

# THE VOICE

Volume 1, Issue 4

Spring 2011

## MISSION

Voices Against Violence works towards the elimination of domestic and sexual violence and stalking through direct services, education and systems change.

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## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Franklin Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force and other community people are uniting with the rest of the country in proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The purpose of this designation is to raise the awareness of Vermonters about the widespread problem of sexual assault in our communities. Although Vermont has been touted as the second safest state in the U.S., this statistic changes dramatically when looking only at crimes involving sexual assault. The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence reported that in 2009, 1,002 rape survivors utilized the services provided by the Network's 15 programs in Vermont. Franklin and Grand Isle Counties are no exception. Voices Against Violence provided services to 46 adult victims and the Northwest Unit for Special Investigations (NUSI) investigated and/or prosecuted to 165 victims (adult and child).

Sexual assault is a broad term that includes marital rape, date and acquaintance rape, stranger rape, and incest. The fact is that over 80% of rapes occur within one's own race with a known perpetrator, with husbands, boyfriends, relatives, and acquaintances being the most common. With much help and collaboration from the Franklin and Grand Isle communities, the Franklin and Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force in conjunction with Voices Against Violence is sponsoring several events aimed at raising awareness about the reality of sexual violence in our communities. Many activities are planned for the month including the annual "Rally Against Sexual Violence" Vigil

on Thursday, April 7th, and the "Clothesline Project", which is a visual display of T-shirts designed by survivors of violence.

What can you do to help raise awareness and help prevent sexual violence?

**Participate** in the annual **Rally Against Sexual Violence on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at Taylor Park in downtown St. Albans from 5 to 6:30 pm.** The program will include local and statewide speakers, music, readings from survivors and refreshments. The Clothesline Project and Red Flag Campaign will be on display in the park. The red and blue flags represent the number of adult and child victims of sexual violence served by Voices Against Violence and the Northwest Unit for Special Investigations (NUSI). The Clothesline Project will also be on display at Hannafords in St. Albans.

**Volunteer** at your local domestic violence or sexual assault program. If you are interested in volunteering at Voices Against Violence, call 524-8538.

**Join** the Franklin Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force and help spread the word in our community.

**Teach** your children that sexual violence is unacceptable and what to do if they are ever sexually assaulted. Learn what you can to keep kids safe

**Vote** for politicians who are committed to ending sexual violence in your community.

**Speak out** when you hear someone blaming the victim (e.g. "She asked for it." "She shouldn't have been wearing those clothes.")

**Donate** money, time or items to your local sexual assault program.

## PORNOGRAPHY - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Pornography has evolved in to violence against women. The media of today (Music videos, “Got Milk” ads, cologne ads, Cosmopolitan Magazine, Maxim Magazine, TV commercials, etc.) can now be considered soft-core porn. Mainstream porn has become something completely different.

Pornography has become a HATE CRIME against women and is becoming increasingly more and more violent as porn consumers and addicts become immune to “mainstream” porn and demand something “more”. That something “more” is actually already part of mainstream pornography where women are raped and tortured using military torture techniques, pseudo child porn, deflowering virgins - younger and younger girls are being used in porn and women are merely seen as sexual objects.

- Pornography is a \$24.9 billion dollar industry worldwide with primarily male consumers.
- Due to mainstream media, young girls and women in our culture today are taught you’re either invisible or you’re a sexual object, and who wants to be invisible?
- Our culture crowds out other ways of being female. Young girls and women are all supposed to fit the “norm” of being readily available for sex. If young girls and women do not fit this “norm” they are con-

sidered prudes.

- Quote from a child rapist...“The culture did the grooming for me; I didn’t have to do any grooming.” – He used the porn/rape culture as a tool to groom his victim.
- Most child rapists get bored with porn and need something new so they actually act out their fantasies on children.
- Porn is not fantasy – it is violence and money.
- Porn is about dehumanization and debasement.
- Porn stars try to get out of the industry, but are forced back in by agents who are basically pimps. The majority of women involved in porn have to use drugs and/or alcohol in order to get through the extreme pain of the scenes they are forced to do. We all, as a society, need to REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS PORN CULTURE!

### Recommended Reading

- *Pornland: How Pornography has Hijacked our Sexuality* by Gail Dines
  - *Getting Off* by Robert Jensen
- Website: [www.stoppornculture.org](http://www.stoppornculture.org)

### Recommended Viewing

DVD “The Price of Pleasure” by producer Chyng Sun (difficult to watch, but well worth it)

Watch on Youtube: *Dreamworlds 3* by Sut Jhally. Explores the narrative of music videos and the messages they give about women and girls

## BEING AN ADVOCATE IS.....

By Deb B.

Being an advocate with victims of sexual assault is, at times, more intense than those who are victims of domestic assault. An advocate is someone who listens and gives options, without judging! Going to the emergency room may take several hours, depending on how far the forensic exam has gone, in a domestic violence case; the physical injuries are usually on the outside and can be seen. A sexual assault may not be visible on the outside. The forensic exam looks for injuries inside, evidence on the clothing, under fingernails, places that wouldn't normally be checked with a domestic violence victim. A victim of a sexual assault

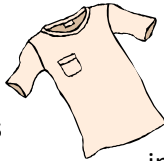
has been invaded, their safety zone has been broken and their outlook isn't always the same.

