



NO NEWS

From the Executive Director's Desk

April was Sexual Assault Awareness month AND Volunteer Recognition month. As I thought about our services, and particularly this past year, it was rewarding to reflect on how crucial volunteers are to what we do on a daily basis.

And although April has a special acknowledgement of both our mission and our amazing volunteers, we are privileged to work with survivors 24/7 and stand beside our volunteers on a daily basis. The recognition during April offers us the opportunity to stop, breathe and reflect on the accomplishments, and needs that still exist, in response to sexual violence.

Our volunteers contributed 9200 hours of skills and dedication to our organization. Those hours represent \$157,900 that we would have to find to accomplish what we have with the talents of our volunteers. That amount does not include the \$40,000 that our amazing volunteer Board of Director's raises annually to support the work of SASSMM.

In this past fiscal year, we provided services to 232 survivors of sexual violence and those 232 survivors reported to us 300 sexual assaults. Of those 300 assaults, 169 of them occurred at 17 years of age or younger and 22 of the assaults occurred at age 60 or older. Of the 232 survivors, 31 identified as males who had been sexually violated at some point in their lives.

Our community education programs reached 2,955 community members, our webpage received 7,391 individual user visits and our school-based education programs reached 10,997 students, faculty and staff in area schools.

The emotional, physical and financial toll that sexual assault takes on victims can be devastating. The estimated economic loss to sexual violence survivors in 2007 was 60 million dollars (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010). Rape has the highest annual victim costs compared to all other crimes except child sexual assault and has been estimated at \$127 billion per year (American Academy of Family Physicians). Researchers from the Academy on Violence and Abuse estimate the cost of each rape is \$151,423. The financial impact of sexual assault includes the cost of law enforcement, health care, in addition to, the loss of jobs, wages and productivity.

And although the dollar amounts are crucial to who we are and what we do, the human impact has no dollar amount. Victim's services and prevention programs are essential to responding to sexual assault. Sexual assault impacts us all.

I started this update with gratitude for the work we do, and appreciation of our volunteers. We could not provide our comprehensive services without them. If you would like to get involved, there are many ways to stand with us in speaking up against sexual violence and investing in the health of our communities. Please contact me if you would like to talk about how you can get involved. Prevention starts with each of us.

Best regards,
Sue

Susan Hall Dreher
director@sassmm.org

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 Catie Lary, Community Educator

Mission Statement

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine is an agency of professionals and trained volunteers dedicated to providing advocacy and support for survivors, families and concerned others affected by sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. SASSMM offers services to improve awareness and response by providing prevention, education and risk reduction programs throughout Eastern Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Knox, and Waldo Counties.

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine
 P.O. Box 990
 Brunswick, ME 04011-0990
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 In Rockland: (207)594-8580
 In Belfast: (207)338-4622
 Fax (207)798-6943
 24 Hour Support Line 1-800-822-5999
 TTY 1-888-458-5599
 Website: www.sassmm.org

Welcome to SASSMM's new staff:

In January, SASSMM was fortunate to have two new staff join our work.

Catherine (Catie) Lary is our Community Educator. Catie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Bates College and has experience as a Behavioral Health Professional, along with program development and customer service. Her internship experience includes the Maine People's Alliance, Maine Women's Policy Center/Maine Women's lobby, in addition to, being a prior volunteer at the Maine Family Literacy Program and New Hope for Women. While at Bates, Catie was the co-founder of the Bates Coalition against Discrimination.

Jennifer Duhaine, Community Advocate, served in the U.S. Navy from 2001-2012. One of her collateral duties was working as the SAVI (Sexual Assault Victim Intervention) officer. She trained individuals about sexual assault and also served as a victim advocate. Jenn received Sailor of the Year in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2011, along with 2 Iraqi Campaign Medals. She received her Bachelors of Science degree from Southern New Hampshire University.

We are proud that Jenn and Catie decided to bring their talents and creativity to SASSMM and will be contributing towards accomplishing the mission of our agency.

