

Stop Sexual Abuse Before it Starts

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). We are building on the theme of last year, urging parents to talk to their children about sexual abuse. The facts are startling: 1 in 5 kids will be a victim of sexual violence before the age of 18. The average sex offender knows how to talk to a child. We want to make sure that the rest of the community does too! We need parents and caretakers to learn how they can lend a hand in prevention, to help stop sexual abuse before it starts.

This April we have a strong community presence to open the dialogue on sexual violence. You'll hear us on the radio, watch us on tv, and see posters, transit signs and brochures around town. Beyond that, people are taking action, statewide. Highschools, colleges and other community groups are organizing activities from Take Back the

Night Rallies to lectures on Healthy Relationships to fundraisers selling "Break the Silence" Awareness Bands. Day Care and Preschool programs from nearly every community in RI are participating in the creative arts project "Joining Hands to Protect Children." The RI Children's Advocacy Center and the Keeping Kids Safe program teamed up to implement this SAAM creative arts project. On a paper titled "Joining Hands to Protect Children," children trace their hands, sign their name within

and the hands are displayed in classrooms throughout the month. Parents' hands are displayed in the classroom as well and parents receive educational materials to guide future discussion with kids on these important issues.

It's never too early to talk to kids—in fact, the RI Children's Advocacy Center works with children as young as three years old. Take the time to learn more. Visit www.satrc.org.



Get involved during SAAM:

- Call 421-4100 for a brochure about talking to kids
- Buy Break the Silence Awareness Bands
- Become an ally: Join Hands to Protect Children (see page 3)
- Become a volunteer
- Attend a SAAM event
- Talk openly about sexual violence
- Believe & support survivors
- Visit www.satrc.org

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Peg Langhammer

SATRC Executive Director



At SATRC we are working to stop sexual abuse before it starts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the RI Department of Health, and SATRC have independently concluded that this is the best way to move us towards a world free from sexual violence. The notion stems from primary prevention: to revisit the root causes of violence and shift attitudes that suggest the inferiority of women; remove the social stigma associated with sexual violence; and rebuild a model based on empowerment, equality, and a community approach to changing norms.

Changing attitudes is a prerequisite to changing behavior. We need to change the indifference towards violence, recognize that it is not an inevitable part of our world, and that it can be removed. The reality is that sexual violence is a serious public health threat. Whether or not you yourself are a victim, each and every one of us is adversely affected by this violence.

We must stop pretending that it is the victim who must learn about self-protection and avoiding offenders. We must examine our own attitudes and actions that contribute to a culture that accepts and condones sexual violence. And, we need to talk about how common sexual assault really is.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Our goal is to increase the public's understanding about sexual violence in our society. It's a time to remind the community of the resources available. This effort can help communities support sexual assault survivors, victims and their families. It is also a time to encourage the public to take active steps to address sexual violence. The hope is that a month of intensified awareness efforts combined with the year round anti-violence work will bring us closer to ending all sexual abuse.

Prevention education is the best tool to change public attitudes about sexual assault and ultimately change behaviors that will stop it from happening. Let's focus on teaching our children about treating others with dignity, compassion and respect. We must lead by example. Stop condoning, stop standing by, and start acting. Changing attitudes and behaviors is an imperative step in stopping sexual abuse before it starts.

Thank you to the Sponsors of Sexual Assault Awareness Month



SATRC welcomes and introduces new staff:

Sharon Lyman Arnold, Victim Advocate
Lori Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant/Office Manager
Lauren Bedard, Child Abuse Intervention Specialist/Rural Outreach
Francine Bolarinho, Helpline Advocate
Lyn Furcht, Child Clinician
Melissa Grullon, Case Manager, Foster Healthy Families
Kiersten Marek, Child Clinician, Foster Healthy Families



Joining Hands to Protect Children

Colleges, day care centers and high schools around the state have already signed on as allies of the RI Children's Advocacy Center. They are joining hands to protect children and end sexual violence. To become an ally visit www.satrc.org/joininghands and download a hand. Sign your name within and send it back to us. Even better, get your school, favorite restaurant, or community group to display the hands in a public place. Becoming an ally means that you recognize that child sexual abuse is an issue in RI and that you will not tolerate it. It affirms that you will not rely on children solely, to defend themselves; that you will actively work to reduce the stigma associated with child molestation and sexual abuse; that you will encourage healthy relationships, and that you will remain committed to protecting and supporting children.

