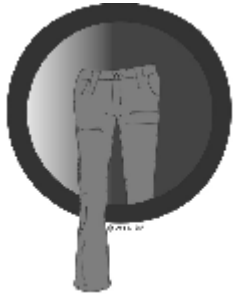


THE CRISIS LINE

Help... Hope... Healing...

APRIL 2008 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2



DENIM DAY COMES TO LAS VEGAS

Designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), April brings an annual opportunity to focus awareness on sexual violence and its prevention. It is a time when The Rape Crisis Center shares how we provide crisis intervention and prevention services while also providing support to our survivors and their families.

This year during April along with other organizations throughout the world we are recognizing **Denim Day**. In 1992, an 18-year old in Italy was picked up by her driving instructor to begin a driving lesson. Soon after, she was raped on the side of the road by the instructor. She pressed charges and won her case. The instructor appealed, and the case went back to the Italian High Court. In 1999 the court overturned the conviction, with a member of the High Court declaring that since the victim wore very tight jeans, the instructor could not have removed them himself, therefore the victim must have willingly participated. Women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest.

In April 1999 the state of California established the first **Denim Day** in the United States. April 2008 is the year that The Rape Crisis Center, along with the Community Coalition for Victim Rights, Nellis Air Force Base Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, and the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence, begin recognizing **Denim Day** in our community. Our hope is that we do not only think of **Denim Day** during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, but we also join together and create a community that is safe for more survivors of sexual assault to reach out and find help.

Phone: 702-385-2153
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Andrea Fernandez
Part-Time Advocates:
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24-Hour HOTLINE: 366-1640

www.therapecrisiscenter.org



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This has been an amazing first quarter for The Rape Crisis Center. As we become more recognized within a community that is known for growth, so has the need for our services; both for victims and educational outreach.

The Rape Crisis Center is making incredible strides within the community by providing advocacy for victims to both University Medical Center (UMC) and Sunrise Children's Hospital. We have also increased the presentations of the *Child Abuse Prevention (CAP)* program and "*Your SPACE*" – *Safety Prevention Awareness Curriculum for Everyone* to schools within the CCSD.

The CAP program centers on the rights of children and young people to be Safe, Strong and Free and is taught to children in grades K – 5 to schools that request the program. Your SPACE continues the empowerment model with grades 6 – 12 and addresses the issues of dating violence and abuse. We are in the process of translating the curriculum to include the Latino community.

Nina's Night Out (NNO) has been our anchor event for the past five years and we've decided now is the time to increase the number of special events. We're planning a golf tournament for the summer of '09 and a national conference where The Rape Crisis Center will bring in experts in specific areas of sexual violence to educate counselors, students, law enforcement and others on court processing, medical examinations, advocacy, therapeutic methods (clinical and group), and anything else that may pertain to victims of sexual assault and/or abuse.

The Rape Crisis Center prides itself on the ability to provide quality services to victims as well as seeing the importance of prevention education to today's youth. We strive to continue on the path that we are on.





Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The Rape Crisis Center held its annual volunteer recognition dinner on March 3, 2008. We had an excellent turnout and were able to personally thank all of the volunteers who graciously give their time, energy, and compassion to serve victims of sexual violence throughout the year. **Florence McClure, Founder of Community Action Against Rape**, now known as The Rape Crisis Center, was in attendance and couldn't be more proud of The Rape Crisis Center's growth and success. The staff and volunteers thanked Mrs. McClure for her persistence, dedication, and perseverance with a rose ceremony.

To top off the night, **Senator Dina Titus** gave an incredible speech to our guests, thanking them for all of their hard work. Senator Titus is an asset to the organization. She continuously supports our cause and is committed to our growth. The Rape Crisis Center would also like to give an extra special thanks to *The Terrace* for donating a beautiful banquet room, delicious food, and wonderful service each and every year!



A Tribute to Florence McClure (By Alyson Shainker)

34 roses, 34 years.

This represents all of your blood, sweat and tears.

Florence McClure had a dream to carry out.

A place where victims could get support without feeling shame or doubt.

It was 1974 when Community Action Against Rape opened its doors.

As one of the oldest non-profits in Southern Nevada, the organization still soars.