We are pleased to announce that Paula Martel, who joined our staff in 2011, has recently been promoted to our Administrative Services Coordinator. Paula has prior experience as a Residential worker at a Crisis Residential Unit and as a Lead Residential Teaching Assistant with Bowdoin College's Upward Bound program. Paula did an internship with Mt. Ararat High School and volunteered at the Alford Youth Center and with the Waterville School System. Paula received her Bachelor of Arts from Colby College.

In our next newsletter, we will provide an "introduction" to the remainder of our amazing staff who are listed on this page of our newsletter.

SASSMM RECEIVES CONTINUED FUNDING

Press Release

October 1, 2013

Contact: Susan Hall Dreher—director@sassmm.org

October 1 began a new fiscal year for Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM). SASSMM was awarded continued funding through a competitive Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) request for proposal process.

“We are grateful to the Department for the continued funding of crucial, quality sexual assault support services, and for their decision to continue funding SASSMM, which has addressed sexual violence in Eastern Cumberland, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc Counties for 30 years, and in Knox and Waldo Counties for over 2 years now” said Susan Hall Dreher, Executive Director of SASSMM.

Funds from DHHS go to a range of sexual assault support services, including the support of sexual assault victims and their families; the coordination of Sexual Assault Response Teams, which help improve victim experiences in the criminal justice process;¹ and sexual assault prevention education programs in our schools and Midcoast communities.

“SASSMM is committed to providing quality sexual assault support services, and to measuring the quality of those services,” Hall Dreher continued.

“As the anti-sexual violence movement shifts and changes, so does the work in our agency, and this includes exceeding the high bar of accountability set by the Department and our other funders.”

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine also seeks funding in Eastern Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Knox and Waldo Counties to ensure the needs of those served are met, and to enhance the quality of services.

Sexual violence is the most costly violent crime, costing 127 billion dollars annually—excluding the cost of childhood sexual abuse.² Given that nearly 13,000 Mainers will experience sexual violence this year,³ the cost to Maine is enormous. SASSMM helps to mitigate these costs by providing essential sexual assault support services in Eastern Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Knox and Waldo Counties.

For more information, or to contact SASSMM, please call the following administrative numbers; Brunswick 725-2181, Rockland 594-8580, Belfast 338-4622, or visit www.sassmm.org.

¹Cameron, C, and Helitzer, D. (2003). *Impact evaluation of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/203276.pdf>

²Miller, Ted, Cohen, Mark and Wiersema, Brian. *Victim Costs & Consequences: A New Look*. National Institute of Justice Report, U.S. Department of Justice, 1996.

³Rubin, Mark. (2011). *Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities*. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine.

A 'Your Voices' Column written by a midcoast survivor

Cold Eyes of A Stranger

This love she has found breaks down her walls

He captures her trust blinding her with his
mask

Carefully coving his dark soul and hardened
heart

Targeting her for her wounded heart

That enables her to see him feeding of her
twisted trams

Empowering him as he uses her as pawn in his
game

To gain power and control

Swooped up in arms of love

That she predestined by burrowing painful past
trauma deep within her

It has left her a prisoner by her past

Her present love turned into a prison

Tied to a monster by blind vows said to a man
that she loved

Painfully replaced by cold eyes of a stranger

She is left reaching for a man whom only seeks
to tear her apart

Memory's of loves gentleness relapsed by
rough anger

No longer does he wear her lover's face

The truth of whom he is revealed

She left with empty promise and lies

The truth that she fell in love with a stranger

14 years left to serve under this man that seeks
only to destroy her spirit and steal away her
soul.

Never to dream that he would cause her the
most painful memories in the coming years

Tainting her by yet others way of defeat

Put into action by his turbulent battle to gain
more control

Tearing her to shreds he seeks to pay god

Shape her like clay into whom he wants as a
love

Thinking he can rebuild her as he sees fit

She is left searching for ways to burn out her
emotions and memories

Of this ghost lover she married deep in loves
spell

Would you like "Your Voice" to be included?

SASSMM welcomes written work from individuals who have experienced sexual violence. We respectfully welcome poetry, short articles, artwork or letters that give "Your Voice" the opportunity to speak to the realities of surviving sexual violence. Actual names of the authors will not be used unless you make that choice. Please submit "Your Voice" via email to administration@sassmm.org or by mail to SASSMM, PO Box 990 Brunswick, ME 04011, Attention: Paula (Please include your phone number for editing questions) Thank you.