The following day care centers are participating in the Joining Hands creative arts project:

Barrington
Barrington Early Childhood Center

Central Falls
YWCA Child Care Connection/ Play
Preschool Plus

Charlestown
Charlestown Early Learning Center

Chepachet
The Learning Place, LLC

Coventry
Primary Colors Children's Center

Cranston
Cranston Y's Owl Nursery School
Doric Day Nursery School & Kindergarten
Western Cranston Learning Center

Cumberland
Littlest Angels Preschool

East Greenwich
A Step Up, Inc.

East Providence
Little Playmates, Inc.

Exeter - West Greenwich
Children's Center of New England

Johnston
Kid's Zone, Inc.

Lincoln
Child Care Connection

Middletown
Growing Children of Rhode Island
Twice As Nice Child Care Center

Narragansett
Growing Children of Rhode Island

Newport
Sea Rangers Nursery School

North Kingstown
North Kingstown Daycare and
Preschool

North Providence
Tri-Town Child Care Center

Pawtucket
Child Care Connection

Portsmouth
Countryside Children's Center

Providence
Eddy Street Learning Center
Federal Hill House
Mt. Hope Child Care Center
Smith Hill Early Childhood Learning
Center
Washington Park Preschool
YWCA Child Care Center

Scituate
Scituate Early Learning Center

Smithfield
Just For Kids

South Kingstown
A Place to Grow, Inc.

Warren
Carousel Nursery School/ Daycare

Warwick
Child Care Connection
Precious Angels Child Care Center
The Stork's Nest Child Academy

West Warwick
Academy for Little Children
A Precious Moment, Child Academy, Inc.

Westerly
Littlebrook Child Development Center

Woonsocket
Woonsocket Head Start Child
Development Assoc., Inc.

Thank you Johnson & Wales University



Pictured above are Johnson & Wales technology design students Matthew Gilbert, Matthew Mulligan, Tiffany Kellaway and Nicole Miner. With the assistance of Professor Elizabeth Marks, these students designed a new SATRC website, which will be launching soon. Students Holly House and AJ Paquin, alongside professor Stephen Andrade, also worked with SATRC to design a brochure for our law enforcement advocates. SATRC would like to thank these students and staff for their service and support and acknowledge Johnson & Wales University for its commitment to service learning.

Interested in
attending a
Sexual Assault
Awareness
Month Event?

Visit
www.satrc.org for an
up-to-date calendar
listing of statewide
activities.

Foster Healthy Families: Keeping Children Safe and Healthy in the Community

Philip*, age 9, lived in a foster home until he drew pictures of the sexual trauma he had experienced earlier in his family of origin. Upon presenting his foster mother with these pictures, she became concerned and contacted DCYF.

Although Philip's behavior was not escalating severely, the foster mother was concerned that Philip would begin acting out more in the home. He was having difficulty sleeping and had returned to a pattern of intermittent bed-wetting.

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) removed Philip from the foster home and he was placed in a children's psychiatric hospital. After several weeks, his symptoms decreased and his behavior stabilized, but, being under-educated about care for traumatized children and fearful of the return of undesirable symptoms, the foster family was unwilling to take him back. Now Philip was stuck in a place that DCYF has been trying to get children out of for years- psychiatric hospital limbo. Because of the extremely limited

child, extremely costly to the health care system, and counter-therapeutic in the long-term, DCYF can refer a child like Philip to the Foster Healthy Families program. A therapist and a case manager work with the child and family to identify the problems that need to be addressed in order to maintain the child's placement in the home.

