

APRIL 2008

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## CONGRATULATIONS FOR COMPLETING SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER TRAINING!

- Tim Beach
- Natasha Brandt
- Jessica Hopkins
- Kathy Hemenway
- Kelly May
- Gwen Geselle
- Marlene Hill
- Megan Sullivan

\* All volunteers will be recognized at the award reception. Upcoming volunteer training in September; Dates TBD.

## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM &amp; SERVICE

Imagine that you have just been raped. You're in shock; you can't believe what's happened to you and you can't believe you're still alive. Now imagine the course your life might take over the next few hours, days, months and years. Who will you tell? Will you seek medical attention? What about making a police report? Who will believe you? Will you be blamed? What about your emotional wellbeing? Where do you begin to sort out everything you have already been through and how can you begin to imagine what is yet to come?

Regrettably, these are issues that many people will face. Statistics tell us; one in four females, one in seven males and one in three college aged women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Sadly, only one in seven will seek medical help, as will only one in seven report to law enforcement.

We are fortunate in that Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County/BCHS exists and reaches out to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones, who also are profoundly affected by this brutal crime. This is where our Sexual Assault Volunteer Victim Advocates come in.

On average, SAS has 50 Volunteer Victim Advocates who annually donate over 20,000 hours of time to assist survivors of sexual violence. Because of these outstanding individuals, SAS has been able to have volunteers on call 24/7 for the past 12 years. Advocacy is the core of our agency, so without the help of these amazing volunteers we could not do

the difficult work that we do. We have several volunteers who have been with the program for over ten years. They are Phil Hostetler, Trisha Franzen, Bille Wickre and Pat Graw. This year we are happy to add two more volunteers to that list, they are Barb Carter and Linda Joy Delano.

After an intensive 30-hour training the volunteer victim advocate will provide empathic, non-judgmental support and referral information to survivors and their significant others at hospital emergency departments, nurse examiner sites and police stations. The role of the volunteer is survivor centered. This enables the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner to perform the forensic medical exam and law enforcement to conduct their investigation while the volunteer meets the emotional needs of the survivor.

Every April as we observe Sexual Assault Awareness month, we honor our volunteers for the selfless work they do. The work is extremely difficult. It's something most people can't do. So we applaud the volunteer advocates who in the course of their busy lives are willing to get up in the middle of the night in all kinds of weather to go out and offer a complete stranger their undivided attention, a shoulder to cry on, listen to them and most importantly, believe them. They of course do all of this without monetary compensation, but will tell you that being able to

help someone after such a horrific ordeal is an immense privilege.

Every year we present one of our volunteers the Douglas Melhorn, M.D. Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Volunteerism and Service. *This year we are happy to give the award to Patty Scamp.* Patty is an amazing



woman who has been volunteering for SAS for almost six years. She got her start with us while working on her Bachelors degree in Family Life and Education at Spring Arbor. She wanted to present a program to churches on what to do when someone in the congregation discloses sexual assault/abuse, so she came to SAS for information, appreciated the program and decided to stay on as a volunteer. Patty exemplifies advocacy at its best. She has helped many people over the years and we are so lucky to have her with us. Patty has donated 1,860 hours of service to survivors of sexual violence.

Being a volunteer victim advocate for SAS is something you would like more information on, please contact Pam Buchko, Volunteer Coordinator/Victim Advocate at 269-660-3906.

*-by Pam Buchko*



**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...**

Happy Spring to Friends of SAS!

In April, it is our goal to raise awareness about Sexual Assault, Child Abuse Prevention, Crime Victims in general, and recognize our wonderful Volunteers. Quite a charge for a brief 30-day period of time!!

As we go about the business of Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities, what really brings us focus is the actual work with victims and survivors that we are doing. The child who has been sexually abused and exploited; the family that comes to us in crisis – fleeing a batterer/rapist/child molester; the woman who is trying to heal from years of childhood sexual abuse; the boy who wonders what is “wrong” with him because he was abused. All of these and many more have recently come to us for help.

