



THE FACES BEHIND THE GRIM STATISTICS-

The reality of domestic violence in WNY

Each October the Crisis Services Advocate Program, along with our partners in the domestic violence services community, organize a variety of events to bring awareness to our community on this issue. This October, our recognition of the month is especially poignant in light of the tragic number of domestic homicides that have plagued our region over the last 18 months. As Advocates we are keenly aware of the statistics - about 33% of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner with the statistic at about 4% for male murder victims. From 4/12/08-5/12/09 our community grieved 15 deaths. Unfortunately, that number has continued to rise. The Advocate Program, a NYS approved Non-Residential Domestic Violence Service Provider, continues to meet unmet needs in the community.

Each year we respond to over 900 domestic/family violence or elder abuse victims at any of the 11 emergency departments in Erie County. As the Department of Health designated Rape Crisis Center for Erie County, we also respond to over 250 victims of sexual assault and rape at these same local hospitals. We are proud to work collaboratively with various partners in order to provide a comprehensive approach to services. Advocate Program staff are co-located with: the Buffalo Police Department Sex Offense Section; Erie County Sheriff's Department; Town of Tonawanda Police Department Family Offense Unit; Buffalo City Court Domestic Violence Part; the Family Justice Center of Erie County and; Erie County Sex Offense Court. All services are free and confidential and range from case management services, court advocacy, and assistance with basic needs including shelter, crisis intervention, information and referral and individual therapy. Along with direct service, the Advocate Program strives to coordinate the systems that interface with victims of physical and sexual violence. An example of this is our Rape Crisis Advisory Committee which is a group of community stakeholders dedicated to providing a coordinated community response to sexual violence in Erie County. The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program, another arm of the Advocate Program since 2003, has been recruiting and training nurses to become Sexual assault nurse examiners. These nurses receive specialized training to collect forensic evidence following a sexual assault. Additionally, this program coordinates the 24 hour SANE response on behalf of the Kaleida Health System.

We hope that this October you will consider giving back to the agencies that provide services to domestic violence victims, including the Advocate Program. Whether you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Hospital Advocate or attending one of our fundraising or awareness activities, your support truly can make a difference in someone's life.

Our next volunteer training starts in November.
Be sure to check out our website, www.crisisservices.org,
for the most up to date calendar of events in October.



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NEW SUICIDE INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR HOTLINE COUNSELORS

For the past two years, the Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) of Crisis Services has been participating in a study with Columbia University and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to measure the outcomes of suicidal callers. The study is looking at differences in the outcomes of callers that are assessed by hotline counselors that are trained in a specific model of suicide intervention called "Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training" (ASIST) and those that are not trained in this model. ASIST is becoming the standard of care and best practice model for suicide intervention. In July of this year CCP Supervisors Lisa McNeil and Arthur Dietz spent a week in NYC training in the ASIST model. On August 11th & 12th Lisa and Arthur provided the ASIST training to CCP staff. There will be another ASIST training held at the end of October to train CCP volunteers. There will also be future opportunities for all Crisis Services staff and community members to participate in this training. Congratulations CCP staff on your new suicide intervention skills!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Douglas B. Fabian, Executive Director

Dedication, commitment, mission, vision, training, support, endurance, steadfast, help, nurture, encourage, support, hope, caution, risks, feminism, volunteers, self respect and choice!

These are some of the descriptors that come to mind when I consider the services of the Advocate Program at Crisis Services. Perhaps more than any other valuable service we provide, the Advocate Program is grounded in a set of principles that sensitively guide its supportive assistance to victims of violence, whether that be by a spouse, intimate partner or family member. As the Advocate Program is poised to respond to domestic violence related incidents 24 hours a day, the impact of our trained volunteers is great, if not immeasurable! The "round the clock" coordination of such a ready and caring response is a hallmark of the Advocate Program. An Advocate's immediate response following their page or the ring of their cell phone at any hour of the day or night reflects the "over arching" mission of Crisis Services. No other program or agency provides such a unique service! On behalf of this Executive Office, all the agency's managers and the Board of Directors, thank you to all the staff and volunteers of the Advocate Program who so courageously support and if necessary represent the victims of domestic violence in Buffalo and all of Erie County. It is extremely unfortunate to document at this time a rise in domestic violence cases and it is particularly alarming to witness such an increase in rage as demonstrated by increased numbers of domestic homicides this past year. Speaking for all of our citizens in communities around Erie County, it is comforting to know that Crisis Services by virtue of its Advocate Program is nearby to shoulder such a social and familial burden! Again, my thanks to all.