"A child and family's safety always comes first, but beyond that, the intent of this program is to prevent children from losing their placement at home or in a foster placement. Most of these children do not need hospital-level care if services in the community are in place," says Christine Holmes, director of children's services at SATRC.

"If we can keep children from being in the hospital, especially long-term, we will be doing a great service to the community," says Kiersten Marek, child clinician for the program.

"We want to provide guidance for families in all communities," says Melissa Grullon, case manager for Foster Healthy Families. Melissa brings a wealth of experience in community work as well the important community element of English/Spanish bilingual language capabilities to the program.

Foster Healthy Families will provide services to children ages 3 to 17.5 years who live within Providence and the northern part of Rhode Island. These services are available to support

foster families and biological families. The program is fully equipped with crisis intervention and 24-hour phone availability for clients in need. Case management can also provide transportation to medical and therapy appointments and community meetings. Program staff will also be available

to collaborate with schools, hospitals, and other treatment providers, when necessary.

Foster Healthy Families is funded by a grant from the Carlisle Foundation and

is approved for provision of services with Neighborhood Health Plan which is managed by Beacon Health Strategies. For more information on this program contact 401-421-4100.

**Philip is a fictional character. Philip's story is based on a composite of observed patterns for children receiving treatment for trauma.*



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availability of specialized foster care, many children wait months in a hospital setting to return to the community.

Enter Foster Healthy Families, the newest program of the Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center of RI (SATRC). Now, instead of removing children from home and foster placements and putting them in a hospital setting: which can be alienating and stigmatizing for the

Listen to your Child.

Child sexual abuse happens in silence and secrecy.

Unfortunately, abusers are usually someone the child knows and trusts—a family member, a friend.

Abusers count on all of us to keep silent. We can break the silence.

Protect your family by talking about abuse with your children and with other parents.

Help stop sexual abuse before it starts. For more on how to talk to kids visit www.satrc.org or call 421-4100.

“Can I Kiss You?": Lecture Encourages Students to Join Hands to End Violence

Mike Dormitrz, leading authority on consent, healthy dating and sexual assault awareness, addressed students, professors, staff and health officials through his interactive lecture, “Can I Kiss You,” at Salve Regina University on March 2nd and Roger Williams University on March 31st.

The lecture is based on his book, “May I Kiss You?”



Mike Dormitrz addresses more than 800 students at Salve Regina

Dormitrz reinforced how easily rape can occur and that both men and women have to take care of their friends to prevent this. “Always leave with the same people you came with. You can’t give legal consent when you’re drinking.

Sexual assault happens on every college campus, every weekend.” But, “If you go to the police stations and check their records, only 0-4 assaults are reported.”

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Dormitrz was inspired to carry out this work in 1989 when he learned that his sister had been brutally raped. He aims to show students how they can reduce the occurrences of sexual assault by creating healthier dating practices.

“Friends can help stop rape,” said Dormitrz. Dormitrz invited audience members to join him on stage to help role-play certain situations. He asked two men and two women to pretend they were at a party. One of the women and one of the men were asked to pretend they were drunk and wanted to go home with each other. How would their sober friends react? The sober woman’s response to her friend was telling her she didn’t think it was a good idea. The sober man’s response was giving his drunken friend a high five.

“What’s the flaw with *No Means No* posters?,” he asked the auditorium filled with close to 400 freshmen at Salve. “It implies that a question was asked. You can’t answer “No” if you weren’t asked.

After Dormitrz presentation he asked the audience to do something to stop sexual abuse and dating violence from happening. He announced the “Joining Hands” project of the Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center of RI.

At his Salve Regina lecture, the first public event surrounding this campaign, Dormitrz said to the crowds, “You can show your community you get it by signing a piece of paper with a hand on it on the way out. These hands will be put up around campus as a reminder. Each survivor is different, just like each handprint. Then take the small card with the Helpline number on it, and other information that you might need or you might need to give to a friend some day.