Kindness nurturing alive
 courage journey
 power strength
 free

Your Voices

recovery
 affirming safe
 voice

An
 inspirational
 compilation of articles,
 poems, and letters from
 survivors of sexual violence.

Stay tuned for the announcement of this updated, completed compilation that is being made possible by the JOY grant awarded to us by Oceanside High School - East, in Rockland!

Support Line Advocate Training

Would you like to make a positive difference in the lives of sexual assault and abuse survivors? Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM) has openings for Per Diem Volunteer Advocates to provide coverage for our 24-hour crisis and support line. Volunteer Advocates receive an hourly stipend for being on call and carrying a pager. The hourly stipend amount increases during a support line call, hospital or police accompaniment call. Please email clientservices@sassmm.org to learn more.



Upcoming Ladies' Open Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 12th, 2014

8am at Brunswick Golf Club

Rain Date is Thursday, June 19th, 2014

Format

Scramble format with two flights based on handicap. Prizes awarded for first, second, and third places - gross and net- in each flight. Players can register as foursomes, threesomes, twosomes or singles. Tournament committee will form teams for those not playing in a foursome. Registration deadline is May 30th, 2014.

Schedule of Events:

Registration/Continental Breakfast

7:00-7:45 AM

Shotgun Start

8:00 AM SHARP!

Lunch/Prizes

1:30 PM

Registration

Entry Fee: \$70 per individual includes; 18 holes of golf, continental breakfast, on course refreshments, gift for participating, luncheon, and prizes galore!

Cart Fee: \$15 per rider not included in entry, must be prepaid with entry fee.

Registration and payment can be done online at www.sassmm.org.

SASSMM's Eleventh Annual Gala and Silent Auction a Success!



The SASSMM Celebrity Gala and Silent Auction happened on March 15th, 2014 at Bowdoin College's Thorne Dining Hall.

The dust has now settled and it is fair to say that the Eleventh Annual Gala was a success! After all expenses, the Gala netted \$19,257!

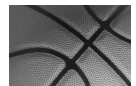
This huge undertaking would not have been possible without our generous corporate sponsors, Day's Jewelers of Brunswick, our auction donors, and the work of so many dedicated volunteers, who contributed towards a great evening.

We were joined by over 180 guests, and whether it was their first SASSMM event, or they have been a Gala supporter for all 11 years, a fun time was had by all!

This year we had over 125 items in our auction, great food, music, dancing, and entertainment. The Gala is a fun and important part of SASSMM's yearly fundraising efforts.



Exciting Live Auction Items this year included:



- *Whitewater Rafting Group Trip*
- *Red Sox autographed baseball*
- *Boston Celtics signed basketball*
- *Sam Adams Utopias Beer*
- *Lobster Bake Package*
- *New England Patriots player autographed football*
- *A Dessert A Month Package from Wild Oats*

To all who attended, donated, or were involved in any way, THANK YOU! We hope you recognize that you made a difference for survivors and others impacted by sexual violence. The funds will go directly towards maintaining services for our Midcoast communities. We are deeply appreciative of every contribution to the success of the event.

Thank you to our sponsors!

Corporate



Gold Sponsors:



BAKER NEWMAN NOYES



Bronze Sponsors:



The following businesses and local artists donated items for the auction. Please support those who support SASSMM!

