DECATUR

Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center

Hotline: 217-428-0770 Business: 217-428-0770

DEKALB

Safe Passage, Inc.

Hotline: 815-756-5228 Business: 815-756-7930

ELGIN

Community Crisis Center

Hotline: 847-697-2380 Business: 847-697-2380

GALENA

Riverview Center, Inc., Sexual Assault Prevention & Intervention Services

Hotline: 888-707-8155 Business: 815-777-8155

GLEN ELLYN

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, West Suburban Center, Sexual Violence and Support Services

Hotline: 630-971-3927 Business: 630-790-6600

GURNEE

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

Hotline: 847-872-7799

Business: 847-244-1187



TEACHING, REMEMBERING IN MACOMB

WIRC/CAA Victim Services in Macomb held a mock rape jury trial to standing room only crowds for two nights at the McDonough County courthouse. The jury was pulled from the audience if their ticket (given at the door)

was randomly selected. Pictured above is the victim, played by Becca Bradshaw, being sworn in for her testimony. The judge was played by Bill Poncin and the Assistant State's Attorney by Julie Marasa.



Left: An estimated 95 people participated in Hands Around the Courthouse, encircling the McDonough County Courthouse with a blue ribbon. Dawn Trulson of the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services spoke at the event about child abuse and reporting abuse.

Bottom: Kat Struber and Children's Legal Advocate Jessica Stoc plant a redbud tree on April 30 at Everly Park. The tree was planted to remember children who have been victims of abuse in our community. Macomb forester Tim Howe donated the redbud tree which was planted near the children's play area. Victim Services Directory Diane Mayfield said the redbud was chosen as it is a tree that blooms each spring.

"We want to make sure our children live healthy safe lives so they may "bloom" as well, living their lives to the fullest," Mayfield said.





ROCKING INTO THE NIGHT ...

On April 13, the YWCA West Suburban Center assisted Take Back the Night - DuPage by ROCKING AWAY VIOLENCE!

Rocking Away Violence was an all-ages benefit concert and awareness event at North Beach Club in Downers Grove. More than 243 people attended the event.

The evening began at 5:30 p.m. with musical performances by Kenway, Angela Rose of P.A.V.E., Room 19, Parsley Flakes, F.H.O.D., and The Elements of Style.



**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca



HICKORY HILLS

The Pillars Community Services
Hotline: 708-482-9600
Business: 708-741-4500

JOLIET

Sexual Assault Service Center
Guardian Angel Community Services
Hotline: 815-730-8984
Business: 815-729-0930

KANKAKEE

Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault
Hotline: 815-932-3322
Business: 815-932-7273

MACOMB

Western Illinois Regional Council/Community Action Agency Victim Services
Hotline: 309-837-5555
Business: 309-836-2148

MCHEMRY

Pioneer Center/Voices Program
Hotline: 800- 892-8900
Business: 815-759-7066

PEORIA

The Center for the Prevention of Abuse - Sexual Assault Services
Hotline: 309-691-4111
Business: 309-691-0551

PRINCETON

Freedom House, Inc.
Hotline: 800-474-6031
Business: 815-872-0087

QUAD CITIES

Rape/Sexual Assault Program,
Family Resources Inc.
Hotline: 309-797-1777
Business: 309-797-6534

QUINCY

Quanada Sexual Assault Program
Hotline: 800-369-2287
Business: 217-223-2030

ROCKFORD

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. (RSAC)
Hotline: 815-636-9811
Business: 815-636-9811

SPRINGFIELD

Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault
Hotline: 217-753-8081
Business: 217-744-2560

STERLING

YWCA of the Sauk Valley
Hotline: 815-626-7277
Business: 815-625-0333

STREATOR

ADV & SAS
Hotline: 800-892-3375
Business: 815-672-2353

URBANA

A Woman's Fund, Inc., Rape Crisis Services
Hotline: 217-355-5203
Business: 217-355-5214

VANDALIA

Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies (SAFE)
Hotline: 800-625-1414
Business: 618-283-1414



VOICE OF WOMEN

The YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago held its third annual *She Speaks Volumes* event and raised almost \$7,000 for the YWCA's Sexual Violence and Support Services. **eliminating racism
empowering women**

Left: d'bi young antiafrika, Afrikan-Jamaican-Canadian poet, writer and teacher headlined the event. Above: Maxxi Powell Kelley of the BlackGirls Anti-Violence Project performs. Bottom left: V103's Troi Tyler hosted *She Speaks Volumes*.

