

# Albany County SAFE Project



## Working To End Violence

Winter 2011

### Prevention Play Comes to Laramie

SAFE Project recently brought the play, *Until Someone Wakes Up*, to the Laramie community. The play is produced by the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center (SAVA) of Fort Collins, Colorado.

*“Until Someone Wakes Up* explores the complex issues surrounding sexual violence, gender role socialization and healing.

Composed of a cast of mostly teens and college students, the play approaches the topics with a balance of sensitivity, realism and humor,” according to SAVA.

The play is a composition of short



*Until Someone Wakes Up* artwork

skits based on interviews with rape survivors, perpetrators, friends, loved ones and counselors. Since the premier of the play, over 30,000 audience members have seen the show.

The play was shown on November 10th at Whiting High School, Laramie High School and the UW campus. Throughout the day, over 100 attendees saw the performance. SAFE was fortunate to have the opportunity to bring in a play that addresses the complex issue of sexual violence.

One individual impressed with the show said, “I have never seen a more intelligent, to-the-point, real way of getting this information across. Its messages are thought provoking and real-life.”

### Stalking & Teen Dating Violence Awareness

This January is National Stalking Awareness Month and SAFE will be honoring the month with increased outreach efforts.

Stalking is a serious and often deadly crime that affects 3.4 million people every year, according to the Stalking Resource Center.

In order to increase stalking awareness, SAFE will host a community night at McAlister’s on January 26th from 5-9 pm. The community night is a way to bring

awareness to the issue of stalking and offer resources for those affected. Flyers will be available at McAlister’s with more information about stalking and what to do if you or someone you know is experiencing stalking behavior. A percentage of the proceeds from the evening’s sales on the 26th will benefit SAFE.

February marks National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. SAFE will increase outreach efforts

to the teen population during February with increased presentations and activities at the junior high and high schools.

Thirty-three percent of teens in abusive relationships do not tell anyone about the abuse, according to the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Project. Since a large percentage of teens do not ask for help, it is important to reach out and provide resources to those affected.

#### Upcoming Events:

**Stalking Awareness Month Community Night:**  
January 26th at McAlister's, 5-9 pm

**Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month:**  
February

**Volunteer Training:**  
Starting in February-call 307-742-7273 for more information

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

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# In Her Words

## Staff

**Director:**

Kelly Collini

**Office Manager:**

Genevieve Reilly

**Volunteer Coordinator:**

Becca Fisher

**Outreach Coordinator:**

Brittany Parsons

**Housing & Life Skills Coordinator:**

Cynthia MacDuff

**AmeriCorps Volunteer:**

Lindsey Hoyt

### Board of Directors

**President:** Jessica Bryski

**Vice President:** Matt Caires

**Secretary:** Susan Dewey

**Treasurer:** Barbara D'Onofrio

**Members:** Colleen Denney

Amber Holen

Kyle Morris

Katrina McGee

Maggi Murdock

## Volunteers

Amanda C.

Aneda J.

Angela L.

Aubrey B.

Bethany K.

Brittany P.

Callie B.

Charlie C.

Christy G.

Crystal H.

David Z.

Ellen D.

Erika S.

Erin H.

Gina U.

Jennifer B.

Kalayla H.

Katerie D.

Kayli W.

K.C. V.

Keleigh S.

Kendall H.

Laura P.

Laura W.

Linda G.

Lindsey H.

Lindsie P.

Mara S.

Melissa L.

Michael S.

Michal S.

Michell A.

Nathan J.

Nick V.

Sean M.

Rachel R.

Sienna W.

Sydney M.

Trish W.

Whitney E.

### Back-Up

Abigail G.

Brian S.

Bryan W.

Hannah S.

Mary B.

Sagan M.

### Translators

Abigail G.

Don R.

Emily B.

Jennifer B.

Klaus H.

Megan M.

Nicolette J.

Yan Z.

Yolima C.

### Volunteer Hours

August: 630.25

(\$11,174.33)

September: 1015

(\$17,995.95)

October: 706.75

(\$12,530.68)

### A survivor recently shared her story:

I would like to tell you my story. I had a very good life. I finished University and I have a little son. Some months ago I married a man whom I believed; I hoped he would love not only me but my son too. But it so happened that he began to abuse my son and me. One evening when my husband came home after work he was in a very bad mood and had terrible behavior and began to abuse my child and me. We needed to call 911. The police came in time. They did their job very well. When all was done they told me about SAFE Project here in Laramie and gave me a card with a 24 hour hotline number.

