

THE CRISIS LINE

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



SEPTEMBER 2008 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

ADVOCATES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Alyson Shinker

It was the morning of October 2, 2005, and 14-year-old Christina stayed home from school because she was not feeling well. Her mother told her that if she started feeling better, to call her uncle Ramon and he would drive her to school. As the morning went on, Christina started feeling better so she did exactly what her mother had instructed her to do.

On the way to school Ramon told Christina that he needed to stop at his home to pick something up. He asked her to come inside because he didn't want her waiting alone in the car. Christina entered the kitchen and sat on a chair as Ramon went upstairs. When he returned, he told her to come with him into the living room, where he pushed her on a mat, pulling her pants off. Christina screamed and cried for him to stop. Ramon raped his niece and drove her to school, saying "Don't tell your mom. We both know that you liked it." Once the young girl arrived at school she sobbed as she told her best friend about the rape. Fortunately, her friend went straight to the school counselor to share the information she had just received. The police were called and Christina was taken to University Medical Center, which is where I met the client and her mother.

Christina's mother was hesitant to speak with police because she didn't want to "tear the family apart." Christina sat quietly, feeling guilty for causing turmoil in the family. I met with Christina privately and assured her that only her uncle was to blame. I received phone calls for weeks from Christina and her mother, wondering how they could drop the charges. They were being tormented by the family for turning Ramon over to the police. I worked with Christina over the course of a year as we awaited the preliminary hearing. Finally the day had come, and Christina was asked by the district attorney to recount the events that took place on October 15, 2005. The young girl's eyes filled with tears as she relived the memories from the day that changed her life forever. I sat close by and held her hand trying to hold back my own tears. Instead of allowing Christina to be re-traumatized at trial, the district attorney offered Ramon a plea deal, which he accepted. Ramon was sentenced to probation, and never saw a day in prison. Christina, on the other hand, relives the memories of the assault over and over again in her head and has been rejected by most of her family.

I continued to stay in contact with Christina after the sentencing because she needed support and reassurance. As time passed, Christina and I spoke less and less as she began moving on with her life and healing from the trauma. I received a call from Christina about one year after the sentencing. She called to thank me for helping her make it through the hardest time in her life. "I couldn't have done it without you," she said.

I was reminded on that day of the crucial role that advocates play in the lives of victims everyday. We may not hear thank you or even think we made a difference, but just being present at the hospital, in court, or even over the phone to listen, offer a hug, and remind victims that there is light at the end of the tunnel makes a world of difference to those affected by sexual violence.

*The names in this article have been changed to protect the privacy of the victim.

Phone: 702-385-2153

Fax: 702-385-7659

www.therapeccrisiscenter.org

staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1 **Advocates Make A Difference**
Page 2 **Fundraising Update**
Page 3 **Donor Highlight**
Page 4 **Message From Executive Director**
Page 5 **Volunteer Spotlight**
Page 6 **Meet the Board & Staff**
Page 7 **Not One for All: Finding the Method that Fits the Client**

Executive Director
Louise "Lu" Torres
Development Officer
Hannah Johnston
Director of Client Services
Alyson Shinker
Group Facilitator and Victim Advocate
Shizue Hill
Director of Education and Outreach
Elena Espinoza
Child Assault Prevention Coordinator
Genese Jones
Child Assault Prevention Assistant Coordinator
Jamie Kordich

Part-Time Advocates:
Jeanne Scafidi
Tamica Johnson
Melissa Okuda
Tiffany Eisen
Won Ha



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This has been a challenging year for fundraising because of economic conditions and cuts in local and federal grants. We do have some fun yet affordable ways to help support The Rape Crisis Center and make a difference in the lives of those affected by sexual violence.

Nina's Night Out

We're excited to announce the 5th annual Nina's Night Out on September 18, 2008 at the Pearl, Palms Concert Theater. The annual fundraiser will feature multi-platinum singer/songwriter Jessica Simpson, who will perform tracks off of her soon-to-be released country album, along with her popular favorites.

A VIP cocktail reception at Moon nightclub, inside the Palms Fantasy Tower, will precede the concert, from 5:00p.m. – 7:30p.m., and will include an appearance by Jessica Simpson, a special performance by Tony Delgado Dancers and Musicians, which will provide a taste of Astaire, Elvis and Travolta, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and both a live and silent auction.

