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800.286.4184 hotline
609.645.2909 TTY

BERGEN COUNTY
201.487.2227 hotline
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856.234.8888 hotline
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866.295.7378 hotline
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973.881.1450 hotline
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856.935.7118 TTY

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908.526.7444 hotline
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SUSSEX COUNTY
973.875.1211 hotline
973.875.6369 TTY

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866.623.7233 hotline
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732.932.1181 hotline
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Begin by Believing



**new jersey coalition
against sexual assault**

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VOICES IN ACTION

www.njcasa.org

Volume 11 | Issue 1

NJCASA Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

NJCASA exists because a small group of thoughtful, committed women with heart, courage, insight and skill decided that the world needed changing.

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New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault
2333 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd., Suite J
Trenton, NJ 08619
www.njcasa.org
Ph: 609.631.4450 ■ Fax: 609.631.4453
Statewide Sexual Violence Hotline
1.800.601.7200

In 2011 NJCASA celebrates 30 years of:

- raising our voices on behalf of survivors and their loved ones for compassionate, just, sufficient and accessible treatment;
- support and training for the tireless individuals and programs that walk with survivors through their journeys of healing;
- just plain talking about sexual violence in public;
- advocacy for laws, policies and resources that reflect survivors' needs; that are responsive to the complexity and deep impact of sexual violence across the lifespan of a survivor and throughout our communities; and that acknowledge the frequent and wide-spread reality of sexual violence.

Thirty years ago there was no state-wide sexual violence hotline; there was no formal system to help survivors; there was no allocation in the NJ state budget for sexual assault services; there was no Violence Against Women Act; there were no Sexual Assault Response Teams. Thirty years ago hardly anyone spoke about rape and sexual violence.

Even so, thirty years ago a small group of dedicated and courageous rape care advocates worked out of their own homes or in the corners of small agencies throughout New Jersey.

new jersey coalition against sexual assault



Begin by Believing

In 1981 this small group of rape care advocates formed the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault to give visibility to the widespread occurrence of sexual violence that was often unseen and ignored, and to give voice to sexual assault survivors who were usually unheard or not believed. Since its inception, even with scarce resources, NJCASA's impact has been significant.

NJCASA successfully advocated for the creation of the first line item in the State budget for sexual assault services, which was implemented in 1985 for \$250,000. By 1990 there was a Sexual Violence Program in each of New Jersey's counties providing services to survivors and their loved ones and sexual violence public education.

In 2000 NJCASA launched its "Begin by Believing" campaign. This campaign's aim is to debunk the myths about sexual violence.

Begin by believing that the victim is never to blame for an attack...

Continued on page 6

VOICES IN ACTION

NJCASA MISSION

To promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors, their loved ones and significant others, foster collaborative relationships between community systems, and affect attitudinal and behavioral changes in society as we work toward the elimination of sexual violence against all people.

NJCASA MEMBERS

Sexual Violence Program Members:

- **Atlantic** County Women's Center, Rape Crisis Services
- YWCA of **Bergen** County, Rape Crisis Center
- CONTACT of **Burlington** County
- Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV), **Camden** County
- Coalition Against Rape & Abuse (CARA), **Cape May** County
- Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV), **Cumberland** County
- **Essex** County Rape Care Program
- Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV), **Gloucester** County
- **Hudson** County Rape Crisis Center
- SAFE in **Hunterdon** County
- Womanspace, **Mercer** County
- Rape Crisis Intervention Center, **Middlesex** County
- 180, Turning Lives Around, **Monmouth** County
- **Morris** County Sexual Assault Center
- St. Francis Counseling Service, **Ocean** County
- **Passaic** County Women's Center
- **Rutgers University**, Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

- **Salem** County Women's Services
- Women's Health & Counseling Center, **Somerset** County
- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Interventions, **Sussex** County
- **Union** County Rape Crisis Center
- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Center, **Warren** County

The 22 NJCASA member Sexual Violence Programs provide the following FREE and CONFIDENTIAL services:

- 24-hour hotline
- 24-hour crisis response of a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate
- Individual and/or group counseling for survivors and significant others
- Sexual Assault Response Teams
- Legal, medical, and/or systems advocacy
- Outreach to survivors regardless of participation in the criminal justice system
- Information and referral services
- Awareness, Education, Prevention Strategies

