

Albany County SAFE Project



Working To End Violence

Spring 2011

April Activities

SAFE Project was busy this April! SAFE honored National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Volunteer Appreciation Week.



Marching at Take Back the Night

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, SAFE worked with the University of Wyoming (UW) group, Women's Action Network, to put on Take Back the Night. Take Back the Night has been occurring on the UW campus for over 15 years, and this year was another success!

Approximately 100 people attended to take a stand against sexual violence and hear from speaker

Susan Dewey, Assistant Professor in the Gender and Women's Studies Department at UW, as well as two great musical performers, The Betty's and Patti Fiasco.

In addition to helping UW with Take Back the Night, SAFE asked local businesses to support sexual violence prevention. During April, coffee shops used coffee cups and

sleeves and bars used napkins with the slogan *prevent sexual violence in our communities.*

Furthermore, in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, SAFE had a display at the public

library with child abuse statistics and information about where to get help.

Finally, to show appreciation of our dedicated volunteers, SAFE Project hosted a barbeque in honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week. Volunteers were acknowledged for their hard work at the event with gifts, delicious treats and a celebration in their honor!

SAFE Welcomes New Board Members

Board members are truly vital to SAFE Project. Our Board of Directors oversees and guides activities of the agency and the Executive Director.

SAFE Project welcomed two new additions to the board in April: Tracy Goodspeed and Richard Melone.

Tracy Goodspeed is an Administrative Assistant in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at UW. Richard Melone is the Chief Credit Officer and Executive Vice President at First National Bank of Wyoming.

SAFE staff and board are excited to have the new members, who

are expected to bring truly valuable perspectives to the board. "I'm really excited to have both Richard and Tracy joining the Board of Directors. Both bring unique insights and skills to our work at SAFE and we're all eager to get to know them better as board members," said Board Vice President Matt Cairns.

Upcoming Events:

Volunteer Training:

June 8th-18th. Call Becca at 742-7273 for more information

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day:

June 15th 2011

319 S. Lincoln Street
24 Hr. Hotline: 307-745-3556
or 1-800-230-3556
Office: 307-742-7273 V/TTY
www.safeproject.org
info@safeproject.org

Inside this issue:

Staff, Board of Directors & Volunteers	2
Letter from the Executive Director	2
Volunteer Story	3
Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence	3
Sexual Assault Response Team Reaches Out	3
Statistics	3
Donors	4

Letter from the Executive Director

Staff

Director:

Kelly Collini

Office Manager:

Genevieve Reilly

Housing & Life Skills Coordinator:

Cynthia MacDuff

Outreach Coordinator:

Brittany Parsons

Volunteer Coordinator:

Becca Fisher

AmeriCorps Volunteer:

Lindsey Hoyt

Board of Directors

President: Jessica Bryski

Vice President: Matt Cairnes

Secretary: Susan Dewey

Treasurer: Katrina McGee

Members: Colleen Denney

Tracy Goodspeed

Richard Melone

Kyle Morris

Maggi Murdock

Volunteers

Adrienne C.

Aneda J.

Arianne R.

Aubrey B.

Bethany K.

Caiti E.

Callie B.

Charlie C.

Christine P.

Christy G.

Cori S.

Ellen D.

Gina U.

Hannah S.

Jennifer B.

Jennifer Q-W.

Keleigh S.

Kelsey B.

Kendall H.

Kendra M.

Laura W.

Lexi E.

Lindsie P.

Mara S.

Mary B.

Melissa L.

Michael S.

Michal H.

Molly A.

Nick V.

Rachel R.

Sean M.

Shanaye S.

Sophie B.

Susan D.

Sydney M.

Whitney E.

Back-Up

Abigail G.

Bryan W.

Sagan M.

Translators

Abigail G.

Don R.

Emily B.

Jennifer B.

Klaus H.

Megan M.

Nicolette J.

Yan Z.

Yolima C.