“Do not take this material and put it on your fridge; it might fall off.” With a laugh he said, “Put it in your junk drawer so you’ll always know where it is when you need to use these resources.”

SAVE THE DATE

May 16, 2005
 Charity Golf Tournament
 to benefit
 the RI Children’s
 Advocacy Center
Alpine Country Club.
Cranston, RI
12:30 Shotgun Start
 *

August 13, 2005
 SATRC Annual Gala
 “Under the Stars
 by the Sea”
North Beach Clubhouse.
Narragansett Town Beach.
Narragansett, RI
 *

Interested in hosting an event to benefit SATRC?

We’d love to hear from you.
 *

For advance reservations for any of our events or sponsorship opportunities contact:
 421-4100 ext. 212 or 232
 lbainer@satrc.org

Colleges & Joining Hands

Over 800 hands were signed at Salve and they are now displayed in the gymnasium foyer.

Roger Williams University prepared 1000 hands for March 31st. They will also host Joining Hands April 11-16.

URI hosted Joining Hands in the Student Union on April 4th and again on April 5th in conjunction with the documentary viewing of Searching for Angela Shelton at Edwards Auditorium.

Johnson & Wales will host Joining Hands through the Women’s Center.

To learn more call 421-4100 ext. 223

TRAFFICKING, NEAR & FAR, IS VICIOUSLY GROWING

TWELVE GIRLS FROM THE AREA OF MODRICA, BOSNIA, A TOWN OF 30,000 INHABITANTS, DISAPPEARED IN RECENT YEARS. According to Buducnost, an anti-trafficking organization in Bosnia, they were taken abroad with the promise of work, but have since never contacted their parents or families. Based on interviews with the families of the missing girls, and trends in the disappearances, Buducnost has concluded that these twelve girls are trafficking victims.

Children from countries recently affected by the devastating Tsunami are vulnerable targets of trafficking rings. Children as young as 12 have been kidnapped, lured under false circumstances, or placed into fake adoption agencies to be trafficked around the world.

There is an estimated more than 200,000 American children at high risk for trafficking into the sex industry each year.

The trafficking of human beings is the modern practice of slavery. Trafficking is the illegal and highly profitable recruitment, transport, and sale of human beings for exploitation.

Exploitation ranges from forced labor, to organ removal, to forced prostitution. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is most commonly associated with women and young girls. Though we hear of these stories abroad, we rarely think about the prevalence in our own backyard.

In the U.S. there have been cases of children as young as 3 years old trafficked within and out of the U.S.

Trafficking exists in Rhode Island through prostitution, escort services, and massage parlors. Legitimate businesses such as restaurants are sometimes fronts for brothels, with backrooms and cordoned-off sections used for prostitution.

To avoid detection or repeat prosecution, the sex industries in Rhode Island are transient and mobile. Word of mouth is the primary form of advertising.

Traffickers solicit victims for a number of reasons, including power, control and thirst for money. But the real reason why trafficking exists is simply because there is a demand. There is a world-wide demand for sex slaves of all ages, especially youth.

Traffickers utilize methods similar to many sex offenders. They befriend victims, gain their trust and make false promises. Young people, in search of a better life, follow the promises of these friendly acquaintances that promise proper jobs as waitresses, models, or

nannies. The result: they immediately fall into the trafficking trap.

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currently the second largest criminal industry in the world, only second to the trafficking of drugs, and it is the fastest growing. To put an end to this epidemic, we all must become more aware of the issue and, at the legislative level, stricter laws must be passed that consecrate harsher punishments for perpetrators.

To learn more about trafficking visit: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/trafficking_info.htm.

Information on Trafficking in RI was gathered from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Raymond, J. & Hughes, D. (2001) "Sex Trafficking of Women in the US."

Teal Break the Silence Awareness Bands

100% Silicone \$2 each.