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- Jennifer Nix**
Director of Government and Policy Affairs
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NJCASA NEWSLETTER

VOICES IN ACTION is the newsletter of NJCASA. The opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official position of NJCASA. Articles and prose are welcome for consideration. Decision to publish shall be at the discretion of the Editor. Correspondence and news may be sent to:

Executive Editor, **Andrea Spencer-Linzie**
2333 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd., Suite J
Trenton, NJ 08619

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The focus on bystanders shifts the responsibility of preventing sexual violence to the entire community and promotes community ownership in preventing violence.

APRIL is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—“Its time...to get involved”



Bystanders as Catalysts in Prevention of Sexual Violence

The month of April is designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

By working together and pooling our resources during the month of April, we can highlight sexual violence as a major public health, human rights and social justice issue and reinforce the need for prevention efforts.

On a daily basis, we all observe behaviors that range from being respectful to sexually abusive and violent. A bystander, or witness, is anyone who sees a situation but may or may not know what to do. Bystanders have the *potential* to be a positive catalyst.

Research shows that engaging bystanders is a promising way to help prevent the widespread problem of sexual violence in communities. Acknowledging the role of bystanders, the 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness campaign's theme —“Its time...to get involved”—focuses on incorporating a bystander approach to sexual violence prevention.

The Importance of Bystanders

According to Joan Tabachnick, a nationally recognized expert in sexual violence prevention, the stories we tell about sexual violence need to change. Despite

significant advances in reducing the myths around sexual violence, we still hear stories that too often focus on the survivor and what the individual did or did not do prior to the act of violence. However, the moment we include bystanders who witnessed or were present, we alter how the story is told.

The focus on bystanders shifts the responsibility of preventing sexual violence to the entire community, promotes community ownership in preventing violence and eliminates the focus on survivors' responsibility to

prevent violence. Bystander intervention programs work with bystanders and provide them with tools to identify high risk behaviors and safely intervene to prevent sexual violence.

NJCASA is already working with the 22 sexual violence programs in implementing prevention strategies to build knowledge and skills primarily among high school and college students. Following is a story from one high school student that was impacted by the prevention work in his high school.

Continued on page 4

Reach Out! Speak Out! Prevent Sexual Violence!

NJCASA's First 5K SAAM Walk: April 2

This year's SAAM focus is bystander intervention—a prevention education strategy that is used throughout the state of New Jersey.

On **April 2nd** NJCASA is hosting our first 5K SAAM Walk to kick-off Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This inaugural 5K, at Veteran's Park in Hamilton, will be an opportunity for students, community members, advocates, survivors, businesses and organizations to **reach out** to one another, **speak out** against sexual violence, and to join forces to **prevent sexual violence**. The 5K SAAM Walk is a visual display of support for survivors, sexual violence awareness and prevention. Come and find out more about the work being done in New Jersey to end sexual violence. Funds raised by sponsors and walkers will support NJCASA services and programs.

Join us on **April 2nd** to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month. If you are interested in sponsoring the 5k SAAM Walk or walking as an individual or a team, please go to www.njcasa5ksaamwalk.dojiggy.com to register. If you have any questions please contact Nakita Dziegielewski at 609.631.4450 or SAAM5Kwalk@njcasa.org.

VOICES IN ACTION

April is SAAM Month

Continued from page 3

As a bystander he acted as a positive catalyst to intervene and prevent a sexual violence incident.

"Like many schools do, following from many people went down to Seaside for the weekend. Because there was no adult supervision, a lot of the kids went out of control with drinking, and with that there were plenty of bad scenarios. I stepped into one that was very close to my heart, considering it involved my best friend. She drank far too much throughout that day, and by the time 10 p.m. had rolled around, she was at the point of no return. Seeing that I had only had a few drinks and was capable of using my brain, and also the fact that we're best friends, told me that what was happening was something she would not be proud of in the morning. One of the males from our school tried to take her back to our hotel room, even after a slight objection from her. Without even thinking twice I stepped in and directly ended the situation before it could progress any further. It made me really realize how easily this kind of situation can happen if no one intervenes, and that really scared me."

