

Voices in Action

Speaking Out for Social Justice, Education & Change

New Jersey Legislature Proclaims April 28th *Denim Day*

In January 2010, New Jersey became the newest state to adopt *Denim Day* as an annual event to raise awareness around sexual violence in New Jersey. The New Jersey legislature passed a joint resolution which was signed by Governor Corzine on January 16, 2010 designating April 28th as *Denim Day* in New Jersey. Senators Loretta Weinberg and Barbara Buono sponsored the resolution in the New Jersey Senate and Assemblywomen Valerie Vainieri Huttel, Linda Greenstein, Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Eleese Evans, and Charlotte Vandervalk sponsored the resolution in the Assembly.

Denim Day originated from a protest over a court decision on a sexual assault case in Italy. In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the rape conviction of a driving instructor who had been earlier convicted of raping one of his students. The survivor said that during one of the driving lessons, the offender pulled over in a secluded area and raped her. The driving instructor claimed they had consensual sex. The Italian Supreme Court of Appeals, in its decision, doubted the survivor and found fault with her behavior. The Court reasoned that because her jeans were so tight, at the time, she must have helped him take the jeans off, and thereby consented. The decision stated that “*jeans cannot be removed easily and certainly it is impossible to pull them off if the victim is fighting against her attacker with all her*

force.” Outraged over the decision, women legislators in Italy began wearing jeans to Parliament to protest what they deemed to be antiquated views on sexual assault and victim behavior.

The outrage over this decision spread to the United States, first in California where women legislators staged a similar protest by wearing jeans to work. At the same time advocates at Peace Over Violence in Los Angeles created *Denim Day* in April as a way to raise awareness around sexual violence. Since then other advocacy groups throughout the United States have adopted *Denim Day* and use it to raise awareness and work towards the prevention of sexual violence.

In 2008 and 2009 county-based Sexual Violence Programs in New Jersey launched *Denim Day*. For instance, the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center provided training and education to high school and college students. The Coalition Against Rape and Assault in Cape May County collected jeans. SAFE in Hunterdon hosted outreach and *Denim Day* events in their county.

In 2010, in addition to the programs hosted by the county-based Sexual Violence Programs, the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault will be hosting events to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness month and *Denim Day*. One such event is the training institute



hosting Sgt. Joanne Archambault, who will be presenting a workshop on False Allegations on April 27th. On April 28th, NJCASA plans to hold a celebration on the statehouse steps in honor of the legislators who sponsored and supported the *Denim Day Resolution*, followed by a reception nearby. Please join us in celebrating *Denim Day* at these events. For more information about these events, please visit our website at www.njcasa.org.

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Voices in Action

Spring 2010

The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) is the statewide coalition, representing the collective voice of sexual violence survivors, their loved ones and significant others, 22 Sexual Violence Programs throughout New Jersey, as well as individuals, students and corporations concerned about ending sexual violence. Since its inception in 1981, NJCASA has been acting as an advocate for survivors, their loved ones and significant others statewide, while providing information and education to the public, media and government officials regarding sexual violence issues. NJCASA is dedicated to developing and maintaining programs and services which support our mission of eliminating sexual violence throughout New Jersey and its communities.

Our 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.

Our Members

There are 22 NJCASA member Sexual Violence Programs throughout New Jersey that provide the following **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** services:

- ❖ 24-hour hotline capability
- ❖ 24-hour crisis response of a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate
- ❖ Individual and/or group counseling for survivors and significant others
- ❖ SART participation as a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate
- ❖ Legal, medical, and/or systems advocacy
- ❖ Outreach to survivors regardless of participation in the criminal justice system
- ❖ Information and referral services

Several Sexual Violence Programs may also offer additional services, such as long-term counseling, and you should contact your local provider for more information about their services. Services Provided by Member Sexual Violence Programs.

Our Newsletter

Voices in Action is the quarterly 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:

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Coming Soon: *Voices in Action* via E-mail!