To order call 421-4100 or visit www.satrc.org

BREAK THE SILENCE

www.satrc.org



Education & Sexual Assault Awareness Day at the State House: April 14

Join the Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center on April 14th to educate and advocate at the State House for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

From 3:00pm to 4:30pm SATRC advocates will be in the rotunda, rallying support, distributing awareness materials, and speaking with legislators about the issues.

Advocates will also be asking legislators and staff to participate in the "Joining Hands to End Sexual Violence" campaign. Lend your voice and presence on the 14th to raise awareness about sexual assault and to generate support for two bills that the Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center is advocating for this session.

At the top of the agenda is a bill (S583, H5895), which Senator Michael McCaffrey (D-Warwick) and Representative Donald Lally (D-Narragansett) sponsored to enhance the criminal sanctions in third degree sexual assault, commonly known as statutory rape, in cases where the perpetrator is ten or more years older than the victim.

Currently the sentence for third degree sexual assault is imprisonment for not more than five years, with no discrepancy depending on the ages of the victim and perpetrator. Third degree sexual assault cases have been getting more attention lately due to teacher and student incidents, like the Mary Kay Letourneau case.

This bill aims to stop older offenders from preying upon young victims. SATRC proposes that the minimum sentence be raised to a term of ten to twenty years for a perpetrator who is ten or more years older than the victim.

Senator Rhoda Perry (D-Providence) and Representative Donald Lally (D-Narragansett) have sponsored the second bill (S727, H5894) that calls for strengthening the rape shield law to provide rape victims more protection at trial. The existing law provides judges broad discretion to allow or refuse any piece of evidence, introduced by the defense, about the victim's sexual history.

Currently, Rhode Island is one of nine states whose rape shield law falls into the category of judicial discretion. The highly publicized Kobe Bryant rape trial brought this issue to national attention, encouraging revision of the rape shield law. The proposed policy has reconstructed the current law to limit what is admissible in the victims' sexual history before or after the incident in question, with attention to specific exceptions.

By imposing a stricter rape shield law, sexual assault victim advocates hope that victim reporting will increase and victim blaming will decrease.

Join us on the 14th to show your support and to advocate for these important initiatives. Contact your legislators and tell them you want these stronger laws to hold offenders accountable and to make your community a safer place to live.

Together we can make a difference and our voices will be heard.

One month ago, Rhode Island became the 7th state in the nation to go smoke free. For many years smoking was seen as a choice of the individual, and something that only affected that person. As the detrimental effects of second hand smoke were unveiled, the effects on the public proved to be staggering.

The relationship is similar in the case of sexual violence. Society suggests that rape, molestation and abuse affect only the victim and the perpetrator. The reality is, each incident of violence becomes interweaved into the fabric of our society.

Sexual assault is a serious public health threat that causes physical as well as devastating emotional and psychological damage.

According to the National Victim Center, the public safety and public health costs amount to \$110,000 per victim of sexual assault.

Nationwide there are 1.3 rapes per minute, 78 per hour, 1,871 per day, and 683,000 per year.

Help RI become the 1st state to be free from sexual violence.

ACTION ALERT!

To keep people informed, a new action alert system is being created that will notify, via email, updates in state and federal legislation, information about upcoming events, and other steps to take a stand against sexual violence. If you would like to get involved and receive these announcements, sign up at www.satrc.org. For more information regarding action alerts or to participate in Education and Awareness Day April 14th contact gboulet@satrc.org.

Thank you Providence Monthly for
 sharing your success

THE ONE HUNDREDTH ISSUE

with deepest gratitude,
 Sexual Assault & Trauma
 Resource Center of Rhode Island

March 24, 2005



Jeanette St. Pierre, publishing coordinator of Providence Monthly welcomes more than 400 guests at Providence Monthly's 100th Issue celebration at the Federal Reserve. The spectacular event raised \$12,910 to benefit SATRC. Thank you to all who joined us at the celebration and to the event sponsors, NBC 10, 92 PRO FM and Starbucks Coffee Liqueur.

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