IT'S TIME ... TO GET INVOLVED

Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention

This year's SAAM explores ways by which everyone can prevent violence. By joining NJCASA's SAAM events—the first annual **5k SAAM Walk on April 2nd** and our **Dollar\$ for Denim campaign on April 28th**—you can increase awareness and promote community prevention of sexual violence. Learn how to get involved; visit our website: www.njcasa.org.

Begin by believing that help is available for all survivors, their loved ones and significant others...

NJCASA College Consortium—A Response to Sexual Violence on Campus

According to the United States Department of Justice, one in four women who attend college will experience an attempted or completed sexual assault before their graduation. Less than 5% of these incidents will be reported to the police or university officials.

Prompted by these alarming statistics, the Center for Public Integrity released a series of investigative reports addressing the complex issue of sexual violence on college campuses in December 2009. The reports highlighted the struggles many students face when attempting to navigate an often complex university judicial process and the frustration felt by well-intentioned but poorly resourced university staff. The conclusion of the series was clear: college students face an extremely high risk of experiencing sexual violence and institutions of higher education need to do a better job of helping survivors, holding perpetrators accountable, and preventing sexual violence on their campuses.

To address this issue on campuses in New Jersey, NJCASA has reached out to colleges and universities across the state to form the NJCASA Campus Consortium. The consortium will address common challenges regarding the issue of sexual violence by sharing effective strategies, identifying best practices, and promoting institutional commitment to preventing sexual assault on all campuses in the state of New Jersey.

NJCASA Campus Chapters

Sexual violence on college campuses is prevalent and can often be shrouded in secrecy. An important way to lift the veil of secrecy is to engage college students around sexual violence. In 2010 NJCASA implemented the College Chapter Program to mobilize students throughout the state to address sexual violence on their campuses.

The NJCASA Campus Chapters program works with college students who are already motivated and passionate about prevention and sexual violence awareness. These students impact their college community as peer leaders. In the 2010-2011 academic year NJCASA launched a pilot program in partnership with four colleges—Monmouth University, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Princeton University, and The College of New Jersey.

Student Campus Chapters participate in campus and state-wide advocacy, and organize annual Denim Day events. NJCASA provides technical assistance, resources, and information to the chapters in order to promote survivor-friendly campuses and encourage best practices in awareness and prevention. Students will receive training updates, legislative advocacy news, and develop relationships with the 22 NJCASA sexual violence programs.

If you would like more information about the NJCASA Campus Chapters program please contact Nakita Dziegielewski at ndziegielewski@njcasa.org or 609.631.4450.

Advisory from President Obama will help beat back the predominant feeling among too many school officials and their lawyers that it's cheaper and easier to favor offenders and sidestep public scandal.

Obama May Take Big Step Against Campus Sex-Assault

Several universities are under investigation by the Department of Education for their handling of sexual assault complaints

Momentum builds to prevent campus sexual assault.

President Obama plans to issue an advisory guided by Title IX, the federal law that requires schools to adopt "prompt and equitable" policies to fairly and effectively redress sexual harassment (including sexual assault) complaints.

There is growing concern that reports of sexual assault on campus are either being ignored or subjected to disciplinary hearings that are not compliant with federal law, to the disadvantage of victims and in violation of their rights under Title IX.

Title IX has been around since 1972, but the federal government has done little to demand uniformity across campuses. An advisory will compel all schools to adopt appropriate and effective standards so all students are afforded a baseline of legal protection no matter where they attend.

One issue alleges that the schools are applying an illegal burden of proof during campus sexual assault hearings.

Federal law requires only a "preponderance of evidence" standard, which equates to roughly 51 percent proof. This standard is important in sex assault cases where consent is typically the only disputed issue. Many schools apply a much stricter "clear and convincing" evidence rule, which makes

equitable redress of violence behind closed doors exceedingly more difficult.

Other issues now under investigation include policies that force victims to choose between the real-world criminal justice system and a school-based disciplinary hearing.

