it’s time to **TAKE A STAND**

to end sexual assault and domestic violence
Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of SafeHouse Center. The fact that you are reading this demonstrates your concern about domestic violence and sexual assault. Without your support, we could not continue to provide the life saving and life changing services we offer to survivors.

Recently, I was talking about domestic violence and sexual assault with a group of university students. I was stymied by one of their comments, “You have challenged my thinking that domestic violence and sexual assault are myths in our community.” I pursued the comment with the question, “Are there folks in our community, right here in Washtenaw County, who believe domestic violence and sexual assault don’t really happen?”

She said yes.

I was taken aback. I am taken way back.

This may seem very naïve on my part. But this is why I am writing to you. I am asking you to help us refute the myth that there is little to no sexual and domestic violence in our community. Continue reading our newsletter and in our updated Annual Report you will see the sheer number of people who are impacted by sexual assault and domestic violence, right here in our own community. The numbers are staggering…well over 5,000 women and children seek help from us every year because they have been violently assaulted.

I am proud, that by virtue of your contribution of time, money or other resources, you have chosen to take a stand with SafeHouse Center. Those who receive our newsletter are 8,000 strong. Your actions challenge the silence that condones sexual assault and domestic violence; your support keeps our doors open, lights on and people working with people, leveling the playing field and bringing a message of hope.

This newsletter describes numerous opportunities to join us during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Please read this issue. Share it with a friend. Call me if you need more information, and I will see YOU in the community as we all TAKE A STAND against sexual assault and domestic violence.

Barbara Niess
Executive Director
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March 31st, from 11:00 to 11:30am, the bells of Kerrytown and several Ann Arbor churches tolled every 2.5 minutes, to symbolize and to recognize that every 2.5 minutes someone in America is sexually assaulted.

One of our greatest challenges at SHC is educating our community about the pervasiveness and long term impact of sexual assault. Many myths are perpetuated by the media and crime shows. It is often a surprise for many people to learn that 70% of sexual assault survivors know their attackers; that acquaintance rape is as serious as stranger rape; that men can be sexually assaulted; and that in a recent survey, 38 percent of college women reported sexual assaults, yet only four percent of those women reported their assault to the police.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For the past 3 years, SHC has joined organizations across the country to plan a month of educational opportunities and fun activities. These events are designed to bring together survivors, community members, friends and allies in the effort to speak out against sexual assault. This April, some of the activities include: a survivor art show; brown bag lunches; a survivor speakout; participation in the National Crime Victim’s Rights Week vigil in E. Lansing and the Clothesline Project.

An important part of international SAAM activities include the Take Back the Night Marches (TBTN). These protests against violence, organized entirely by women, began in the late 1970’s, but now TBTN occurs around the world. The common theme is that all human beings have the right to be free from violence, the right to be heard, and the right to reclaim those rights if they are violated. We invite you to join us at the University of Michigan TBTN March on April 13th or at Eastern Michigan University on April 17th.

Help us speak out!

Amy Merkle  
Sexual Assault Services Coordinator  
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Saturday, March 31, 11:00-11:30am  
Kerrytown bells ring every 2.5 minutes to represent the frequency of sexual assaults in America.

Thursday, April 5, 12:00-1:00  
National Day to End Sexual Assault  
Brown Bag Lunch at SHC: Q & A about SA

Thursday, April 12, 12:00-1:00  
Brown Bag Lunch at SHC: Child Sexual Abuse

Friday, April 13, 7pm  
Survivor Art Show Reception at Duderstadt Gallery  
Take Back The Night: U of M Diag

April 14-19  
Survivor Art Show at Duderstadt Gallery (U of M)

Wednesday, April 18, 6:30-8:30pm  
Speak Out and Clothesline Project at SHC

Thursday, April 19, 12:00-1:00  
Brown Bag Lunch & Training at SHC: Cyberstalking

Wednesday, April 25  
International Denim Day  
Lansing: National Crime Victim’s Rights Week  
Candelight Vigil

Thursday, April 26, 12:00-2:00  
Brown Bag Lunch at SHC: Walking the Walk

All events are free and open to the public. We really hope you’ll join us.