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NJCASA College Consortium – A Collaborative Response to Sexual Violence on Campus

According to the United States Department of Justice, one in five 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, share effective strategies, identify best practices, and promote institutional commitment to preventing sexual assault on campuses in the State of New Jersey.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and the theme for 2010 is “Preventing Sexual Violence on Our Campuses.” The consortium will begin

its work by participating in the NJCASA *Denim Day* campaign as one of their SAAM events. Each campus will hold awareness raising events and fundraisers using the *Denim Day* theme. NJCASA will provide each campus with a “toolkit” that includes the history of *Denim Day*, sexual violence information, ideas for events, and sample marketing materials. (See “*Denim Day*” article on page 1.)

NJCASA is thrilled to announce this exciting and important collaboration. The NJCASA Campus Consortium has the potential to do cutting-edge work in the areas of sexual violence intervention and prevention. Be on the lookout for updates on its progress in future editions of our newsletter.

We Invite You to Join the Challenge: *Dollars for Denim*

This year, students, professors, administrators and staff from local colleges and universities, as well as staff and customers at retail stores and professional offices, will be joining the anti-violence movement across the state to observe *Denim Day* on April 28, 2010! NJCASA will sponsor sexual violence awareness events throughout the month of April, including a *Denim Day* celebration on April 28th in Trenton on the steps of the NJ State House followed by a reception at the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple nearby (for additional event details please see page 3). The ***Dollars for Denim*** campaign is a way for local businesses, corporations, community organizations, and individuals to show their commitment to raising awareness about sexual violence and their support of NJCASA. ***Dollars for Denim*** involves contributing \$5 per person to wear jeans and/or buttons to work or school on April 28th to honor *Denim Day*. (To learn more about NJCASA’s new College Consortium initiative with New Jersey colleges and universities, see page 3).

Anyone interested in organizing an event can download a *Dollars for Denim Toolkit* from the NJCASA website (www.njcasa.org). These audience-specific toolkits were adapted from materials originally developed by Angelae Wilkerson, an NJCASA board member and representative from the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center who was instrumental in the passage of the *Denim Day Resolution*. Each toolkit will be composed of marketing materials, ideas for fundraising, a *Denim Day* history and the contact information for NJCASA staff. We’re hoping that with your support we will raise awareness about local services for sexual violence survivors and cutting-edge programs to prevent the violence before it occurs.

CONTACT INFO: Corporate sponsors may contact Mary Giovinazzo, Associate Director at (609) 631-4450. Colleges and Universities should contact Heather Baldwin at (609) 631-4450.

Join us!

Wednesday,
April 28, 2010

Commemorate Denim Day

in New Jersey, honoring
legislators and anti-violence
advocates on the steps of the
New Jersey State House
125 West State St., Trenton

3:30 – 4:30pm

NJCASA reception to follow
5:00 – 8:00pm

Historic Trenton Masonic
Temple (100 Barrack St.,
just 2 short blocks
from the State House)

NJCASA Training Institute: False Allegations Workshop in Spirit of Denim Day—April 27

On April 27, 2010 Sgt. Joanne Archambault, Executive Director of End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International and the President and Training Director of SATI, Inc. (Sexual Assault Trainings and Investigations), will give a presentation entitled *False Allegations: Moving Beyond the Issue to Successfully Investigate and Prosecute Non-Stranger Sexual Assault*.

In January of 2003, Sgt. Archambault founded EVAW International, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable training for all disciplines, with an emphasis on the law enforcement investigation and proper criminal justice responses to sexual assault and domestic violence. Prior to full-time consulting, Sgt. Archambault worked for the San Diego Police Department for almost 23 years, including as a supervisor for 10 years in the Sex Crimes Unit until her retirement in October 2002. Sgt. Archambault has written and co-authored a number of articles and chapters on the criminal justice response to sexually violent crimes, such as the role of law enforcement, the forensic examination, the impact of DNA, overcoming a consent defense and false reports of sexual assault.

The works of professionals such as Sgt. Archambault, Dr. Kimberly Lonsway (Research Director of EVAW International), and Dr. David Lisak (Associate Professor of Psychology from the University of Massachusetts), have challenged the validity of certain research methods used to estimate the number of sexual assault reports that constitute false allegations. They contend that very few of the estimates cited in recent studies are based on reliable research and that the tendency to overestimate the percentage of false reports can be attributed to cultural stereotypes about sexual assault rather than to scientific evidence. The overemphasis on “false allegations” has led to more credibility accorded to the suspect than to the victim, which affects outcomes throughout the entire criminal justice system.