On April 17, the YWCA also hosted a Got Consent event at Chicago State University.

Middle left: YWCA staff Kathryn Cook (far left), Joy Grange and Monica Moore hand out brochures to observers. Lower Right: Anuja Mehta, left, and Lafay Thompson show off T-shirts staff wore to the event. Bottom middle: Staff talk to a student about the Got Consent program.





OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Gurnee Mayor Kristina Kovarik (far right) and Board President Brad Jenks (second from left) join with members of the Youth Allies C.A.R.E. young adult advocacy group



to dedicate Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's new granite sign on Old Grand Avenue. The dedication was part of the Zacharias Center's Open House on April 5. More than 125 attendees attended the event which included: tours and educational discussions, an art exhibit and sale featuring the works of Youth Allies C.A.R.E. members, Waukegan High School teachers and community artists that raised more than \$1,200, skits about sexual harrasment, written by Erika Nunez and performed by the youth and a special Barbie exhibit donated by Garron West entitled "Looking Beyond The Body."



MUJERES ADDRESSES BARRIERS

Luz Marquez-Benbow, co-founder and Associate Director for the National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA), spoke during an event sponsored by Mujeres Latinas En Accion about the barriers that women of color, especially Latinas, face when accessing services for sexual assault. She also spoke of the work that she and her organization do on a national level in regards to policy. Pictured above are Fatima Ortega, Legal/Medical Advocate, Celia Granados, Counselor, Maritza Reyes, Program Coordinator, Luz Marquez-Benbow and Neusa Gaytan, Mujeres' Program Director.



Crisis centers denounce VOCA cuts

Chicago — The YWCA Metropolitan Chicago held a press conference on April 24 to discuss the affects of impending funding cuts on metropolitan Chicago rape crisis services, including the city's only rape crisis hotline.

Organizations across the United States are calling on Congress to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and increase the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to \$770 million, which will protect VOCA from elimination and allow services like the Chicago rape crisis hotline to remain in service.

"Our services, along with our peer agencies, serve every ward in the city. The loss of these services re-victimizes rape victims and will greatly impact the City of Chicago's capacity to address the serious problem of sexual violence," Laura Thrall, CEO, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, said.

The Administration's proposed budget will cut programs funded by VAWA and VOCA by \$120 million. Funds provided through the VAWA and VOCA Fund provides services for victims of sexual and domestic violence. If these cuts are passed, organizations like the YWCA, Rape Victim Advocates, Mujeres Latinas En Accion and Community Counseling Centers of Chicago will lose program capacity as well as staff.

"The cut in VOCA funding sends a message to victims of sexual violence - a message that they are not a priority, that the services that they rely on not just to heal, but to survive, are not a priority. RVA will certainly have to reduce the number of direct service hours we provide, and even before the cuts, we have more demand for our services than we have resources or capacity to meet," Sharmili Majmudar, Executive Director, Rape Victim Advocates said.



Jeanette Castellanos, Associate Director of Sexual Violence and Support Services of the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, speaks to reporters at a press conference discussing upcoming cuts in federal funding.



MARCH AND MORE

The art class of Okaw Area Vocational Center, under the guidance of Cindy Ireland, painted six banners for S.A.F.E. The banners are placed throughout a seven county area in observance of Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness



Month. Pictured in the photo from left to right are Josh Bolyard, Steffanie Hand, Amber Etcheson and Matt Shroyer.

