



Albany County SAFE Project

Working To End Violence

Winter 2011

New year begins with two awareness months

In January, the crime of stalking will be recognized by the ninth annual Stalking Awareness Month. Stalking often occurs between intimate partners and often happens after a victim leaves his or her abuser. In the U.S., 3.4 million adults are stalked every year.



It is important to be educated about stalking because of the danger it can pose, and because of the ties found to exist between stalking and tragedy.

Most victims of stalking – 3 in 4 – are stalked by someone they know, and of those known stalkers 30% are former or current intimate partners.

Cont'd on page 3.



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teen dating violence is defined the same as adult domestic violence: power and control in the forms of physical, emotional, psychological, and/or sexual abuse.

Another domestic violence tactic can be common in teen relationships: technological abuse, also called digital abuse. In this form, the perpetrator communicates threatening, explicit, manipulative, or insulting messages via the internet or cell phones.

Cont'd on page 3.

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

Upcoming Events:

December 23 & 26: SAFE Project office closed.
Emergency hotline available: 307-745-3556 or 1-800-230-3556

January 1: Happy New Year!

January 2: SAFE office closed

January 16: SAFE office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

March 20-31: Spring Volunteer Training! Contact us for more info.

SAFE Project hosts new women's support group

Starting in November, SAFE launched a new women's support group called H.E.R.– Healthy and Equal Relationships. It is a weekly drop-in group for women who are, or have been in, unhappy or unhealthy intimate relationships.

Meetings are Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 1575 N. 4th St., Suite 107. Light refreshments are provided. Transportation and child care are available if the request is called in by noon the day of group.

Meetings are facilitated by a trained SAFE Project advocate. H.E.R. is not a therapy group, but rather a group for women to support each other and learn about healthy

relationships. It is a safe place for participants to share stories within their comfort level.

SAFE is excited to provide this opportunity to the Albany County community. The agency plans to present sessions on topics such as financial literacy, abuse, stress management and more. The goal is for H.E.R. to bring women to a place of greater happiness, health, and relationship satisfaction.

The winter schedule is as follows:

December 28	January 25
January 4	February 1
January 11	February 8
January 18	February 15

Inside this issue:

Staff, Board of Directors & Volunteers	2
Letter from the Executive Director	2
Statistics	2
Client Story	2
Stalking Awareness Month	3
Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month	3
A Day in the Life at SAFE	3
Donors	4

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

If the women in your life are free from violence, or the threat of violence, then you are among the fortunate ones. 1 in 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused during her lifetime.¹ Here in Albany County, many adults and children face violence in their own homes. With the support of our community and the help of a few dozen volunteers who give freely of their time and passion for this cause, we are able to reach an ever-growing number of individuals. SAFE Project provided emergency housing and on-going services to over 400 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in 2011. For these individuals, SAFE is a vital resource.

In addition to direct client services, SAFE staff works diligently to offer educational programs to the public and this year alone delivered 100 presentations to university groups, public schools and civic organizations. We also conducted three 40-hour trainings and enlisted the help of 25 new volunteers.

As the year draws to an end, we here at SAFE are reflecting on the past twelve month's accomplishments and counting our blessings for all the assistance we have received to help families in crisis. December marks SAFE's one year anniversary in our new facilities. I can't tell you how fortunate we feel to now have the appropriate space and increased resources to deliver free and confidential services to victims in Albany County.

We appreciate the support we have received from our friends this past year and hope you know that you are making a difference. On behalf of SAFE's staff, Board and especially our clients, we thank you for all you do for SAFE and offer our best wishes for a peaceful and joyous New Year.

Executive Director
Kelly Collini

¹(The Commonwealth Fund, Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health. May 1999).

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

Statistics	
October 2011	
New Clients:	20
On-going Clients:	25
Hotline calls:	61
<u>Types of Victimization</u>	
Domestic Violence:	12
Sexual Assault:	2
Stalking:	3
<u>Shelter Statistics:</u>	
Total Sheltered:	10
November 2011	
New Clients:	29
On-going Clients:	19
Hotline calls:	81
<u>Types of Victimization</u>	
Domestic Violence:	20
Sexual Assault:	5
Stalking:	3
<u>Shelter Statistics</u>	
Total Sheltered:	8

Staff	
Director	
Kelly Collini	
Office Manager	
Genevieve Reilly	
Housing & Life Skills Coordinator	
Gina Udick	
Outreach Coordinator	
Becca Fisher	
AmeriCorps Volunteer	
Lindsey Hoyt	
Board of Directors	
President: Kyle Morris	
Vice President: Katrina McGee	
Secretary: Susan Dewey	
Treasurer: Rick Melone	
Members: Colleen Denney	
	Tracy Goodspeed
	Maggi Murdock
	Yvette Haeberle
	Laura Rainwater
	Amanda Brodie

Volunteers	
Adrienne	Lindsie
Arianne	Mara
Aubrey	Meglana
Caiti	Melissa
Callie	Michael
Charlie	Michal
Christine	Molly
Christy	Nick
Cori	Rachel
Eleanor	Roberta
Ellen	Sean
Emma	Sophie
Hannah	Susan
Jennifer	Sydney
Kalayla	Whitney
Keileigh	
Kelsey	Back-Up
Lexi	Cynthia
	Christy

“SAFE provided ... immense emotional support.”



A client recently shared her story.