I called to SAFE Project and they spoke with me. We met and they picked up me and my little son and brought us to the SAFE Project office. I can tell you that from our first minutes and steps there in their office we began to feel that we were in a safe place. We felt that we came to the people who are very kind, careful and attentive who let us know that they would help us and take care of us as much as they can.

When we got there, they gave us food to eat and presented the toys to my little son too. And for the first time after many very bad days which we spent in my husband's house I saw that the eyes of my son became warmer and he began to smile a little...

And we were so thankful to all those very nice girls who work there in SAFE Project for all their kindness, warmth and care. In that first meeting there in the SAFE Project office they gave us food, clothes and a good place in shelter also. Both my son and I had a very comfortable beds there. For the first time we both felt that we had a safe roof over our heads and the possibility to fall asleep without fear.

We spent more than one month in shelter. Every day the girls who work at SAFE Project constantly helped us. We don't have a car and they gave us a ride every time we needed one. They helped us find an immigration and divorce attorney and paid some of the fees. They helped us with all the necessary documents for both attorneys and the immigration office too. They found English courses for me also. We are thankful to all these beautiful girls from SAFE Project that we got a police report and protection order too.

They helped us to enroll my son in kindergarten and bought all the necessary stuff for him to start school. Every week they bought and delivered all necessary food for us. The office of SAFE Project during all this time became a second home for me and my son. Every time we visited them there they met us with kindness, cordiality and smiles on their faces. They became a real second reliable family for us! During all that time we lived in shelter we really felt that we lived in a safe place and we were glad that we could eat, live in a calm and nice atmosphere and sleep without worries.

When it was time for us to leave shelter all the girls at SAFE Project every day tried to help us find a home for me and my little son. I can tell you that it is not so simple to find an apartment or any home for rent here in Laramie. I must tell you that all the girls who work at SAFE Project are very kind, careful, beautiful and wonderful! And all of them do their job very well! We were glad when a couple of weeks ago one of these wonderful girls, Brittany Parsons, found a good home for me and my little son! WOW! If only you could imagine what beautiful feelings we all had that day! They found us different necessary furniture and paid for rent also. To be honest I cannot

find the right words to describe all our thanks for all the help which these beautiful girls who work at SAFE Project did for us!

My son and I are thankful so much to all of them-Brittany Parsons, Cynthia MacDuff, Becca Fisher, Kelly Collini, Sagan Myers, Lindsey Hoyt and Genevieve Reilly. I know that all our life my son and I will keep very warm feelings in our hearts and souls for all the help and care which we needed so much in that very difficult time in our life. SAFE Project became a wonderful second family for us!

I wish that all women here in Wyoming have very nice marriages and raise their children in very good families! But if suddenly anything bad happens in your life you need to know that here in Laramie there is beautiful SAFE Project with wonderful girls who work there and who can really help you as much as they can in a difficult time in your life. I trust and believe SAFE Project. They helped me and my son very much!

I am sure they will help you if you need their help too. I wish all the best in life to all these wonderful girls from SAFE Project, to all women here in Wyoming and to me with my little son too. And I hope very much that in my life there will be a time when I can find a job and pay to rent a home and have the possibility myself to buy different things and bring all of this as a donation to SAFE Project and to those women who have problems in their life and live in shelter. With all my heart and soul and love to all of you-me and my son.

Kendra

*Name changed for confidentiality*

## SAFE Staff and Board Changes

SAFE recently welcomed a new AmeriCorps Volunteer, Lindsey Hoyt. Lindsey graduated from UW in 2009 with a B.A. in Journalism and went through SAFE's volunteer training this fall. Lindsey is interested in working on a support group for clients, reaching out to the faith community and focusing on child abuse prevention efforts. SAFE is excited to have Lindsey in the office!

The previous AmeriCorps Volunteer, Sagan Myers, said farewell to SAFE to work on her master's degree in counseling this fall. Sagan worked at SAFE for ten months and will continue to be a valued volunteer.

SAFE Project's Board of Directors also said farewell to Jennifer Benkman, who had served on the board since 2004. Jennifer Benkman was the Board Secretary and brought a valuable perspective to the agency. "Jennifer served on the board for six years and the board truly appreciates all of Jennifer's time, enthusiasm and energy that she dedicated to SAFE. She will be difficult to replace and sorely missed. On behalf of clients, staff and board, a huge and sincere 'Thank You' to Jennifer for all she has given to our community," said Board Chair Jess Bryski.