And what about those who still do not come? Do they know there is help? Are they afraid to come forward? Will they be believed by their family....friends....the “system?”

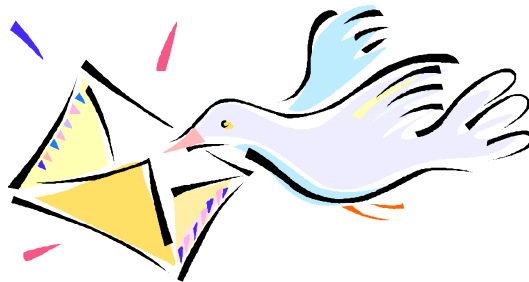
We know that about 28% of sexual assault victims report to police and seek medical attention. It is our responsibility during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the other eleven months as well, to work to reach the other 72% who don't come forward.

Many societal barriers exist to prevent some of these victims from seeking help. Please join us on Wednesday, April 16 (see details on page 4) to find out more about how to reach them. We are truly fortunate to have the expertise of Herb Tanner of the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan, for a day of education and inspiration in our community. *(State and Federal Grant funds allow us to bring him for no charge!)* We will celebrate the work of our Volunteers and community partners, and hopefully, continue to improve our community response to sexual violence in Calhoun County.

Hope to see you there!

*Joyce Siegel*

Program Director



*We appreciate your donations!*

Please use the enclosed envelope if you would like to help provide services to survivors of sexual assault.

**“And what about those who still do not come? Do they know there is help? Are they afraid to come forward? Will they be believed by their family....friends ....the ‘system’?”**

## 2008 LaVern Brann Memorial Award

### for Outstanding Service in the Criminal Justice Field *by Phyllis Van Order*

*Past Recipients: 2006 Detective Guy Picketts, Calhoun County Sheriff's Department*

*2007 Detective Brady Keys, Emmett Township Department of Public Safety*

The LaVern Brann Memorial Award for Outstanding Service in the Criminal Justice Field is bestowed annually by Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County (SAS) in honor of outstanding work done regarding the issue of sexual violence in our community and in the name of Det. Brann, Battle Creek Police Dept., who was murdered in the line of duty May 9, 2006. Numerous individuals in the law enforcement and criminal justice system are doing very fine work in the course of their daily duties to make our community safer. Selecting one to honor for the year is an annual challenge for us.

This year we honor the Forensic Science Unit of Battle Creek Police Department for service excellence in executing their daily duties. Meticulous attention to minute details by highly skilled individuals in this unit may provide invaluable information in the delivery of justice. This dedicated unit has also partnered with SAS for the past 11 years with a commitment to provide clinical experiences for nurses in our sexual assault nurse examiner program (SANE). Since October of 1997 more than 28 nurses have spent valuable educational time in the unit's lab with forensic science staff as the nurses hone their analytical and evidence collection skills in completion of specific clinical training required to practice as a SANE. The knowledge and experience shared by the forensic science unit staff is a vital educational component for our nurses and one of the most popular clinical placements. The unit's management, processing, attention to detail and handling of evidence may provide a sense of validation for crime victims, and especially sexual assault victims, who often feel some level of responsibility for their own victimization.

**The Forensic Science Unit of Battle Creek Police began in 1992 and was staffed by Michael VanStratton, Don Yesch, William Howe, and Joel Shepperly.** This unit's first outreach educational program was done in 1992 or 1993 when officer VanStratton visited the two hospital emergency rooms and provided an educational program to the staff regarding evidence collection and trauma patients. This was the first forensic education the medical community had ever received and planted a 'forensic nursing' seed that did not fully bloom until late 1997.

