

SAS Connection

Fall/Winter 2014

Fall/Winter Update

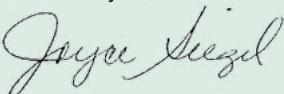
Summer seems a distant memory, and fall has flown by as well. They say time flies when you're having fun. I'm glad to say that some fun has been had, but time also flies when we are busy with work! We are busy in our efforts to continue providing the highest level services to survivors of sexual assault and exploring many ways we can work to prevent sexual violence in the future. This newsletter is full of information about the various aspects of our work, special events and honors received.

Our community continues to amaze us in their support of both assistance to survivors and also in being open to learning more about the "unspeakable" crime of sexual assault. "Advocacy and Hope" on October 2 provided numerous opportunities for media coverage to educate and raise awareness of the issue of sexual assault, rape and child sexual abuse. While these are not pleasant topics, we were embraced by media reporters who listened and relayed important information to the public. Survivors themselves took courageous steps to speak out about their experiences, powerfully sharing through art, even participating in media interviews.

One specific area of need at SAS is additional funding for our Prevention and Community Education Program. National and state funding cuts have left us with a short-fall in supporting the one staff person who valiantly provides vital information to our children, youth, college students and the community at large. This work is critical to more survivors being able to reach out for help, and for teaching that sexual violence is everyone's problem and the responsibility of all of us. If you can support SAS at year-end, please consider making a donation. All proceeds will support our Prevention and Community Education Program and staff.

Thanks to all who are willing to break the silence about the unspeakable, and for your generous and kind support of our work at SAS.

Peace to you,



Joyce Siegel, LMSW, SAS Program Manager

One Voice Journey: Going to the Dogs

One Voice Journey is a 100 mile walk from South Haven to Battle Creek over a four day weekend. The walk this year was held Oct. 16-19 to help raise awareness for child sexual abuse and the therapy/facility dogs that help survivors heal. All funds raised for this event went to the Animal Assisted Therapy program at SAS and Bronson Battle Creek. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather this year and a diverse group of walkers and dogs that joined us along the way.

If success is measured by steps then we were successful, because we took steps to bring more awareness about child sexual abuse. We took steps to help people become more familiar with therapy/facility dogs. We took steps to raise funds. We took steps to build camaraderie. We took steps down beautiful trails and left nothing but footprints behind.

We sincerely thank Brenda Lamica for all of her hardwork on this annual event. Your efforts to help raise awareness and funds is not going unnoticed.



Participants of the One Voice Journey pose with their canine friends before hitting the trails.

SAS is a grant-funded department of Bronson Battle Creek and the Bronson Healthcare Group. Our work is supported 100 percent by federal, state and local grants, in-kind support from Bronson, and contributions from generous groups and individuals. If you would like to support our work, you can donate online at the SAS website: www.sascc.net by clicking the "donate" icon and choosing Sexual Assault Services on the drop down menu. You can also donate by checks made to "SAS/BBC" mailed to SAS, 36 West Manchester, Battle Creek, MI 49037.

**Sexual Assault Services
of Calhoun County**

Amber and Matty Present at National Conference

Amber Depuydt-Goodlock and facility dog, Matty, recently presented at the National Center for Victims of Crime Conference that took place in Miami, Fla.

Amber and Matty were joined by Cynthia Gevedon and Nanook, from Michael's House, a Child Advocacy Center located in Ohio. Amber and Cynthia presented a workshop titled Canine Comfort in Advocacy: The Joy of a Facility Dog in Victim Services. The workshop provided research and information for attendees regarding the challenges and benefits of incorporating facility dogs in victims' services, from the forensic interview process through the criminal justice system and mental health counseling.

Additional resources were also discussed to address commonly identified challenges and provide assistance to participants interested in starting a facility dog program. In addition to the workshop, attendees of the training institute got to meet Matty and Nanook, and talk more with Amber and Cynthia about their experience as facility dog handlers.

The training institute is designed to enrich the work of professionals working with victims of crime by providing information and resources on promising practices, current research, and victim-centered, research-informed programs and policies.