Douglas B. Fabian

PATRICK P. LEE FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED TO CRISIS SERVICES

The Patrick P. Lee Foundation has awarded Crisis Services \$75,000 to purchase and install a new state-of-the-art phone system to help enhance our 24-hour hotline and overall agency phone system. We are extremely grateful to the Lee Foundation for their support in addressing mental health needs in our community. We are in the process of getting bids from vendors on an enhanced phone system that will improve our call distribution, call recording and data collection of the hotline services. This will take our work to a new level and incorporate enhanced technology to assist our community 24 hours a day. We anticipate that the vendor will be chosen by the end of September and we will report the outcome of this process in our next newsletter. Thank you to the Patrick P. Lee Foundation for their support.



2nd ANNUAL CRISIS SERVICES
On!course
GOLF TOURNAMENT
TO BENEFIT THE PROGRAMS OF CRISIS SERVICES



Driving on the 10th hole at the beautiful TVCC

In a summer marked by record breaking nasty weather, August 3rd was a true anomaly! Blue skies, gentle breezes, and loads of sunshine was the order of the day at Transit Valley Country Club where more than 75 golfers took to the links. First place went to Jason Bulmahn, Paul Hojnowski, Peter Jaremka & Glen VanDerzee. Mark your calendars – our 3rd annual event will be June 14th, 2010.

Check out our website, www.crisisservices.org for more pictures. Crisis Services would like to thank the following sponsors of “On-Course” 2009:

- Maple-Gate Anesthesiology PC
- VITEC Solutions LLC
- FDR Medical Services PC
- Palladian Muscular Skeletal Health
- Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital
- Horizon Health Services
- CWA Local 1122
- NP Associates LLC, - Nick & Patti Pirro
- Toski, Schaefer & Co, PC - Certified Public Accountants
- Buffalo South District Councilman Michael P. Kearns
- Shamus Roofing
- Phillips Lytle LLP
- ECMC
- Kaleida Health
- West Herr
- EAWireless

SEXUAL ABUSE AND OUR SCHOOLS

The Crisis Services Rape Crisis Advisory Committee will be presenting a conference on November 4th, 2009 at the Holiday Inn on Grand Island titled: “Sexual Abuse and Our Schools — What Every School Administrator Should Know About Child Sex Abuse”. The conference is formatted to inform and educate School Administrators in the elementary, middle and high school levels on the scope and implications of child sexual abuse by school personnel and/or other students. Superintendents, Board of Education Members, Principals and Vice Principals from public, private, charter and faith based schools are invited to attend. Highlights of the conference will include:

- School districts’ and individual schools’ responsibilities and liabilities
- Civil and criminal aspects of the law
- Sex offender etiology
- Impact on victims and families
- Recommended policy and procedures for appropriate and effective handling of sexual abuse, including roles of law enforcement and victim services

For more information please call 834-2310, ext. 140 or go to our website, www.crisisservices.org to register online. Registration closes Oct 16.

DONATE ONLINE

www.crisisservices.org

(Secure Website)

You can charge your tax-deductible gift to:
MasterCard, Visa, or American Express



MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING YOUR OLD CELL PHONE(S)

to Crisis Services
to help survivors of
domestic violence and
sexual assault.

**Call 834-2310 ext. 146
for more info.**

OUR MISSION

Crisis Services is dedicated to promoting the health, safety, and well being of the community through prevention, education, immediate intervention and access to community wide resources 24 hours a day.

TRIBUTE GIFTS TO CRISIS SERVICES

Make a donation today in support of Crisis Services and those who depend on our critical services.

Remember a friend, loved one or family member for a birthday, anniversary or special celebration or to offer a meaningful expression of one's sympathy, love and respect at the time of death with a gift to the Crisis Services Foundation. Your gift today can help Crisis Services continue to provide its excellent services and programs to individuals in need in our community, as it has since 1968. Treating and assisting people in emotional crisis through a variety of therapeutic services (24 hour hotline, suicide prevention, homelessness, rape and domestic violence, and mental health and trauma) need your ongoing generous support. Enclosed in this newsletter is a convenient envelope for your use, or make a donation online by visiting our secure website at:

www.crisisservices.org

and charge your gift to MasterCard, Visa, or American Express.

*A gift to Crisis Services today can help provide crucial services for
the survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault. (See The Faces
Behind the Grim Statistics – front page)*

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