Volunteer Hours

January: 523.25

(\$9,277.22)

February: 1218.15

(\$21,597.80)

March: 685.35

(\$12,151.26)

Dear Friends and Supporters of SAFE Project-

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit the new SAFE office at 319 S. Lincoln St., please feel free to stop in anytime between 8:30 am and 4 pm. Staff and volunteers made the big move mid-December and the shelter was fully operational by the end of January. For those of you who had been to SAFE's former facility at 312 Steele St., you are in for a big surprise! SAFE has undergone some major changes for the better.

Change can be difficult at best and painful at worst. It was a great deal of work to raise the money for new facilities and then to make the actual move. The project would have been impossible if not for the outpouring of community support and the dedication of so many staff and board members, both current and former, who never lost site of the end goal.

It is heartening to know that so many individuals shared SAFE's vision of providing adequate facilities from which to serve victims of abuse. While SAFE has always enjoyed a wealth of community support, seeing over 100 people at our Open House in March was a beautiful reminder that we are not alone in our efforts to respond to those in crisis and also affect social change to end abuse.

SAFE's clients are very grateful to have secure, comfortable facilities where they can recover in the aftermath of an assault or crisis. The confidential shelter provides more privacy for clients than previously. Increased security and accessibility for individuals with limited mobility are additional improvements. Perhaps most important of all, a children's playroom and private offices allow SAFE to provide advocacy with greater confidentiality for victims and their families.

On behalf of staff, volunteers and our board of directors, SAFE thanks the community for all their support and help with getting us into our new office and shelter!

Sincerely,

Kelly Collini

Volunteer Story

A volunteer recently shared her story.

My volunteer training was in the spring of 2008. I came to college as a psychology major with a desire to work with victims of violent crimes. I thought it would be a good idea to get involved early to make sure it was truly a field I wanted to enter. I hoped to ensure that I was entering a career I would enjoy; I did not realize my interests would develop into an enduring passion. Volunteering for SAFE has assured me that, even though I want to do research for my career, I always want to be involved with clients on some

level.

During shelter check one night a client invited me in to talk. She told me about what she had been going through and how tough it was for her each day. There had been many times when she lost hope and thought about returning to her abuser. She said that SAFE staff and the volunteers she met each night gave her the hope and the power to continue; she finally felt that she could determine her own future. Then the client told me what I will never forget. She told me that we (SAFE staff and volunteers) helped her realize this strength and gave her the courage

to move on to a new phase in her life.

As cliché as it sounds, the feeling of helping this one person makes volunteering worth it. I recently responded to a difficult sexual assault and sitting in the hospital waiting room I thought to myself that even though I cannot help everyone, I can help this person. Being able to help the individual right in front of me is what matters. Each client I've worked with has positively influenced me in some way; I hope I do the same for them.

Gina Udick

Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence

SAFE Project Outreach Coordinator Brittany Parsons had the opportunity to present at the 10th annual Sexual Assault Summit in Sheridan this April. Brittany was on a panel that discussed the process and experience of addressing primary prevention of sexual violence through a pilot program in 2010. The pilot program was awarded by the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

“As a speaker at the Sexual Assault Summit, I talked to representatives from other domestic violence and sexual assault programs who were interested in applying for the same program. I was able to discuss the outcomes for SAFE and suggestions for programs applying,” said Brittany.

This program was a great opportunity for SAFE to have more of a presence

in the community with regard to sexual violence primary prevention. “Primary prevention [of sexual violence] involves developing comprehensive strategies that stop violence before the initial perpetration or victimization, especially those that make community and society level changes,” according to the American Health College Association.

Initially, primary prevention of sexual violence in Laramie involved one-on-one conversations with key community members, such as the Laramie High School Principals, City Council Members and UW Student Affairs staff, to start dialogue about the problem of sexual violence.

SAFE has been following through on opportunities and connections that were made during the one-on-one

conversations. SAFE has been invited to more classes at Laramie High School and Whiting High School to address healthy relationships and sexual violence. During a work session with the City Council to discuss the pilot program, City Council Members were very receptive to talking about sexual violence in our community and how this crime effects the community as a whole.

Additionally, as a result of the pilot program, SAFE will be at UW freshman orientation in June. SAFE will reach roughly 1,300 students to discuss the dynamics of sexual violence and that SAFE is a resource for those affected by the crime.