Victims who want to pursue both avenues are made to wait until the criminal process has run its course before the school takes action. This leaves the victim to finish her education among students who often take sides and intimidate the victim to back down. The offending student may graduate before the school can take action. At that point, the school—and often the Office for Civil Rights—loses jurisdiction over the controversy.

Federal law is well-settled under Title IX that a school may *not* wait to take action until after the district attorney has either finished the prosecution or decided not to file charges.

Victims Rarely Informed of Rights

Indeed, victims are rarely informed of their rights in this regard at any school, which is why these pending investigations, and Obama's anticipated advisory, are so significant.

Another policy concern is the way schools grant appeals and re-hearings to students initially found guilty of committing a sexual offense. Appeals are legal, but in many cases the victim is not even aware that appellate proceedings are occurring. Some schools argue that this is fair because the victim is no longer involved in the process and that her rights under Title IX end after the initial hearing.

Federal law sees it differently. Even though a victim may not be a "party" to a school-based disciplinary hearing, she enjoys rights under Title IX that survive resolution of the initial hearing. While a victim cannot dictate whether a school allows appeals or re-hearings, she can file a federal complaint if she is unaware of the proceedings, or if they are otherwise "inequitable" under Title IX.

An advisory from President Obama is bound to inspire schools to step up their sexual assault and harassment redress policies under Title IX. It will also help beat back the predominant feeling among too many school officials and their lawyers that it's cheaper and easier to favor offenders and sidestep public scandal.

by Wendy Murphy

This article is excerpted from "Obama May Take Big Step Against Sexual Assault", which originally appeared January 31, 2011 on Women's eNews www.womensenews.org. For the full article access: <http://www.womense-news.org/story/law/110128/obama-may-take-big-step-against-campus-sex-assault>.

VOICES IN ACTION

30th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

NJCASA has achieved many things in the last 30 years. Important strides have been made in working to prevent sexual violence before it occurs. Sexual Violence Programs and advocates have expanded their programs and increased their skills to work with survivors from underserved communities or with specific needs. New Jersey sexual assault laws are among the best in the United States. NJCASA is working with college students and administrators to fight the high rate of sexual violence on campuses.

But there is still a long way to go.

In 1993 after three years of investigation into the causes and effects of violence against women—which eventually lead to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that was passed in 1994—Vice President (then Senator) Joe Biden stated: *“Through this process, I have become convinced that violence against women reflects as much a failure of our nation’s collective moral imagination as it does the failure of our nation’s laws and regulations. We are helpless to change the course of this violence unless, and until, we achieve a national consensus that it deserves our profound public outrage.”*

Seventeen years after the passage of VAWA, New Jersey State funding for

Begin by believing that anyone can be a victim of sexual violence...

sexual violence advocacy services is only \$900,000—that’s only 10 cents per capita, one of the lowest rates in the country. It’s likely that federal funding through the Violence Against Women Act will also see cuts rolling back 2011 appropriations to 2008 levels.

Preliminary findings from our 2010 state-wide survey on attitudes and beliefs about gender norms, sexual violence, and bystander behavior indicate that there is still a high level of belief that sexual assault is routinely falsely claimed as a strategy to “get back” at a partner or as a grab for attention.

Data on the frequency, types, and demographics of sexual violence incidents in New Jersey are woefully inadequate, with

no consistent categories nor processes to capture the information and share it.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about many of the efforts by NJCASA and others to improve services to sexual violence survivors, to raise awareness about sexual violence in our communities, to prevent sexual violence from occurring in the first place.

In working together we *can* make a difference. In 1981 that small group of dedicated rape care advocates showed us that this is true. We thank them for that gift of hope

Let’s keep the fire of outrage going. Let’s keep the hope alive. Let’s create a different story to tell in 30 years.

Save the Date!

WHEN: Saturday, September 24, 2011

WHO: new jersey coalition against sexual assault




Begin by Believing

WHY: 30th Anniversary Event

WHERE: Moorestown Community House



Many thanks for your support! As you observe **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in April, please consider making a donation online at www.njcasa.org and click on  or by check payable to NJCASA. NJCASA needs your support to help survivors of sexual violence and to prevent violence in all of our communities.

Sexual Assault Victim’s Bill of Rights introduced in NJ Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee for hearing.