- Agren Appliance
- Anne George
- Anthony Alves
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Bard Coffee
- Bath Savings Institution
- Bay Chamber Concerts
- Bayview Gallery
- Benjamin Slocum, LMT
- Black Lantern Bed & Breakfast
- Blessings
- Bob Morrell
- Boothbay Railway Village
- Boston Beer Company
- Boston Celtics
- Boston Red Sox
- Bruce and Maureen Langford
- Buck's Naked BBQ
- Bull Feeney's
- Bull Moose
- Cahill Tire, Inc.
- Casco Bay Frames & Gallery
- Cat Schwenk
- Cathance River Education Alliance
- Clarion Hotel
- Clay Play
- Coastal Children's Museum
- Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
- Comcast
- Crystal Spring Farms
- Curt Brown
- Deb Thibodeau
- Donna Murphy
- Don Foshay's Discount Tire & Alignment
- Edgecomb Potters
- Envy Pens
- Eveningstar Cinema
- Farnsworth Art Museum
- Frank Douglass
- Funtown Splashtown U.S.A.
- Gallery Framing
- Gulf of Maine Books
- Hampton Inn in Bath
- Happy Paws Unleashed
- Hilton Garden Inn Portland Downtown Waterfront
- Holly J. Brown, L.Ac
- Inn at Brunswick Station
- Jai Yoga
- John Nordby
- Lou Ann Hunton
- Lovell Hall Antiques
- Lowe's
- Lynda and Greg Kelly
- Maine Home & Design
- Maine Maritime Museum
- Maine Rafting Expeditions
- Maine Red Claws
- Maine Running Company
- Maine State Music Theatre
- Maine Street Yoga
- Melissa Walters
- Midcoast Symphony Orchestra
- Moody's Diner
- Morning Glory Natural Foods
- Nautilus Seafood & Grill
- N.E. Patriots Charitable Foundation
- Nina Sommers
- Norma and Tom Conway
- Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority
- North Country Rivers
- Now You're Cooking
- Pierce Studios
- Polly Campbell
- Portland Stage
- Portland Symphony Orchestra
- Richard's Restaurant
- Rumpus Room
- Scarlet Begonias
- Scott D. Johnson
- Sea Dog Brewing Co.
- Sherry Cleaves
- Skillin's Greenhouses
- Spa Tech Institute
- Starbucks Coffee Company
- Stephanie George-Roy
- Steve Edmondson
- Summer Island Studio
- Susan Fuller
- Sweet Water Day Spa
- Target
- The Gelato Fiasco
- The Great Impasta
- The Public Theatre
- The Strand Theatre
- The Theater Project
- Victoria Mansion
- Westport Educational Consulting
- Wicked Joe's
- Wild Oats Bakery & Café

Special thanks to our emcee, Ethan Minton, our DJ, Jon Shannon and graphic artist, Tony Roy!

Thank you to our wonderful celebrities!

Holly Stover, Director for the Prevention of DV and SA, DHHS

Geoff Rushlau, District Attorney: Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Knox and Waldo Counties

Roger Sirois, President/CEO Atlantic Regional Federal Credit Union

Polly Campbell, Director SAFE Program

Sheriff Todd Brackett, Lincoln County

Sheriff Kevin Joyce, Cumberland County

Chief Richard Rizzo, Brunswick P.D.

Rob Morris, Maine Public Safety Pipe & Drum Corps, West Bath Town Clerk

Pauline McLuer, SAFE, Mid Coast Hospital

Sheldon & Denise Tepler, Friends of SASSMM

Julie Wagoner, VP Commercial Lending, Bath Savings Institution

Katherine Rushlau, Miss International

SASSMM Support Groups

&

Additional Advocacy Services For Survivors, Parents and Concerned Others

Support Groups: A Piece of the Healing Process.

Survivors of sexual violence are often left with deep feelings of shame, guilt and embarrassment. Many feel they have no one to turn to for support and assistance.

SASSMM provides a casual and non-judgmental environment for individuals to connect with others who have been through similar life events. Participants share personal experiences, discuss information and exchange resources.

Groups focus on healing and moving forward. A variety of survivor-centered groups are offered.

Call 1-207-725-2181, 1-207-594-8580, or 1-207-338-4622 to schedule a pre-group appointment.

SASSMM also offers the following services:

- **One-To-One Support**

- For individuals waiting for a group to begin, or simply looking for information and support, SASSMM offers meetings on a scheduled basis.

- **24-Hour Crisis and Support Line**

- 1-800-822-5999, from a cell phone call 1-207-725-1500
- TTY dial 1-888-458-5599

- **Specific advocacy and assistance around law enforcement and legal proceedings.**

- **Informed advocacy services for people with disabilities and older individuals.**

All of SASSMM's advocacy services are confidential* and free of charge. Services are available to survivors of sexual violence and the people who care about survivors, no matter when the violence occurred. We look forward to speaking with you.

*SASSMM advocates are mandated reporters and in some cases information shared may not be able to remain confidential.



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