Amber and Matty also traveled to Seattle, Wash. to present at the 2nd Annual International Courthouse Dog Conference. Amber presented on the scientific evidence informing the practice of utilizing facility dogs to provide support and comfort for survivors of trauma.



Amber Depuydt-Goodlock (left) and her facility dog Matty pose with Cynthia Gevedon and Nanook at the National Center for Victims of Crime Conference.

SAS Welcomes New Volunteers

At SAS we are fortunate to have nine new volunteer victim advocates to add to our list of on-call crisis workers. Having completed training they will be assisting survivors of sexual violence at local hospitals, medical offices and police departments.

They are Ginger Drake, Caitlin Gillies, Holly Gray (SAS Intern), Susan Hamm, Sara Hockett (SAS Community Educator & Resource Coordinator), Tokeka McAllister (SAS Intern), Miranda McCrady, Elizabeth Renaud and Carolyn Robinson.

We thank them for their time, and commitment in supporting sexual assault survivors and their non-offending family members.



Pictured from left to right are Pamela Klett, Elaine Poole, Tish Seng, Lindsay Nixon, Mickey Kortsch, Pat Graw, Marion Walter, Corinne Harter, Stevi Hegner, Dawn Elliott, Caitlin Gillies, Elizabeth Renaud, Su Hamm and Pam Buchko, volunteer coordinator.

Update from the Child Advocacy Center

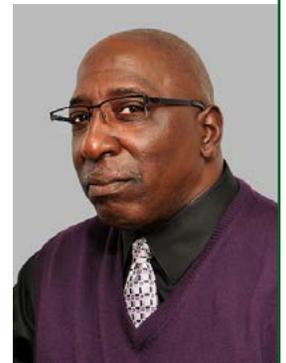
The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) provides a coordinated, collaborative approach to addressing child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and witness to violent crime in our community. A multidisciplinary team works together to help minimize the trauma that victims may experience by providing coordinated investigative team interviews, advocacy services, follow-up contacts, referrals and information, therapy, and monthly case review meetings. As part of the process, parent/caregivers are provided a survey to help us improve our services and better assist the families we serve. The survey is voluntary and confidential. We believe it is critical for families to be able to share their experience with us. In the reporting period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 149 children were interviewed at the CAC and we received 73 completed surveys. 91 percent of caregivers surveyed thought their child felt safe at the CAC. 99 percent of caregivers surveyed strongly agreed that they were referred to services/and or programs that will help them support their child and meet his or her needs in the days and weeks ahead. 87 percent of caregivers surveyed strongly agreed, and another 13 percent somewhat agreed, that they were given information about possible behaviors they might expect from their child after they leave the CAC and in the days and weeks ahead. 94 percent of caregivers surveyed strongly agreed that their questions were answered to their satisfaction, with another 6 percent responding that they somewhat agreed.

In addition to caregivers being surveyed, the multidisciplinary team members are given the opportunity to complete a survey twice a year. During the reporting period, 32 multidisciplinary team member surveys were completed. 94 percent of team members responded they strongly agree that the children's advocacy center model fosters collaboration. 91 percent of team members responded they strongly agree that the center provides resources that help them work on these cases. 88 percent of team members responded they strongly felt that the clients served through the center benefit from the collaborative approach of the multidisciplinary team.

At SAS, our CAC is a very important aspect of the work we do to assist victims of sexual assault; providing the specialized services at the CAC is important to each one of us on the staff. Our individual work with children and families at the CAC and through our counseling, advocacy program, prevention program, and medical program provides us as an organization a sense of hope in the resiliency and healing of children and families. We believe our CAC program creates a sense of hope for the community knowing that there is a team of experts ready to respond and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