Above: More than 100 people took part in a Take Back the Night march in Greenville on Friday April 25th, 2008. The march ended with a speech by a rape survivor documenting her abuse and healing process.

Upper Right: S.A.F.E. held a candlelight vigil in honor of SAAM. Bottom left: Jim Stever, right, was honored by S.A.F.E. Executive Director Carolyn Daniels as "Best Cheeseball Salesman." Stever has sold more than 350 cheeseballs during the center's annual fundraising event.

Bottom Right: Several clients' shirts and artwork were on display in the Bradford Building in Greenville.

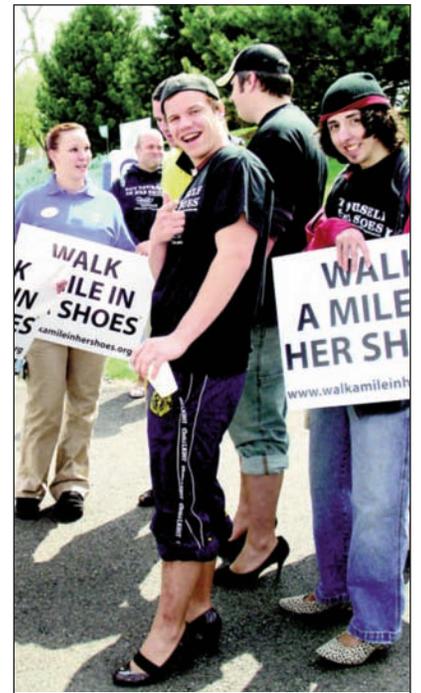
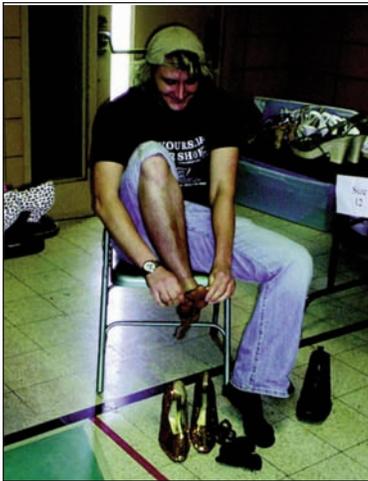




STANDING IN SILENCE

More than 60 people braved the clouds and rain on Friday, April 25 for Standing Silent Witness, Rape Victim Advocates' signature event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Standing silently for one hour, staff, clients, volunteers, board members, and community members – including survivors - wore T-shirts displaying the stories of sexual assault survivors in order to “break the silence” about sexual violence.





MARCHING, WALKING IN JOLIET

The Sexual Assault Service Center sponsored a fashion show featuring the dresses that are available free of charge through Our Prom 'N Aide Project. The event featured 15 teen models and approximately 80 guests for the event. The center



also held a *Walk a Mile In Her Shoes* event on April 26. More than 125 people participated in the march.

Above: Sarah Smith is shown walking down the runway in a pink dress.

Middle Right: A model prepares backstage for the show.

Bottom Right: A model walks down the runway.

Above Left: SASC staff member Donald LaTocha puts on gold shoes in preparation for walking a mile.

Upper Middle: A participant chugs up a hill during the *Walk a Mile In Her Shoes* event.

Upper Right: Participants are in a good mood while waiting for the march to begin.





RUN, WALK, LEARN

Above: Riverview Center, Inc. of Galena organized a run to bring awareness about sexual violence to the community. More than 275 runners took part in the event.

Left: Jackson Katz was the featured speaker at a conference focusing on increasing men's involvement in preventing sexual violence. The event drew more than 500 participants and concluded with the center's annual dinner.

Below right: Walkers prepare to take part in a *Walk a Mile In Her Shoes* event held in Manchester, Iowa by Riverview Center's satellite office in Manchester.





ICASA rape crisis centers held a variety of events during April to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For more information visit pages 6-15.


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