

SATRC

frontlines

● SPECIAL 30th anniversary EDITION

SATRC IS A
UNITED WAY
PARTNER AGENCY

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE SEXUAL ASSAULT & TRAUMA RESOURCE CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND

A little swing, a bit of Motown and a whole lot of blues...

Join us as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary

Saturday, November 8, 2003 • 7 to 11 p.m.
VMA Arts & Cultural Center, Providence
\$75 per person • Catered by Johnson & Wales Inn

For more information about sponsorship opportunities
or tickets, contact (401) 421-4100 ext. 214 or 232

Outlasting the Blues – Celebrating 30 years

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► The **RI Rape Crisis Center** is formed and becomes a YWCA program with partial funding from the United Way.

1973-77

► RIRCC receives status as an **independent nonprofit agency**.

1979



► Executive Director **Peg Langhammer** goes to jail rather than turn over clients' confidential records.

1983



► A **confidentiality bill**, defeated in the General Assembly, but passed in four other states, becomes a **national issue**.

1983

Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center of Rhode Island

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Taking pride in 30 years

■ BY PEG LANGHAMMER, SATRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AS I LOOK BACK OVER THE YEARS, I AM SO GRATEFUL TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO SHOWED COURAGE AND DETERMINATION in their work to end sexual violence. Survivors, advocates, staff, board members, legislators who made the right decisions, prosecutors, doctors, nurses and police officers who treated victims with compassion and professionalism, businesses, foundations, and donors who supported us with funding — our collective efforts are paying off. Together we have made tremendous progress. My passion is fueled by your work, and your vision. It is my firm belief that with leadership, collaboration, commitment, and tenacity, communities can significantly reduce the prevalence of sexual violence.

I still dream of a day when rape no longer exists — where violence is the exception, not the rule.

The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center turns 30 this year. We can all take pride in the fact that thousands of children, adults and family members have received support and assistance that simply didn't exist 30 years ago. We commend systems and institutions that are so much more responsive to the needs of victims. Professionals who once worked in isolation are now members of multidisciplinary teams throughout the state. I love it when a collaborative partner — a detective or prosecutor — goes the extra mile and builds a strong, seamless case. People who give of their time or resources because they want to make their community safer just make us all want to work harder.

I still dream of a day when rape no longer exists. Where violence is the exception, not the rule. The work that began a mere three decades ago remains unfinished. Today there are sexual

► **RI Children's Advocacy Center** (CAC) is established in Providence, eventually opening three satellite offices statewide.

1993-97

► **Agencies and businesses** such as Hertz have been generous in their **Teddy Bear contributions** with tens of thousands of the stuffed animals given to children in the CAC program.



► RIRCC announces its new name: **Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center of Rhode Island**.

1998

▶ Landmark marital rape legislation passes in General Assembly making it a crime to sexually assault one's spouse.

1987

▶ Results of a RIRCC survey administered to adolescents in a prevention program gain national attention.

1988

▶ As RIRCC's programs and services expand, so does its staff, which numbers 13.

1991



▶ Keeping Kids Safe education program celebrates 10 year anniversary.

1993



assault centers and children's advocacy centers throughout the country. Every day, the children and adults who walk through our door are a constant reminder of the need for this work and the fact that it makes a difference in their lives. But significant, systemic social change will only be achieved when women and men acknowledge the alarming prevalence of sexual violence in our communities and take action to eliminate it.

As we celebrate 30 years of work and struggle, we must appreciate our victories and learn from our defeats. It is consistently energizing for me to be on the frontlines of such a vital cause. We must hold strong to the vision that sexual assault does not have to be a part of our society and be relentless in our efforts to make this a reality.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2003

● SATRC launched a new program, "Fostering Healthy Families." Funded in part by the Carlisle Foundation of Framingham, MA, the effort is a three-tier program of training, support and recruitment with DCYF's foster families and staff. Extensive support is provided to professional staff, as well as families who are experiencing the effects of having a traumatized child in their home. The growing number of foster children who have been sexually abused and exhibit severe behavior problems is one of the biggest challenges in the foster care system and dramatically impacts recruitment and retention.

● SATRC took a leadership role in facilitating the revision of Rhode Island's version of Megan's law. The new legislation, approved by the General Assembly and signed into law, will enhance public safety by strengthening the system that manages convicted sex offenders who will one day live in the community at large.

● In response to the "One in Eight" report, SATRC proposed an eight-step program to help with the prevention of sexual violence, the intervention of sexual assault and the treatment of victims. In the near future, SATRC will join with stakeholders in corrections, education, law enforcement, prosecution, lawmakers and community members to develop a detailed plan to effectively address this epidemic.

Eight to the Bar to play the blues at SATRC November event



This wildly successful six-piece band plays a mix of blues, classic r&nb, Motown and swing. Featuring Collin Tilton — the sax player on Van Morrison's platinum selling *Moondance* album — Eight To The Bar has been making music together for 26 years.

Visit the band's website, www.eighttothebar.com, for a preview of their special brand of music. *Outlasting the Blues — Celebrating 30 years* — will be held November 8, at VMA Arts & Cultural Center in Providence.

For ticket information, call (401) 421-4100, ext. 214 or 232.



▶ Campus Task Force releases Best Practice Manual and collaborates with colleges and universities in massive education/prevention program.

2000



▶ The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is formed to help guide survivors through the criminal justice system.

2001

▶ SATRC releases One in Eight Report, which reveals one out of eight adult Rhode Island women has been a victim of forcible rape in her lifetime.

2003



Fourth annual Under the Stars, by the Sea raises \$23,000

Thanks to a hardworking committee and the many friends and supporters who joined us August 3 for another elegant evening under the stars on Narragansett Beach, SATRC raised \$23,000.

Our appreciation to Susan Buonanno, chair and Karen Follet, co-chair and their committee.

A special note of recognition and appreciation to our corporate sponsors, GTECH, CVS/Pharmacy, The Providence Journal, NBC10, Campus Fine Wines and Citizens Bank.



Stepping out for a grand evening under the stars are from left, Pam Hodnett, committee member; Diane Messier, Karen Follett, co-chair; Peg Langhammer, SATRC executive director; Susan Buonanno, chair and Sharon McGreen, committee member. PHOTO BY MARTHA J. MORRIS

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