For further information please contact Gina Fedock:  
glfedock@umich.edu
rEVOLUTION: Making Art for Change

"True revolutions in art restore more than they destroy" - Louise Bogan

A survivor art exhibition is an opportunity for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, and their loved ones, to use the arts of writing, poetry, sculpture, photography, painting, and other means to tell their stories and create public awareness about the impact of sexual assault and domestic violence in our community. Each piece is a courageous expression of the experience of being victimized and the process of becoming a survivor. An art exhibition is both an opportunity for survivors to use their creativity to further their own healing, and an opportunity to have a role in creating community change.

From April 13th - 19th 2007, the UM Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) and SafeHouse Center, will present the 2nd Annual Art Exhibition, rEVOLUTION: Making Art for Change, at the Duderstadt Gallery on UM North Campus. Our goal is a creative, professional exhibition offering awareness of this type of violence and experiences of survival, for the campus and the Ann Arbor community.

We invite you to attend this powerful and important week-long art show. The opening night reception on Friday, April 13th at 7:00pm will feature live performances of poetry and music, as well as refreshments. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 12:00-6:00 and Sunday 1:00-5:00.

"All art requires courage" - Ann Tucker

April 18: A day for raising our voices against sexual violence!

Sexual assault is the most under-reported crime in the world, yet the FBI describes sexual assault as the most violent crime a person can live through, second only to murder. Sexual assault is an act of violence that silences its victims. SafeHouse Center is hosting its first ever “Speak Out” to provide a safe space to break the silence of sexual assault, dating, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment.

Speak Out provides a forum for survivors to express themselves in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment. This event is designed to empower and honor survivors as they find their voice and share their stories.

Speak Out also provides an opportunity for the community to come together and hear the voices of survivors, with the intent of breaking the silence that surrounds these issues.

The SafeHouse Center Speak Out will be held in our Education Center on Wednesday, April 18th, 2007 from 6:30-8:30 PM. As part of the event, we will proudly participate in the Clothesline Project, displaying t-shirts that survivors and supporters have decorated to represent their individual experiences. If you are interested in speaking out, decorating a t-shirt, or if you would like to volunteer help on the day of the event, please email: Jen Sharkey at jens@safehousecenter.org

Over half of female rape survivors are younger than 18 when they experience their first attempted or completed rape. 22% are younger than 12.

“Women seeking justice for their assault are sometimes labeled as either promiscuous, deviant, or as ‘good girls’ who ‘asked for it’. This is a double binds: if women ask for it, then they are bad and therefore they deserve it. If they do not ask, then they are even worse – because if they did not ask, then they must not want it at all. They are made to feel guilty for the assault and for the very act of seeking justice” - Hardiman, K. (2000)
When people support SHC they tend to do so with great passion. They recognize that by providing financial support to SafeHouse Center, they are not just insuring that services will be provided, but they are also making a statement that violence in our community, on our streets, and in our homes, will not be tolerated.

It is with great and justifiable pride that community members want their names linked with an organization that is committed, not just to helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, but also to putting an end to these heinous crimes.

Whether your contribution is single or six digit, it represents a commitment to helping create an environment where it is safe to be female, where it is safe to be a child.

Your donations to SafeHouse Center insure that there will always be a supportive response at the hospital, and that there will always be a place of refuge for a family running for their lives. Your generosity makes a difference annually in the lives of over 5000 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. On behalf of them, thank you.

Molly Resnik
Director of Resource Development
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SafeHouse Center believes it is important to present an annual report of our financial activities and a snapshot of our programs and services.

The statistical data in this Annual Report Update indicates how busy we have been providing counseling, legal advocacy, 24 hour HelpLine services, sexual assault and domestic violence on-call response, shelter residential services, support groups and prevention education. We have typically published this information in the fall, and are now planning to publish it in the spring. We hope you find this update helpful.
Overview of Services

The mission of SafeHouse Center is two-fold:

To provide safety, support, advocacy and resources for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children, and to work relentlessly to change the systems and attitudes that allow this abuse to continue. We strive to accomplish this mission through provision of direct services to survivors of domestic violence and their children and survivors of sexual assault. These services include providing safe physical space for survivors and their children through maintenance of a shelter facility, counseling, crisis intervention, support, individual advocacy, medical services and a wide range of material assistance.

SafeHouse Center also provides community education, systems advocacy, prevention work with youth, social change work, and coordination of services in order to both develop an effective and humane individual and institutional response to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault; as well as to change the personal attitudes, institutional practices, and cultural beliefs which allow and condone violence, in particular domestic violence and sexual assault.