For questions about the pilot program, please contact SAFE at 742-7273.

Statistics

January 2011

New Clients: 23
 On-going Clients: 18
 Hotline calls: 89
Types of Victimization
 Domestic Violence: 21
 Other: 2
Shelter Statistics:
 Total Sheltered: 9
Outreach
 Presentations: 6
 Persons Attended: 103

February 2011

New Clients: 17
 On-going Clients: 17
 Hotline calls: 112
Types of Victimization
 Domestic Violence: 8
 Child Abuse: 4
 Sexual Assault: 2
 Stalking: 1
 Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault: 2
Shelter Statistic:
 Total Sheltered: 7
Outreach
 Presentations: 7
 Persons Attended: 174

March 2011

New Clients: 12
 On-going Clients: 21
 Hotline calls: 77
Types of Victimization
 Domestic Violence: 11
 Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault: 1
Shelter Statistics
 Total Sheltered: 6
Outreach
 Presentations: 20
 Persons Attended: 597

Please visit www.safeproject.org and submit your email address for our electronic newsletters.

Sexual Assault Response Team Reaches Out

SAFE Project is proud to be a member of Albany County's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). This multi-disciplinary team meets every six weeks and brings together representatives from the Laramie Police Department, Albany County Sheriff's Office, Albany County Attorney's Office, Ivinson Memorial Hospital (IMH), University of Wyoming Police Department, SAFE, UW STOP Violence Program and Laramie Reproductive Health to discuss issues facing victims of sexual assault in our community. Locations of meetings rotate among members' facilities.

The SART's ultimate goals are to provide quality services and care to

people who have survived an assault and to hold rapists accountable for their actions. SART members believe that surviving the system should be easier than surviving the assault, meaning that we strive to have accessible information and support beginning immediately after an assault and continuing all the way through a trial and beyond if necessary. The SART also strives to ensure that survivors know every person responds to being assaulted differently and that there are services to support survivors with varying needs.

The SART recently developed a brochure which will be distributed

throughout the community to describe these services and where to get help. The SART is also proud to announce that three nurses at IMH have recently been certified as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. These nurses now have extensive training in how to respond to a victim of sexual assault and how to best collect evidence for a police investigation.

SAFE and SART members are ecstatic that this quality of care is now available at our local hospital's emergency room. If you or someone you know has been assaulted, call our 24-hour hotline at 745-3556 or 1-800-230-3556 for more information on how and where to get help.

Albany County SAFE
Project
P.O. Box 665
Laramie, WY 82073



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Our Mission:



SAFE Project strives “to advocate for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, rape, and incest, and to create change through education and awareness to eliminate violence.” We also work with victims of stalking, child and elder abuse.

SAFE Project would like to extend our warmest thank you to the following individuals and organizations who have made contributions from January to March 2011.

- 5 Anonymous Donations
- Molly Adami
- Kent Becker
- Katherine Birdsall
- Jessica Bryski & Andrew Young
- Clothing Cottage of St. Matthew’s
- Clure Brothers
- Frances Colby
- CPA Group of Laramie
- Delta Delta Delta
- Marcia Dent
- Barbara D’Onofrio
- First United Methodist Church
- Ann D. Gilliam
- Sarah Gorin
- Walter Hammontree
- Amber Holen
- Elizabeth & Jeremiah Johnke
- Ladies of WyoTech
- Laramie Elks Lodge
- Martha Lawlor
- McAlister’s
- Judy McBride
- Mountain West Farm Bureau
- Matthew & Jennifer Painter
- Sylvia Parker
- Jerry & Debra Parkinson
- Blaine & Nina Parsons
- Martha and Paul Pheneger
- Project Linus
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- Jerry & Jeanetta Schmidt
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- Talbot Guild St. Matthew’s Cathedral
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- United Presbyterian Church
- UniWyo Federal Credit Union
- UW Greek Life
- Mary Lou & David Vaske
- Richard Vincent
- Roland Vinson III
- Sue Wedel
- Nadine Wilson

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SAFE accepts donations at www.safeproject.org through PayPal