Sgt. Archambault’s presentation will look at why false reporting is a

less frequent occurrence than is often depicted in the media and crime reports. (See “Denim Day” article on page 1.) Sgt. Archambault will explain what actually constitutes a false report and the difficulties in distinguishing between genuine false reports and baseless or unfounded reports. In addition, she will examine some of the factors that underlie the appearance of a high prevalence of false reporting as well as the problems associated with this popular misconception.

Please join us on April 27th for this informative and important training. Sgt.

Archambault will present two separate sessions. The morning session, from 9:00am to 12:30pm, will be open to advocates, students and the general public. Topics covered will be *Sexual Assault Dynamics: Effectively Recognizing and Responding to Sexual Assault and False Allegations*. The afternoon session, from 1:00pm to 4:30pm for a select audience of law enforcement, SANE/SART Coordinators, prosecutorial, probation and court officials will cover *Developing Skills to Interview Sexual Assault Survivors as well as Investigating and Responding to Difficult Cases of Sexual Assault*.

Registration is required for this event. The registration fee is \$50 for up to three persons per Sexual Violence Program member organization, \$50 for up to three persons per police station, prosecutor’s office or court department. For more information or to register online, visit the Training Institute events calendar on NJCASA’s website at www.njcasa.org/institute or contact Karen at kbar-akiva@njcasa.org or (609) 631-4450, ex.208.

Upcoming Training Institute Events

April 2010

Topic: False Allegations: Moving Beyond the Issue to Successfully Investigate and Prosecute Non-Stranger Sexual Assault
Presenter: Sgt. Joanne Archambault (Ret.), EVAW International and SATI, Inc.
Date: April 27, 2010
Location: NJ State Police Headquarters
The Museum & Learning center, West Trenton, NJ

June 2010

Topic: Social Norms Marketing and Bystander Intervention Strategy
Presenter: Alan Berkowitz, Ph.D., Independent Consultant and Jackie Deitch-Stackhouse, The College of New Jersey
Date: June 3, 2010
Topic: SART Best Practices: How To Work Together Successfully
Presenter: Christopher Mallios, AEquitas and NJ SART members
Date: June 18, 2010

Training Institute event information can be found at www.njcasa.org/institute.htm or by contacting Kareen at kbar-akiva@njcasa.org or (609) 631-4450, x208.



A “Green Dot” Response to Tucker Max

On January 20, 2010, The College of New Jersey’s College Union Board brought Tucker Max to their campus. Tucker Max is a famous author who is notorious for writing books and blog posts that are dominated by tales of his sexual exploitation and abusive treatment of women.

Supporters of Max argue that his writing is just a vulgar brand of humor. However, it is doubtful that the women who are featured in his stories would have the same humorous take on their experiences with Tucker Max. Because of the abusive tone of his writing, TCNJ’s Office of Anti-Violence Initiatives identified his appearance as a “Red Dot.” The office reached out to students, faculty, staff, and community members to counter the event with a series of “Green Dots.” We’re happy to report that, by the time Tucker Max left TCNJ, there were “Green Dots” all over the place. NJCASA helped organize a letter writing campaign that netted approximately 100 letters to the TCNJ president and administration. Students wrote letters to the school newspaper and circulated a petition to cancel the

event. Most importantly, student organizations including PRISM (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & allied students), Women in Learning and Leadership, College Democrats, and College Republicans came together to organize “Celebrate Women at TCNJ.” The event was held on the same day as Tucker Max’s appearance and featured speakers, including the Provost, who reaffirmed TCNJ’s commitment to equality, civility, and non-violence. Over 100 people attended and donations were collected for Womanspace, NJCASA’s Sexual Violence Program member in Mercer County. We applaud everyone who countered this potentially negative event with their own “Green Dots.”