Legislative Updates

Funding for Women’s Health, A3273:

The New Jersey Senate and Assembly successfully passed A3273, which would have used federal Medicaid funds to offset the \$7.5 million in cuts to women’s health funding in the 2010 budget. However, Governor Christie vetoed the bill.

Sexual Assault Victim’s Bill of Rights, A3395/S2488

This bill, previously introduced in the Assembly, lays out the rights accorded to sexual assault survivors and requires public employees to take action when hearing a report of sexual assault. Senator Greenstein, who introduced the bill in the Assembly as Assemblywoman Greenstein, introduced the Sexual Assault Victim’s Bill of Rights in the Senate. It was referred to the Senate Judiciary committee and awaits a hearing.

Collection Box for Old Toners and Ink Cartridges

Looking for a way to recycle your old toners and ink cartridges AND raise money for NJCASA? Stop by and drop them off in our collection box at our office:

2333 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd, Suite J, Trenton, NJ 08619.

Elimination of the civil statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse, S2405/ A3622

This bill would completely eliminate the civil statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse, which is currently 2 years from the time the survivor reaches 18 or discovers the abuse. The bill is sponsored in the Senate by

Begin by believing the survivor when s/he says s/he is a survivor of sexual violence...

Senators Vitale and Scutari. The bill was heard in the Senate Judiciary committee and was voted on favorably and sent to the Senate Appropriations committee. In the Assembly, Assemblyman Barnes and Assemblywomen Quijano and Spencer introduced the bill. It was referred to the Assembly Judiciary committee, chaired by Assemblyman Barnes. It has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

Begin by believing that most sexual violence is perpetrated by someone known to the survivor...

Support NJCASA without taking money out of your pocket or wallet!

WHAT IF you could earn money for NJCASA every time you searched the Internet or made a purchase online?

Well, you can!

Consumers can **choose** a specific search engine that works with their browser (i.e., Firefox, IE).



To sign up:

- Go to www.goodsearch.com
- Designate NJCASA as your favorite cause.
- Type in the link below to download the toolbar and earn money for NJCASA every time you search or shop online:
<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/new-jersey-coalition-against-sexual-assault-njcasa>.

GoodSearch is a Yahoo!-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue—about a penny per search—to your designated charity. Use it just like any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo!, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop is an online shopping mall which donates up to 30% of each purchase to your designated cause! Hundreds of great stores—including Amazon, Best Buy, eBay, Gap, Staples, Target—have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order you’ll be supporting NJCASA.

WHAT IF you could save on electricity costs, protect the environment, and support NJCASA at the same time for no additional cost?

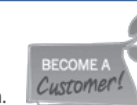
Well, you can!

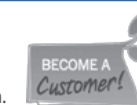
Consumers in NJ can **choose** who supplies their electricity to their utility provider (i.e., PSE&G).



To sign up:

- Go to www.viridian.com/NJCASA



- Click on 
 - Verify that **NJCASA** is displayed as the **Referring Associate**.
 - Complete the remaining 2 steps.
- NJCASA** will receive \$2 for every customer recruited...AND continue to receive \$2 per month as you remain a customer.

Viridian’s Everyday Green plan allows customers to reduce their environmental impact from electricity use while typically paying less than the local utility’s rate. **Viridian** electricity is from local renewable sources, such as wind and solar energy.

Save Money. Save the Earth...Why wouldn’t you?

Thank You for Helping NJCASA Make a Difference!

Denim Day 2011

Denim Day is an internationally recognized campaign to reduce sex crimes by urging everyone to take a public stand against sexual violence. Business and civic leaders, organizations, clubs, students, and workers across New Jersey will be participating in Denim Day activities on April 28th.

HISTORY OF DENIM DAY

In 1977, Rome, Italy, an 18-year-old girl is picked up by her 45-year-old instructor for her very first driving lesson. An hour later, assaulted and abandoned by him in an alley, she has to make her way back home. Undeterred, she reports the incident and the case is prosecuted. The driving instructor is convicted of sexual assault and sentenced to jail.

Months later the perpetrator appeals the sentence. The case makes it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court, where the case against the driving instructor is overturned and the perpetrator is released.