“My family came to SAFE through a referral from the National Domestic Violence Hotline after it became clear that we had been located by my stalker, who has professional-level resources. I had never seen Wyoming in my life.

I arrived at SAFE shaken and uncertain. SAFE provided immediate shelter, food, and immense emotional support. The staff at SAFE is very skilled, not only in their approach to us, which is always thoughtful and caring, but in their ability to gain insight into our stalking case that is quite complex.

The shelter provided an immediate ‘safe place’ for my small family. It is well-kept, clean, and has plenty of security.”

A day in the life at SAFE

8:00 a.m. – The office opens. There might be a client here first-thing to drop off a financial aid application.

9:45 a.m. – SAFE’s outreach coordinator leaves to give a presentation to a class of school-age children.

11:30 a.m. – A community member stops by to give SAFE one of the many generous donations we receive regularly. It could be a plate of cookies, an old cell phone, or kitchen items.

12:15 p.m. – An ongoing client makes an office visit to have an advocate look over her/his Domestic Violence Protection Order before it is filed.

2:05 p.m. – The hospital calls SAFE Project because a victim of sexual assault is being examined. A staff advocate responds.

3:35 p.m. – A client staying in SAFE’s shelter comes to the office to use a computer and do research online. An advocate watches her

two children while the client is busy.

4:00 p.m. – The office closes. The staff member answering the 24-hour hotline takes the case full of response tools and materials, should the advocate receive an emergency call.

5:20 p.m. – The advocate leaves the hospital, having provided advocacy to the sexual assault victim.

7:00 p.m. – If SAFE is fortunate enough to have a trained volunteer advocate generously take the primary hotline shift, the volunteer checks in at this time.

9:10 p.m. – The hotline advocate talks to a shelter client for 20 minutes about the client’s goals, and reminds them of their safety options.

9:30 p.m.-8:00 a.m. – Staff advocate and volunteer are on-call through the night.

Teen Dating Violence cont'd.

Here are teen dating violence statistics from loveisrespect.org:

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence.
- Being physically or sexually abused makes teen girls six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a STI.
- Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide, compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys.

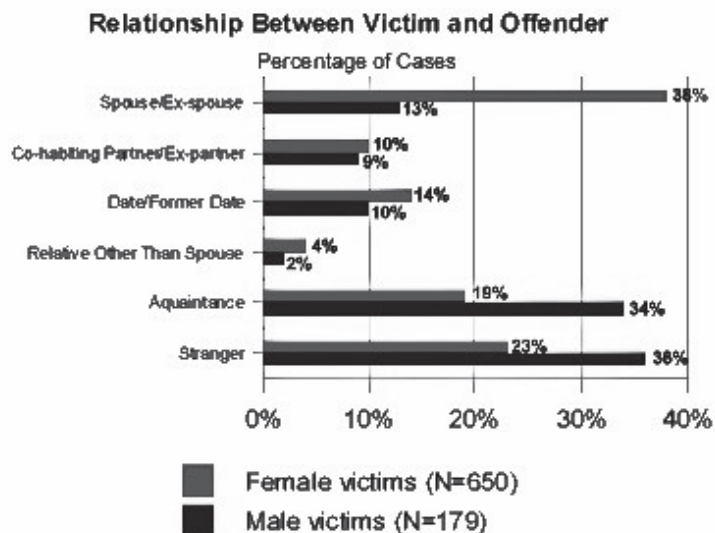
Stalking Awareness Month cont'd.

Seventy-six percent of femicide victims were stalked by the intimate partners who killed them. Stalking incidents can be frequent, and stalkers often use multiple forms of contact and harassment including the internet, phones, third-party communication, voyeurism, weapons, and global positioning systems. Stalking can escalate quickly.

According to a study published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, as cited by the Stalking Resource Center: “The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one’s property destroyed.”

Stalking victims do have options. A Stalking Protection Order is a civil order which may be granted by the Albany County Circuit Court, and doesn’t necessarily require an attorney. The SAFE Project serves victims of stalking, and offers services including crisis intervention, shelter, safety planning,

protection order assistance, civil legal advocacy, and more.



Source: ncvc.org

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



Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 134
Laramie, WY

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 made contributions from September—November 2011.

- Anonymous
- Abigaile George-Edling
- Amber Holen
- Associated Students of Theater and Performing Arts
- Blaine and Nina Parsons
- Carolyn and Larry Hazlett
- Charles and Sandra Ksir
- Dave and Donna Cozzens
- Donna Thompson
- Elio A. Palma Lazo
- Faryn Babbit
- Gem City Vet Clinic
- GoodSearch
- Jewel Caldwell
- John F. Johnson
- John S. Robertson
- Kiddie Cottage
- Laramie Civic League
- Laramie Woman's Club
- LDS Relief Society
- Linda Schnitker
- Lydia Kercher
- Mary S. Walden
- Mr. and Mrs. Jason Lillegraven
- Pax, Inc. DBA Laramie
- Project Linus Laramie
- Randy and Susan George
- Rebecca Sissman
- Residence Inn
- Rick Melone
- St. Mary's Group
- Suzy Pelican & Fred Vanden Heede
- Theresa L. Bogard
- Thomas and Brenda Barton
- United Presbyterian Church
- Veronica Jenkin
- Vi and Gary Moats

follow us on
twitter



SAFE accepts donations at www.safeproject.org through PayPal