Green Dot 101

Founded by Dr. Dorothy Edwards at the University of Kentucky, Green Dot is a bystander intervention strategy that provides tools for individuals to recognize and act (without endangering themselves) in high risk situations to prevent violence. A Green Dot is any behavior, choice, word or attitude that promotes safety for everyone and communicates utter intolerance for violence. The opposite of this is a Red Dot – a red dot is any behavior, choice, word or attitude that tolerates violence .

Calling all Volunteers!

NJCASA is proud to launch a new volunteer program this spring. We will be offering a wide range of short-term and long-term volunteer and internship opportunities. Our volunteer needs range from administrative work and website maintenance to advocacy and event assistance. The new internship program will be recruiting individuals for placement in Non-Profit Management, Government and Policy Affairs, and Advocacy positions. We are eager to begin internship placement this summer, and therefore would ask interested candidates to contact our office by April 12th. This is a great way to get involved with your community, fulfill school internship requirements, and gain professional experience in an exciting environment. We also welcome opportunities to work

with college and school career centers on their capstone and internship programs. If you or someone you know is interested in interning or volunteering with NJCASA, please go to our website www.njcasa.org to view the opportunities. For more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Katharine at volunteers@njcasa.org or (609) 631-4450 ext. 211. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



Please Welcome our New Trustees!

Carolyn Flynn-Vasquez: Carolyn is from Somerset County and currently works at Central Jersey Birth Services as a Doula. Through her role as a Doula, she has worked with survivors during pregnancy and labor and delivery. She previously worked at the Somerset Hills YMCA and has connections with the following organizations: Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition, La Leche League, Somerset Hills Unitarian Universalist Church, Doulas of North America, NJ Worst to First 2010, and International Cesarean Awareness Network.

Ken Mackenzie: Ken is from Mercer County and is currently self-employed in IT and Management Consulting and previously worked for Merrill Lynch, also in IT. He has volunteered with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Sophia Marandino: Sophia is a program member representative for SERV for its Gloucester Sexual Violence Program. She resides in Burlington County. Sophia has worked at SERV for several years and has a strong understanding of the issues that the field faces.



Photographs from the NJCASA Board Retreat, February 19 – 20, 2010.

A Day of Service Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2010

NJCASA AmeriCorps members celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a day of service. They collected clothing for survivors of sexual violence who undergo forensic exams and distributed the clothing to the Sexual Violence Programs.



NJCASA Donors: A Sincere Thank You!

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Women

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& Community Service,
AmeriCorps State Grants
administered by the New
Jersey Department of State,
Commission on National
Community Service

US Department of Justice,
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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
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180, Turning Lives Around,
Monmouth County
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St. Francis Counseling Service,
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of NJ, Sexual Assault Services/
Crime Victim Assistance
Salem County Women's Services
Women's Health & Counseling
Center, **Somerset** County
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Assault Interventions,
Sussex County
Union County Rape
Crisis Center
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Assault Center, **Warren** County

2333 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd., Suite J
Trenton, NJ 08619
P: 609.631.4450
F: 609.631.4453
www.njcasa.org

Statewide Sexual Violence Hotline
1.800.601.7200

If You Or Someone You Know Has
Experienced Sexual Violence, Please Call
1.800.601.7200
To Speak **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIALLY**
With Your Local Sexual Violence Program

ATLANTIC COUNTY

800.286.4184 hotline
609.645.2909 TTY

BERGEN COUNTY

201.487.2227 hotline
201.487.0916 TTY

BURLINGTON COUNTY

856.234.8888 hotline
211 info hotline

CAMDEN COUNTY

866.295.7378 hotline
856.964.7378 hotline
856.757.4244 TTY

CAPE MAY COUNTY

609.522.6489 hotline
609.463.0818 TTY

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

856.293.9753 hotline

ESSEX COUNTY

877.733.2273 hotline

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856.964.7378 hotline
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201.795.5757 hotline

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Simply go to www.goodsearch.com and in the "Who do you GoodSearch for" box, choose New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault already listed in the database and add NJCASA as your favorite cause.

We estimate that each Web search will generate approximately \$0.01 for NJCASA. It quickly adds up! We hope you'll not only use GoodSearch as your main search engine from now on, but will also tell your friends, family and co-workers so they, too, can start using GoodSearch to support NJCASA!