Survivor Survey

SafeHouse Center is committed to providing the best possible services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is important that survivors have significant input in the evaluation and prioritization of the work we do. In December, 2006, SafeHouse Center conducted a survey of survivors currently participating in our programs. 23 survivors responded; they reported receiving PPO assistance, counseling for domestic violence, counseling for sexual assault, shelter, legal advocacy, and in person response after an assault. Most reported receiving multiple services. Here are some highlights from the Survivor Survey results:

**PERCENTAGE OF SURVIVORS surveyed who at least agreed with the following statements:**

- **> 83%:** I felt supported by the staff at SHC
- **> 90%:** I identified ways to be more safe from my assailant
- **> 82%:** SHC helped me to achieve short term goals I set for myself
- **> 65%:** I learned about medical resources
- **> 73%:** I learned about other available resources
- **> 73%:** I learned about how to get a PPO (Personal Protection Order)

**WHEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY anything else that may have been helpful, survivors indicated they would like:**

- Greater night time and weekend staffing to help people who work full time
- More help with housing, job training, job placement or with school
- More onsite resources
- Daycare
Comments Describing Positive Experiences:

Volunteers from SHC came to my house after a domestic violence incident. They were very helpful.
I learned not to blame yourself. And not everybody is violent.
I needed a car very bad and they helped me get one.
Feeling safe and ready to start a life over without violence.
The staff was very concerned and understanding. The living conditions were clean and safe.
I was not aware of all the behaviors considered to be domestic violence. The abuser thinks because he didn’t hit me it wasn’t DV.
The staff at the domestic violence center are very supportive and compassionate toward all client(s) and respectful too.

SafeHouse Center will be conducting quarterly survivor surveys to help us align our services with survivor needs. We appreciate the support of Washtenaw County and will be seeking to expand community partnerships helping survivors 24 hours each day.

If you would like further information, please contact Barbara Niess (barbaran@safehousecenter.org, 734-973-0242 x 203)
We want to be responsive to your needs and questions. Here’s how to contact us if you need information about our services or about ways you can get involved with the work we do at SafeHouse Center. Keep this handy reference.

**IF YOU WANT TO...**

- **Talk to a counselor about domestic violence or sexual assault, call our 24 Hour HelpLine:** 734-995-5444
- **Learn more about SHC:** visit our website, [www.safehousecenter.org](http://www.safehousecenter.org)
- **Volunteer, apply for an internship, or information about training dates, contact Kathy Winterhalter:** 734-973-0242 x252  
  kathyw@safehousecenter.org
- **Find out about making a donation or becoming involved in fundraising opportunities, contact Molly Resnik:** 734-973-0242 x226  
  mollyresnik@aol.com.
- **Donate gift cards or other items, contact Sarah Jarzembowski:** 734-973-0242 x202  
  sarahj@safehousecenter.org
- **Organize a fundraising event, benefit or a cell phone drive, contact:**  
  Jyoti Gupta: 734-973-0242 x277 – jyotig@safehousecenter.org, or  
  Sarah Jarzembowski: 734-973-0242 x202 – sarahj@safehousecenter.org
- **Get a speaker for a class or event, contact Elizabeth Campbell:**  
  734-973-0242 x242 – info@safehousecenter.org
- **Organize a workshop on Prevention and Education, contact Amy Merkle:** 734-973-0242 x208 – amyam@safehousecenter.org
- **Join our Teen Voice program (ages 13-18), contact Jen Sharkey:** 734-973-0242 x270 – jens@safehousecenter.org
- **Join the SafeHouse Community Friends, contact Kathy Winterhalter:**  
  734-973-0242 x252 – kathyw@safehousecenter.org
- **Get information about our Share the Season Holiday Program, contact Liz Reese:** 734-973-0242 x273 – holiday@safehousecenter.org

**Contact us**

Here’s how to contact us if you need information about our services or about ways you can get involved with the work we do at SafeHouse Center. Keep this handy reference.
The 2007 Vagina Monologues performances at the Ark, and the Women’s Weekend to benefit SafeHouse Center were a huge success. We would like to thank all the volunteers and attendees who made this event a memorable, exciting experience! Due to the generosity and support of the community and local businesses, SafeHouse Center was able to raise over $20,000.00. This support demonstrates that our community will and does take a stand against domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Vagina Monologues
February 9th and 10th, 2007