In a statement released by the Head Judge, he argued, "Because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them...and by removing the jeans...it was no longer sexual violence but consensual sex." Enraged by the verdict, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans on the steps of the Italian Parliament building. This call to action motivated the California Senate and Assembly to do the same, which began as the Peace Over Violence Campaign in 1998—and a movement was born.



Annually Denim Day is celebrated to empower and support survivors who refuse to let perpetrators take control.

In 2009 the New Jersey Senate and Assembly voted unanimously to adopt a Joint Resolution designating April 28th as Denim Day New Jersey.

On April 28 NJCASA is organizing Denim Day /Dollar\$ for Denim to raise awareness about sexual violence. Community members, elected officials, businesses, and students can make a social statement with their fashion statement—wear jeans on Denim Day as a visible protest against sexual assault.

Participate in Dollar\$ for Denim by wearing jeans and a button to show your support for survivors of sexual violence and to join the movement to end sexual violence.

To participate:

- Register your business or organization for Dollar\$ for Denim through the NJCASA website at www.njcasa.org.
- Request buttons, awareness materials and participation forms for your business or organization

- Collect donations from employees, clients, members, or patrons
- Distribute Denim Day buttons and awareness materials
- Submit the donation and donation record form(s) to NJCASA.

All proceeds will benefit NJCASA for its work in supporting survivors and the prevention of sexual violence.

Businesses and organizations that register and participate in the Dollar\$ for Denim project will be listed on NJCASA's website throughout the month of April and will be recognized in our newsletter.

For more information visit the NJCASA website www.njcasa.org, or call us at 609.631.4450, or email DenimDay@njcasa.org.

Begin by believing that all of us have a role in working toward the elimination of sexual violence in our communities

Important Dates to Remember

- April 2**
NJCASA 5K SAAM Walk
- April 28**
Denim Day/Dollar\$ for Denim Campaign
- September 24**
NJCASA 30th Anniversary Gala

Upcoming Training Institute Events

March 2, 2011

Media Literacy and Sexual Violence

Presenter: Jyoti Venketraman, NJCASA Prevention Director

Location: Hamilton Township Library, 9 AM–12 PM

March 5, 2011

Intersectionality: An Emerging Diversity Concept (courtesy listing)

Presenter: Beyond Diversity Staff

Location: Cinnaminson-Westfield Friends Meeting House, 9 AM–5 PM

Register by 3/4/11 at

<http://www.rightcode.net/development/beyonddiversity/>

March 30, 2011

Coordinated Campus Response

Presenter: Donna Barry & Chief Paul Cell, Montclair State University

Location: Montclair State University (tentative), 9 AM–4 PM

May 17, 2011

Talking to Legislators—How to Get Your Message Across

Presenter: Michelle Jaker, Planned Parenthood

Location: NJCASA, 10 AM–12:30 PM

May 24, 2011

Forming Community Partnerships: Services to Survivors with Developmental Disabilities

Presenter: Tracy Higgins, Morris County Sexual Assault Center

Location: NJCASA, 1 PM–4 PM

June 7, 2011

Film presentation: "Very Young Girls" a documentary on the commercial sexual exploitation of girls, followed by a facilitated discussion on sex trafficking in New Jersey

Location: NJCASA, 1 PM–3:30 PM

Check our website at www.njcasa.org/institute for more information, updates, possible fees, and registration.

Thumbs Up

- Bill to eliminate the civil statute of limitations for child sexual abuse passes out of NJ Senate Judiciary Committee and is introduced in the Assembly.
- New Jersey native Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" highlighted the insanity of including the definition of "forcible" rape in the HR 3 bill. The bill would have eliminated federal funding for abortions in cases of incest and statutory rape, and defied current federal law that defines rape as lack of consent and not use of force.
- Grassroots efforts throughout New Jersey and the country pressured lawmakers to take out "forcible" from the HR 3 bill.

Thumbs Down

- HR 3 bill limits federal funding for abortions for women who could not otherwise afford them.
- Georgia legislator introduced a bill that would require referring to victims of sexual violence as "accusers" and not as "victims".
- NJ Governor Christie vetoes use of Medicaid funding for women's health services in New Jersey, denying New Jersey federal funding that could support services that were cut because of NJ state budget cuts.