Because of her strength and persistence they call her "Hurricane Flo".

She has advocated for women in Nevada when others simply said "no".

She has lobbied for bills and fought to change laws to make the world a better place.

Sometimes lawmakers and attorneys would duck and hide as soon as they saw her face.

She changed the way victims were treated and is an advocate for female prisoner rights.

Florence has always been an activist, continuously reaching new heights.

When change was needed, Florence stepped forward – no dream was out of reach.

When others were uniformed, she took it upon herself to teach.

Florence is an inspiration to those who believe in the power of one.

She never threw in the towel until her work was done.

It is difficult to imagine where Nevada would be today if it weren't for the selfless, persistent efforts of the amazing Florence McClure.

Where she found the time and energy, we aren't entirely sure.

With a women's correctional facility in her name, we are continuously reminded of her fight.

We will never forget that in a world of darkness, Florence McClure is our guiding light.



Message from The Rape Crisis Center's Executive Director, Louise "Lu" Torres

How Can I Protect My Child From Sexual Assault?

2008 has been a very busy year for us. Our Child Assault Prevention education program is growing rapidly, last month alone we reached out to over 2,000 elementary children, teaching them to be SAFE, STRONG, and FREE. The Rape Crisis Center is proud to announce our recent partnership with Children's Sunrise Hospital. We are providing advocacy to parents of children that have been sexually assaulted, helping them get through the

system, educating parents what to expect in behavioral changes and the importance of counseling, essentially start the family healing.

While there is no sure-fire way to protect your child from all dangers, there are some steps that you can take to help reduce the risk of a sexual assault:

Communicate, communicate, communicate.

- Tell your children that you are always there to talk about anything. Tell them that you are there to help them solve problems and to protect them.
- Teach your children that it is against the "rules" for adults to act in a sexual way with children and use examples.
- Teach your children that their bodies are their own and that it is OK if they don't want a hug or other contact that might make them uncomfortable.
- Speak to your children about using the proper names for their body parts. Armed with information, children are better able to report abuse to you.
- Try to be relaxed when talking about these issues. If you are not tense while talking about these issues, then they are less likely to be worried about talking.
- Talk to your children about sex when they show interest or curiosity.

Teach your children that it's OK to say no and it's OK to leave the situation.

- Tell them that if someone does something to make them uncomfortable, they should tell that person that they are uncomfortable. Emphasize to them that if the person doesn't listen, doesn't stop, or continues to make them feel uncomfortable, they should tell someone—a parent, teacher, priest or other trusted adult.
- Tell them that if anyone touches them on the body parts that are covered by a bathing suit, they should tell an adult they trust. Tell them that it is OK to say no and to leave the situation. Tell them that you can later figure out together if the person was trying to be helpful or not.

Trust your own instincts. If your instincts tell you something is wrong, follow-up.

Stay calm. If a child discloses abuse to you, or hints at possible abuse:

- Don't overreact.
- Believe the child and communicate that belief to him or her.
- Thank the child for telling you and praise his or her courage for speaking up.
- Emphasize that what happened to the child was not his or her fault and that the child did not deserve to be treated like that.
- Encourage the child to talk but don't push for or imply details. Ask questions such as, "what happened next?"
- Get professional help for the child.
- Tell the child that it is your responsibility to keep the child safe and that you will do the best you can to protect him or her.
- Report your suspicions of abuse to the local police or child protective services agency.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at 702-385-2153.

We are always here to help you.



5TH ANNUAL NINA'S NIGHT OUT



September 18,

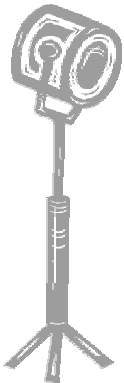


HOW YOU CAN HELP

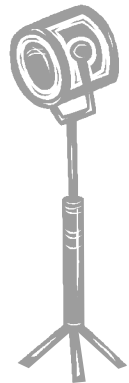
The Rape Crisis Center is looking for volunteers to help stuff and label envelopes for an upcoming direct mail program.

Please call Alyson Shinker at 702-385-2153 if you are interested in helping with this project.

VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The Rape Crisis Center would like to put the spotlight on **Rachel Robinson** for her outstanding volunteer work. Rachel comes to us from UNLV's undergraduate Human Services Counseling Department as an intern. Her enthusiasm and drive to assist the staff and clients of The Rape Crisis Center is exceptional. She is dedicated to learning how the organization is run, and ways in which she can provide optimal services to victims of sexual assault. Rachel is always eager to take on new tasks and accept various challenges. The staff would like to thank and congratulate Rachel for all of the time, support, and commitment that she has devoted to The Rape Crisis Center.





MEET THE BOARD AND STAFF ...



After living in Hawaii for almost forty years, attorney **Janice Wolf** moved to Las Vegas four years ago intending to retire from legal practice and travel with her airline pilot husband around the globe. That lasted until she saw a help-wanted ad in the Review Journal. Clark County Legal Services was looking for a children's attorney to represent abused and neglected children, and the rest is history. Janice is now the deputy-directing attorney of the Children's Attorney's Project at CCLS. Protecting the rights of abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system is her passion.

Janice has been on the board of directors of The Rape Crisis Center for more than two years. She joined the board because of her present work with child victims of sexual assault and because her former work as a newspaper reporter for the Honolulu Advertiser, where she wrote many in-depth articles and series of articles on sexual assault in Hawaii.

A journalist-turned-attorney, Janice received her Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Michigan and her law degree (J.D.) from the University of Hawaii. She is married to Dan Omerza, a corporate pilot with MGM/Mirage. Between them, they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Ms. Elena Espinoza is mother to a beautiful one year old boy and comes to Las Vegas by way of Los Angeles. She has been working in the field of human services and the non-profit world for over 10 years in the areas of health programs and access, childhood development and education. Before coming to The Rape Crisis Center, Elena was active in health research and education, focusing on the Latino community and serving as a social services advisor for low income communities in central Los Angeles. Elena received her Bachelor's degree from USC in the areas of Gender Studies and Political Studies with a focus on violence against women.



As Director of Education and Outreach, Ms. Espinoza is responsible for the educational goals and objectives of The Rape Crisis Center, including overseeing the Your SPACE curriculum and the CAP Program in the Clark County School District and developing outreach models to address underserved communities in Southern Nevada. She is excited about the opportunity to engage community stakeholders in creating long-lasting and fruitful partnerships to eradicate the epidemic that is sexual violence. Combining her activism with applied social pedagogy, it is Elena's hope to contribute in meaningful ways to the systemic changes that can lead to social justice for all people.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A VOLUNTEER

The Rape Crisis Center is currently looking for volunteers!!!!



The Rape Crisis Center's next volunteer/intern training is right around the corner.

Training will be held May 5th – June 5th.

(Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 6pm-9pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm)

***No classes will be held on Mother's Day Weekend (May 10th)**

or Memorial Day (May 26th)

We're looking for volunteers to assist with Victim Advocacy & Community Outreach.

Applicants Must:

- Be 21+ years of age
- Complete a 50-hour training course
- Complete an extensive background check
- Donate a minimum of 6 hours per week on-call
- Commit to a minimum of 6 months of volunteer service

The Rape Crisis Center is currently accepting applications!

For more information please contact Alyson Shinker.

E-mail: alyson@therapeccrisiscenter.org Phone: (702) 385-2153



“Circle of Friends” No-Cost Support Group

WHEN: Every Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

WHERE: The Rape Crisis Center

6375 W. Charleston

College of Southern Nevada—Bldg B—Room 149

This group is not a therapy session. If you or someone you know would like more information about our no cost support group please call (702) 385-2153 or e-mail supportgroup@therapeccrisiscenter.org

The Rape Crisis Center offers this weekly support group for survivors of sexual assault and abuse. Our Support Group provides safety, understanding, and peer support to help survivors deal with the difficulties they experience after a sexual assault. You are not alone...join us.

Community Action Against Rape

6375 W. Charleston Blvd W1B

Las Vegas, NV 89146



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Help... Hope... Healing...

The Rape Crisis Center would like to keep its supporters, volunteers and donors updated on upcoming events. To stay informed and to receive our newsletter electronically, please email your name, phone number, mailing address and email address to

staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org