A Call to Men

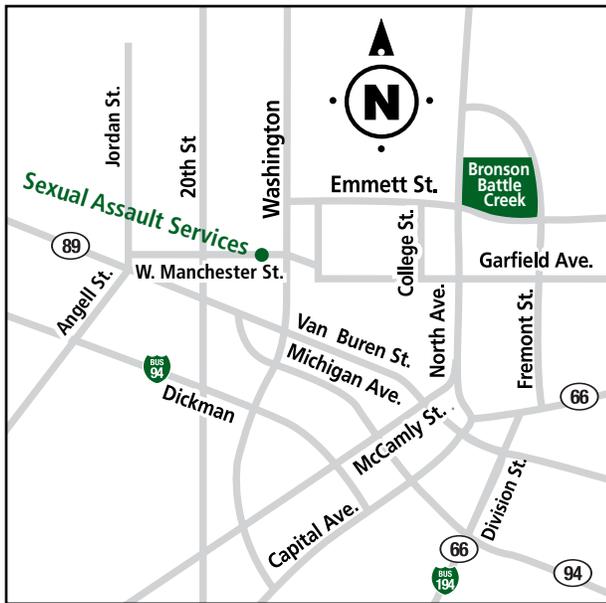
On November 6 and 7, The Calhoun County Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Coordinating Council hosted Tony Porter, co-founder of "A Call to Men" and international anti-violence expert. The two-day event was well attended with over 145 participants who heard Tony's message to men that they have a critical role in ending violence against women. The event, part of a larger project, was funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. It is the spring-board for what we hope will aid to long-standing efforts in our community to engage men as allies in the work to end sexual and domestic violence, while helping men, boys and youth become experts at intervening as bystanders to assist.



Tony Porter

Approximately 25 percent of the participants completed surveys, of which 60 percent were male respondents. 97 percent of individuals surveyed reported being either quite satisfied or extremely satisfied with Tony Porter's presentation. 68 percent found the material presented extremely worthwhile to them personally and 71 percent reported the material as extremely worthwhile for them professionally. Overall, the group reported feeling much more prepared to address the issue of sexual and domestic violence in their community. They also reported extreme interest in continuing involvement regarding this topic in the future.

Our thanks to all who participated in this important event.



Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County

36 W. Manchester St.
 Battle Creek, MI 49037
 (269) 245-3925

Office Hours
 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

24
 HOUR
Crisis Line
888.383.2192

Child Advocacy Center
 (269) 245-3835



sascc.net

facebook.com/SAScalhoun

Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County Mission Statement

Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County is committed to providing empathic, non-judgmental, comprehensive services, support and advocacy for survivors and others affected by sexual assault or abuse; raising awareness of sexual assault; and engaging others to help in holding offenders accountable and to achieve a community free of sexual violence.



Bronson Battle Creek is a major partner with Sexual Assault Services, donating space and in-kind services, making Sexual Assault Services a department of Bronson Battle Creek. This project is funded by Grant No. 20448-17V13 awarded to Bronson Battle Creek, by the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission. The agreement award of \$ 310,176 (80%) of the project, comes from the Federal Crime Victims Fund, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 administered by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Bronson Battle Creek provides the required match valued at \$77,544 by the use of volunteers. Sexual Assault Services wishes to thank the Michigan Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Board for their financial support of this project. This project was supported by Grant No. 99-WF-NX-0026 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. (STOP GRANT) This project was supported by a Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health, Centers for Disease Control. Sexual Assault Services receives an accredited center grant from the National Children's Alliance/MI Chapter of the NCA. Sexual Assault Services also receives in-kind support from Oaklawn Hospital and Crossroads Church and Ministries in Marshall, and St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Battle Creek. Sexual Assault Services is a United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region Community Solutions Partner. Other current funding sources include: The Marshall United Way, and the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council. Donations have been received from the Battle Creek Kiwanis Club, Marshall Exchange Club, and many generous individuals and organizations.

Assistance is available to Victims of Crime who wish to apply for Crime Victims Compensation. Visit the SAS Website: www.sascc.net
 All Services are Free of Charge.

Advocacy & Hope:

Help support the healing journey.



**Sexual Assault Services
of Calhoun County**

**Thank you! With your help we exceeded our goal of \$10,000!
All proceeds will support our Sexual Assault Prevention Program.**

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Special Thanks to

The Artists, who have
courageously shared
Joe and Patty Newman
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Linda Holderbaum
Clovis Bordeaux
Paulette Porter
Battle Creek Country Club
Mike Siegel
All who attended the event
The Dedicated Staff of
Sexual Assault Services