Vagina Monologues CAST: (left to right, top first) Connie Huber, Patricia Garcia, Ingrid Sheldon, Carla Milarch, Letitia Byrd, Ellie Serras, Suzi Regan, Phyllis Wright, Grace Morand, and Jennifer White

SHARE THE SEASON, 2006
On December 21st, over 80 families and more than 200 children received holiday gifts and enjoyed a delicious feast served by smiling volunteers! We would like to thank the many donors and volunteers who made Share the Season possible. Survivors and their families really appreciated the generosity of all the individuals and groups who fulfilled wish lists. More than 150 volunteers made the party a lot of fun by sharing their energy, enthusiasm and desire to help. Once again, Washtenaw County truly brightened the holidays for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Thank you Washtenaw County for demonstrating a continuing commitment to helping provide for the needs of survivors and their families.

Save the Date
The Second Annual SafeHouse Center Golf Scramble will be held September 19th at Lake Forest Golf Club. It was a big success last year, so you’ll want to register early. Watch our website for more details. Please contact Sarah at SafeHouse Center for more details or if you want to help the committee planning this event: sarahj@safehousecenter.org

CALL 734-995-5444 IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, IS A SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT
Spring Clean with SafeHouse Center
Do you have items you no longer need, but others may want? Bring them to iSOLD It, and the items will be offered for sale on eBay, with the proceeds benefiting SafeHouse Center!
What can you donate? Anything that sells on eBay!

Popular Items For Sale On eBay Include:
Antiques & Collectibles
Designer Clothing, Shoes, Accessories
Electronics & Gadgets
Entertainment Memorabilia
· Event Tickets – Sports, Concerts, etc.
· Housewares
· Jewelry & Watches
· Musical Instruments
· Sports Equipment and Memorabilia
· Vehicle Parts & Accessories

iSOLD It Ann Arbor
869B W. Eisenhower Parkway
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-761-6187

Hours of operation:
Monday-Saturday, 10am-7pm
Sunday, 12pm-5pm

Speaking out is at the heart of the SHC mission. Not only do survivors need to be listened to, they need to know that our community believes we cannot accept domestic or sexual violence in Washtenaw County.

We all celebrate when individual community members make a personal commitment to help survivors. This March, 40 new volunteers invested 40 hours in training to become SHC volunteers. During that time they learned about the causes, impact and issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. They examined how our legal system works, and the challenges of getting justice for survivors. They realized the profound impact of violence on children who are witnesses and survivors.

As they prepared for their volunteer work, Shelter volunteers learned how to facilitate communal living in shelter and how to support residents’ healing and goal setting; HelpLine volunteers practiced empathetic listening, how to help survivors safety plan and provide callers with resources. Response Team volunteers role-played the best ways to support a survivor who has just been assaulted, explaining the legal processes and exploring options for increasing safety; Children and Youth volunteers learned how to help shelter kids find release from the stresses of their situation and have fun with supportive adults and other kids.

On March 24th, these 40 new volunteers finished training and actively joined the staff and volunteers who made it possible for SHC to assist over 5000 survivors last year. We welcome them, congratulate them and know that many survivors will find hope in their commitment!

If you would like to explore how you can take a stand against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, please contact us. Volunteers contribute in many ways to our work: working directly with survivors, behind the scenes, sharing clerical, technical and professional skills, assisting in fundraising or outreach campaigns. Together we can accomplish much!

Kathy Winterhalter
Volunteer and Intern Coordinator
734-973-0242 x252  kathyw@safehousecenter.org
SafeHouse Center is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

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info@safehousecenter.org

SafeHouse Volunteer Training: September 2007
Our 40 hour training will next be offered September 14, 15 & 16 and September 28, 29 & 30. We invite you to join our Volunteer Team. Contact us to sign up for training or to find out about summer volunteer opportunities.

Kathy Winterhalter
Volunteer and Intern Coordinator
734-973-0242 x252  kathyw@safehousecenter.org

Our Newsletter is designed and prepared for printing by volunteer Jude Wilson of littleBeast design in Ann Arbor. Jude can be reached at:
734-604-1627  jwilson@presslorentz.com
If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual abuse or domestic violence,

Call our 24 hour HelpLine: 734 995 5444