VOICES IN ACTION

NJCASA Volunteer Opportunities

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." —Mahatma Gandhi

Volunteer Opportunities for Individuals and Groups

Administrative support person: answer phones and perform light administrative duties in the afternoons.

Handyperson: repair shelving in NJCASA's Resource Center.

Newsletter Editor: complete editing and layout work on the newsletter three times annually.

Event Support:

- help with registration, refreshments, set up and clean up tasks for the April 2 SAAM 5K Walk;

- make buttons for Denim Day participants between now and April 28; sew together Denim Day patches for a hanging; approach businesses and groups to participate in Denim Day awareness and fund raising activities;
- layout program journal for 30th Anniversary Gala on September 24; help with various other activities to organize and implement the 30th Anniversary Gala.

If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed above or would like more information, please contact Emily Durison, Volunteer Coordinator, at 609-631-4450 or volunteers@njcasa.org.

Want to support sexual violence services? Support funding!

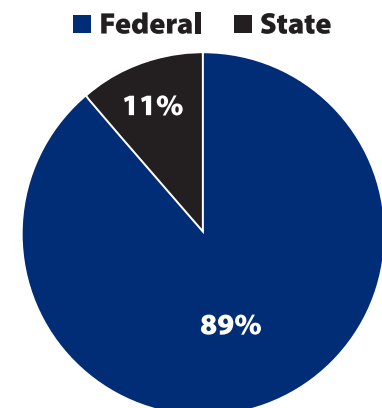
Of the almost \$9 million spent in NJ on sexual violence services, less than \$1 million is state money. The federal government is the largest supporter of sexual violence services in New Jersey, from paying for hotline coverage to funding the sexual assault nurse examiners who conduct forensic exams on survivors. New Jersey spends only about 10 cents per person on sexual violence services in state money and 25 cents per person when federal funding is included.

The Republican majority in the US House of Representatives intends to cut federal government spending to 2008 levels. For New Jersey's sexual violence survivors, this could mean the loss of nearly half a million dollars. When state funding for the sexual violence programs in NJ was cut to \$900,000 in 2009, New Jersey's federal allocation for violence against women had increased, so survivors did not see a difference in most services. It is highly unlikely that cuts in federal funding will be made up with state increases this year.

For this reason, supporters of sexual violence need to engage with their legislators. Most advocacy groups, including

NJCASA, have active email lists which urge supporters to contact legislators or policy makers on a variety of issues. Many people assume that someone else will send the email or make the call and that one more voice can't possibly matter. This couldn't be further from the truth. Legislators respond when they hear from constituents. Look at H.R. 3, introduced in January by Rep. Chris Smith, NJ-4, which would have restricted federal funding for abortion services to survivors of "forcible rape". The term "forcible rape" enraged supporters of sexual violence survivors and much of the rest of

State and federal funding chart



the public. People contacted their legislators and demanded that the term be removed. It worked- within a few days, the bill's sponsors said they would be removing the term.

Unfortunately for survivors of sexual violence, competition for resources for services will be tight in the coming year. The legislators who decide where funding goes need to hear from New Jersey residents who support sexual violence services. NJCASA regularly talks with legislators and lets them know about the demand and need for services. We can show how money is spent and how current funding levels are barely adequate for the level of need. This message is bolstered when the support for such services by New Jersey's citizens is communicated by constituents.

In the coming months as debate over the federal and state budgets heats up, NJCASA will be reaching out to supporters asking for assistance in contacting legislators and showing support for sexual violence services. Let your legislators know that you want sexual violence services to continue.

Join us in 2011 to celebrate NJCASA's 30th Anniversary.

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Corporation for National & Community Service: AmeriCorps State Grant, administered by the New Jersey Department of State, Commission on National Community Service

US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women: State Coalitions Grant and Recovery Act Grant to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions

US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women: STOP Violence Against Women Act Grant, administered by NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

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AmeriCorps Martin Luther King Day



NJCASA AmeriCorps members Bryanna Johnson, Brady Root and Denise Rosen paint a mural at Queen City Academy Charter School in Plainfield, NJ, as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service 2011.