Today, the only Calhoun County law enforcement agency to have a forensic science unit, has a duty to process crime scenes in an effort to locate physical evidence to either support or refute an alleged crime, "We are finders of the truth," says **Sgt. Martin Brown, Forensic Science Unit supervisor**. Science and technological advances have made the job of the forensic science unit staff easier according to Sgt. Brown. "Evidence doesn't lie" and it is professionally rewarding to contribute to determining the truth. Delayed crime reporting, alterations of a crime scene (accidental and/or intentional), and the unrealistic expectations of others make the unit's job more difficult. "This is not like you see on TV", says Sgt. Brown referring to the wildly popular TV programs which show unrealistic crime investigations which utilize fantasy 'science' and totally unrealistic processing speed to solve a crime in "50 minutes, including commercials. It is difficult when unrealistic expectations are placed on the lab" sighs Sgt. Brown.

The Forensic Science Unit of Battle Creek Police Department is:

**Sgt. Martin Brown   Officer Brett Weiss   Officer   Officer Joel Shepperly   Katherine Chrenko   Officer Alan Marlow   Terra Wesseldyk**

A motto, on the lab wall, sums up the unit's philosophy:

*Wherever they step...*

*Whatever they touch...*

*Whatever they leave...*

*Even unconsciously will serve*

*As silent witness against them.*

It is with tremendous gratitude for the dedication, skill, and service that we honor the  
**Forensic Science Unit of Battle Creek Police Department** with the  
**2008 LaVern Brann Memorial Award for Outstanding Service in the Criminal Justice Field.**

We are on the web!

[www.sascc.net](http://www.sascc.net)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

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Newsletter Editor: Elishae Johnson

Battle Creek Health System is a major partner with Sexual Assault Services, donating space and in-kind services, making Sexual Assault Services a department of Battle Creek Health System. This project is funded by Grant No. 20448-11V05 awarded to Battle Creek Health System, by the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission. The agreement award of \$ 238,240.00 (80%) of the project, comes from the Federal Crime Victims Fund, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 administered by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The Battle Creek Health System provides the required match valued at \$59,560.00 by the use of volunteers. Sexual Assault Services wishes to thank the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board for their financial support of this project. This project was supported by Grant No. 99-WF-NX-0026 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (STOP GRANT). Sexual Assault Services receives a full-membership grant from the National Children's Alliance. Sexual Assault Services also receives in-kind support from Oaklawn Hospital and Play Care Learning Center(s) in Marshall, and St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Battle Creek. Sexual Assault Services is a United Way of Greater Battle Creek Agency. Sexual Assault Services is supported by The W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Other current funding sources include: The Battle Creek Community Foundation, The Marshall Community Foundation, The Marshall United Way, The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council. Donations have been received from: The Marshall Exchange Club, Crossroads Church and Ministries, The Battle Creek Exchange Club, The National Exchange Club Trust Fund, Zion Lutheran Church, Marshall, First Congregational Church (Battle Creek), The Traveling Golf League, and Many Generous Individuals and Organizations. Assistance is available to Victims of Crime who wish to apply for Crime Victims Compensation.



WORKING TOWARD A COMMUNITY  
FREE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*Please join us!*



*You are invited to the Twelfth Annual*

*Calhoun County Sexual Assault Services 2008*

*Professional Education and Volunteer Recognition Program*

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

*1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. / Professional Education Program\**

*The Country Kitchen at Burnham Brook/Light refreshments will be served*

*6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m./Community Education Program\*\* and Awards Program*

*The Lew Boyd Room at Burnham Brook/Light refreshments will be served*

*Mr. Herb Tanner of the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan and training attorney for the Violence Against Women's Project, will be presenting a Professional Education Program entitled,*

*"Challenges and Barriers to Ending Sexual Violence in Our Community."*

*After his evening educational presentation, annual recognition awards will be presented -*

*The Douglas Melhorn, M.D. Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Volunteerism  
and Service Award and*

*The LaVern Brann Memorial Award for Outstanding Service in the Criminal Justice Field*

*The Sexual Assault Volunteer Victim Advocates will also be honored for their service to victims.*

R.S.V.P. to Sexual Assault Services

no later than Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 269-660-3925 or [yargera@trinity-health.org](mailto:yargera@trinity-health.org)

\* Targeted audience: professionals working with victims of sexual assault.

\*\* Targeted audience: professionals and community members interested in ending sexual violence in the community.