Working with a victim of sexual assault is intense and can be emotionally draining because you may be the only positive, calming person that is near. You are the one who may be told the details and asked the question, why me! They ask, “Why can't I remember everything?” More times than not the assailant is someone they know and thought was safe. These are things that are

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## CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

The Clothesline Project is a visual display of shirts with messages and illustrations that have been designed by victims/survivors of violence or by friends and family of survivors. Clotheslines may also contain shirts made to honor victims that have died as the result of violence. The project is a graphic and sometimes disturbing but always compelling way to bring violence such as rape, incest, battering into the open.



### History

In the spring of 1990, the Cape Cod, Massachusetts Women’s Agenda was searching for a way to communicate to the public the horrific extent of the violence perpetrated against women in the United States. Given the incredible number of women and children victimized each year, the group, during a visit to the Vietnam Memorial, wondered “Where is our wall?”

One member of the group, Rachel Carey-Harper, answered that question with a powerfully simple concept: a clothesline on which women could air out society’s silent “dirty laundry”. Using the deceptively simple medium of the t-shirt, survivors were able to create poignant and moving personae; accounts of their feelings, their struggles and their efforts to heal. Finally, on October 8, 1990, the Cape Cod Women’s Agenda hung a clothesline on the town green in Hyannis. Thirty-one shirts blowing in

the breeze proclaimed that violence could be found everywhere. Word of the powerful display spread quickly as the Clothesline traveled around the country. The Project continued to grow and today, the Clothesline Project is displayed by over 500 chapters continuously throughout the nation and world.

### Purpose

The Clothesline Project serves several functions in raising awareness about gender related violence:

**Breaking the Silence**—Breaking the silence is an act that raises awareness and challenges people to be more committed to ending gender related violence.

**Exposure**—The visible statement of the Clothesline Project serves to reach people who would not voluntarily attend a lecture or workshop on gender related violence.

**Educational Tool**—Because of its graphic nature, The Clothesline Projects tend to engender comments and questions by its viewers leading to opportunities to inform and educate.

**Therapeutic**—The viewing of the Project as well as the shirt making sessions serve as an opportunity for survivors of violence to feel validated and affirmed in their experiences in a concrete a visible way. Survivors who have felt their experiences have been erased or made invisible by society can see that they are not alone in their experiences.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

### VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP

**Healing The Pieces & Shattering The Illusions Of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence And Stalking.**

**What Are The Dynamics Of These Types Of Violence?**

**What Are The Effects On My Children?**

### How Can I Keep Myself Safe And Independent?

**WHEN?**

**Thursdays From 5:00 Pm To 6:30 Pm**

Please Call 802-524-8538 Ext. 204 To Let Us Know You’re Coming And We Will Give You Directions!!

*“We must be warriors in the struggle against ignorance”*

*Maya Angelou*



**Welcome to new  
volunteers**

**Michele—intern**

**Amy—intern**

**Alexis—intern**

**Catherine**

## HELLOS and GOODBYES



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Heather Getty, who was temporarily filling a staff person's position who was on leave. Thank you to Heather for jumping in and helping us out at a moment's notice. She did an especially great job with the moms at Vermont Adult Learning. We are hoping she will continue on as a volunteer advocate when she has the time! We wish you well, Heather.

Welcome to Katie Herbert, our new Outreach Advocate/

Educator. Katie states "I am thrilled and excited to be joining the



Voices Against Violence team! I am originally from Rutland, Vermont. I just graduated with my Master's of Education from Saint Michael's College. I look forward to meeting everyone in the community to work together to end violence. When I am not at work, you could find me painting a painting, on a hike or simply enjoying the wonders of Vermont." Katie will be reaching out to folks who have traditionally not been able to access services while strengthening ties in outlying communities. You can reach Katie at 524-8538 ext. 222 or kherbert@cvoeo.org

## THANK YOU S

This past winter was an incredible time for Voices with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We had more families "adopted" than ever before. The outpouring from the community was heartwarming. Our holiday party for the families, complete with a visit from Santa Claus, was as wonderful as ever. And the response from our Annual Appeal was overwhelming!

On behalf of Voices and the families we serve, we wish to thank the individuals, groups and businesses for their incredible generosity of time, gifts, supplies and financial assistance.