SAFE is welcoming three new board members this winter: Maggi Mur-

dock, Associate Vice President and Dean of the UW Outreach School, Colleen Denney, Program Director of the Gender & Women's Studies Department at UW and Katrina McGee, Major Gifts Officer for the UW Foundation.

"We are simply THRILLED to welcome the new board members to SAFE. All three bring tremendous experience and leadership from a variety of professions. We're looking forward to the energy and new ideas that they will bring to the table," said Board Vice President Matt Caires.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

October was a busy month for SAFE Project. In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, SAFE hosted our annual Candlelight Vigil on October 15th at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. About 100 community members attended and four individuals shared their stories about how domestic violence had affected them. Dr. Matt Gray, from the UW Trauma Treatment Clinic, spoke about the dynamics of domestic violence and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

On October 20th UW Greek Life sponsored Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. The event raised \$423 for SAFE Project and brought attention to the issue of domestic violence. UW Dean of Students, Dave Cozzens, spoke at the event and afterward attendees were encouraged to literally *walk a mile* in women's high-heeled shoes. SAFE is grateful for the support of community partners like Greek Life who facilitate fundraisers on behalf of SAFE Project.

SAFE also finished up fall volunteer training in October. Ten enthusiastic volunteers completed the training and are now ready to sign up for hotline shifts, help with grocery shopping, answer the office phone and assist with other projects SAFE may ask of our volunteers. If you are interested in the spring volunteer training starting in February, please call 307-742-7273.

## SAFE Project Moved

SAFE Project moved to our new facility this December!

Our office is no longer located at 312 Steele Street. Our new client services building is located at 319 Lincoln Street in West Laramie.

SAFE staff, volunteers and board members are ecstatic about the move and are still looking for support from the community in whatever capacity they are available.

If you or anyone you know is interested in providing donations such as kitchen tables, entertainment centers, twin beds, etc., please call 307-742-7273.

### Statistics

#### August 2010

New Clients: 19  
 On-going Clients: 21  
 Hotline calls: 94  
Types of Victimization  
 Domestic Violence: 18  
 Sexual Assault: 1  
Shelter Statistics  
 Total Sheltered: 12  
Outreach  
 Presentations: 7  
 Persons Attended: 306

#### September 2010

New Clients: 18  
 On-going Clients: 21  
 Hotline calls: 96  
Types of Victimization  
 Domestic Violence: 13  
 Sexual Assault: 2  
 Stalking: 1  
 Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault: 1  
 Other: 1  
Shelter Statistic:  
 Total Sheltered: 8  
Outreach  
 Presentations: 10  
 Persons Attended: 92

#### October 2010

New Clients: 27  
 On-going Clients: 21  
 Hotline calls: 102  
Types of Victimization  
 Domestic Violence: 18  
 Child Abuse: 5  
 Sexual Assault: 3  
 Stalking: 1  
Shelter Statistics  
 Total Sheltered: 17  
Outreach  
 Presentations: 17  
 Persons Attended: 373

SAFE is beginning the transition to an **electronic newsletter**, and we need your email address!

Simply visit [www.safeproject.org](http://www.safeproject.org) to submit your email address.

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



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## Return Service Requested

### 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 August to October 2010:

- 3 Anonymous
- K.J. & C.K. Allen
- Thomas & Brenda Barton
- Holly Bartz
- Jennifer & Craig Benkman
- Mandy Bohlender
- Jessica Bryski & Andrew Young
- Charlotte Davis
- Nancy Dunn
- Lynn Erickson
- First National Bank
- Sharon & William Gern
- Amber Holen
- iGive
- Lydia Kercher
- Shirley Kingston
- Linda Lebeda
- Rebecca Mayer
- Mary Fick Monteith
- The Naughty Pines Derby Dames
- Blaine & Nina Parsons
- Dona Playton
- Beth Robertson
- Bonnie & Jim Ross
- Tom & Janet Rottman
- Shelter Alliance
- Marian Showacre
- MaryAlice & Jefferson Snider
- Tammy Speechley
- Benjamin Stith
- Brenda & Dustin Upton
- United Presbyterian Church
- UW Fraternity/Sorority Life
- Wal-Mart
- Samantha & Heidi Yoder
- Jen Zenor

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SAFE accepts donations at [www.safeproject.org](http://www.safeproject.org) through PayPal