Karen Gibson	Betty Ventry	Sew and Sews
Barbara Maltby	East Franklin Union Church	Bio Tec
Liesl Ulrich-Verderber	Briana King	Marie Chevalier
Judy Bergeron	Madalyn Tulip	Employee Association Committee—DHS
Keri Poquette	Jacqueline O'Neill	Fiddlehead Dental
Paul Poquette Realty Group	Marcelle Lukens	Judy Roberge
Judy and Steve Wechsler	Robert and Patricia White	Sheldon United Methodist Ch
Reighley's Garage	Samuel and Elizabeth Nelson	Franklin County Pediatrics
Cecile Cioffe	Mary and Michael Walker	Catholic Daughters of Americas
L. L. D'Amico	Natalie Dishaw	Raymonde Choiniere
Larry Kupferman & Susan Schoenfeld	St. Paul's UMC Outreach Circle	Pie in the Sky
Ralph Rosenberg	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	John Edwards
Raymona & Ronald Campbell	ARC of Northwestern VT	Shannon Vorse
Mary King	Colleen Mumley	Kurt & Heidi Valenta
Kathleen Coon	Girl Scout Troop 621	

## SPRING IS HERE!

It's spring (or at least that is what the calendar says!) and time to be thinking of gardens, flowers and the beautiful colors that spring forth. Here is an easy way to order the bulbs and plants you need while helping a local non profit, Voices Against Violence. Follow the link to our special ordering page. The bulbs will be mailed right to your door in time for planting. On behalf of Voices, thank you for your support!

Copy and paste the link below and it will take you to our page where you can place your order.

<http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/i/t/192598/7AZdjahmb207>



### *Thank Yous Continued*

Michael & Kristina Jenkins

Amber Baker

Cynthia Deyak

Laurie Broe

Carrie Johnson

Mimmo's Pizza

Judith Joseph

Kaye Beaudry

Regional Franklin Co. Education Administrators

Angie Boucher

Michael Pache

Gloria Cotier

Katharine Hutchinson

Kathleen Keenan

Mylan Technologies

Nance and Leon Ekiert

Mary Ann Westover

Mary Swartz

Congregational Church Of S. Hero

The Tyler Place

Marie Limoges

Elks Lodge BPOE 1566

Denis Bouchard

Veterans of Foreign Wars 758

William Sawyer

American Legion Post #42 Enosburg

Northwestern Medical Center

Jane Kiser

Ben and Jerry's

Drummac Septic

Stephen and Marietta Payne, MD

Pricilla Jeffery

St. Paul's UMC—Knitting Ministry

Ralph Garrow

Franklin County Quilt Guild

Mariette Messier

Erin Sue Carroll

Maurice Bonnette

Dr. Vijups and Doris Hughes

Susie Perry

Jody Chevelier

I apologize for any names I may have inadvertently omitted.

***If we don't  
learn how to  
talk to each  
other about  
healthy  
sexuality, we  
perpetuate the  
silence which  
supports sexual  
violence.***

**A NEWSLETTER OF  
VOICES AGAINST  
VIOLENCE  
LAURIE'S HOUSE**

P.O. Box 72  
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: 802.524.8538  
Fax: 802.524-8539  
Hotline 802.524-6575  
voices@cvoeo.org

[www.voicesagainstviolence.org](http://www.voicesagainstviolence.org)



**Working Together to End Domestic and Sexual Violence in Our Community**

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difficult for the advocate because there aren't any straight answers, everyone reacts differently and you can't make the pain go away. All you can do is listen, give some options and hope they can hang on until they talk to a counselor, a family member, their doctor or the advocate again.

What many don't understand is a victim of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault may not have what happened in order, they might not remember everything when first asked. Sometimes it takes days, weeks or months for everything to be remembered and sometimes it never comes back. Victims may seem, to some, to be making details up as the days and weeks go by or they're lying because the story changed. The story didn't change but rather, more details were remembered. Because of the trauma, they just don't remember and the details might not be in chronological order. They may remember details at first and have them disappear from their minds later. Someone once told me that the assault was like a movie running in their head and they were watching it, not putting themselves in as the main character, and each time it would run the more details would come forward.

Being an advocate is being supportive, whether they're angry or sobbing! An advocate is not being that person that says, "Get over it", "you just have to move forward and forget about it". It's not something you can "get over" or "forget about". A good advocate knows this and will always be there to hear the details, sometimes over and over again but if that's what is needed that is what is given.

Being an advocate or anyone else in the community working with victims means being non judgmental and if they can't, KEEP IT TO YOURSELF! That is the least we can do for any victim!

**WISH LIST** Call Missy at 524-8538

**Trash Bags**

**Pillows**

**Food Cards, Gas**

**Cards, Phone**

**Cards, Gift**

**Cards**

**Towels (Bath, Hand,  
Washcloths)**

**Night Lights**

**Plastic Mattress &**

**Pillow Covers**

**for twin beds**

**Twin bed sheet sets**

**Toilet Paper**

**Paper Towels**

**Napkins**

**Feminine Products**

**Day Planners (For  
Our Residents)**

**Cleaning Supplies**

**Office Supplies**

**Diapers – All Sizes  
including Pull-**

**Ups**

**Baby Monitors**

**Baby Wipes**

**Baby Shampoo**

**Baby Soap**

**Desitin Ointment**

**Diaper Genie and  
bags**

**Baby Orajel**

**Pacifiers**

**Teething Rings**

**First Aid Cream**

**First Aid Supplies**

**Greeting cards for  
all occasions**