Concert ticket prices range from \$47 - \$60, plus any applicable box office fees, and can be purchased by phone at 702-474-4000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com or at the Pearl box office. Please call The Rape Crisis Center at 702-385-2153 to purchase tickets to the VIP cocktail reception at Moon.

Sponsorships

Nina's Night Out sponsorships range from \$750, which includes concert tickets and entrance to the VIP cocktail reception at Moon, to the \$25,000 Diamond sponsorship, which offers a meet and greet with Jessica Simpson and inclusion in the extensive Nina's Night Out media campaign. We also have advertising opportunities in the Nina's Night Out program guide, starting at \$200.

Integrity Jeep Raffle

Integrity Chrysler Jeep has donated a 2-year lease on a 2008 Jeep 4X4. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50 or six for \$100, and can be purchased at The Rape Crisis Center.

All sponsorship, ticket and raffle proceeds will benefit The Rape Crisis Center in Las Vegas. For more details call 385-2153 or go to www.ninasnightout.org.





DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Gary Cox is vice president and market manager of the top-rated radio station KVEG Hot 97.5. For the past three years, Gary has aired gratis public service announcements (PSA's) on his station for The Rape Crisis Center to recruit much-needed volunteers.



At The Rape Crisis Center, we depend on volunteers to provide advocacy to over 800 sexual assault victims annually. Volunteers complete 40 hours of intense training and sometimes it's difficult to recruit these volunteers due to the training, background checks and high standards that we require from our volunteers.

Through the generosity of Gary Cox and Hot 97.5, we have recruited over 60 volunteers this past year alone. The PSA's also allow us to provide the prevention and intervention services that so many victims of sexual assault require. We consider KVEG to be a part of the team working together to create a community free from sexual violence.

Lu Torres, executive director for The Rape Crisis Center, recently attended a meeting where she was approached by two community leaders who shared with her that they had heard the KVEG PSAs and were impressed with the professional quality of the spots.

Gary Cox has worked for Hot 97.5 since the station's inception in 2001. During his tenure, he is responsible for record revenue, ratings, and profitability growth. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Nevada Broadcasters Association and has served as president of the "Friends of the Old Las Vegas Fort," an organization dedicated to the preservation of the site where "Las Vegas Began" for the past six years. Gary lives in Henderson with his wife and two children.

Thank you Gary for making Southern Nevada a safer place to live and raise our children!



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

Teen program goes statewide!

What a great time for the state of Nevada. Two years ago two organizations worked together to create a curriculum targeted at teens and healthy relationships. What does this really mean? Christina Hernandez, former director of Outreach and Education for The Rape Crisis Center and Andrea Sundberg from SAFE House collaborated and the story begins. Together they designed a curriculum to teach middle and high school students about teen dating violence, sexual assault, domestic violence and date rape drugs. History shows us that a typical one-hour presentation is not enough time to share all the information, answer questions, and expect any retention. Thus a 4-day curriculum was born.

Embracing this program, the Clark County School District invited us into their classrooms and we have not looked back since. In October 2007 Elena Espinoza came on board The Rape Crisis Center staff as director of Education and Outreach and has grown the program to a well-received 5-day curriculum, expanded to community organizations and churches and serving over 4,000 students this year.



Towards the end of the 2007 school year, agencies in Northern Nevada began inquiring about this program enough so that the collaborative partnership between The Rape Crisis Center and SAFE House has grown to include the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence, Nevada Division of Public Health and Dr. Jessica Word from UNLV. In July 2008, Team Your SPACE launched this curriculum statewide. Russell Smith, District Attorney Humboldt County, has already received funding to implement this into Winnemucca schools. Yourspacenevada.org is coming very soon!

Now labeled Your SPACE (Safety Prevention Awareness Curriculum for Everyone), the program is funded primarily through a grant from Nevada Public Health Center for Disease (Primary Rape Prevention Program). Our goal is to teach healthy relationships and respect, modifying behavior and eliminating sexual assault throughout the state of Nevada. If you would like to find out more, for Clark County call Elena Espinoza at 792-385-2153. For all areas of Nevada, please contact Kari Ramos at the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence at 775-355-2229. This is just the beginning of statewide collaborative efforts with the goal of eliminating sexual assault.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A VOLUNTEER

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

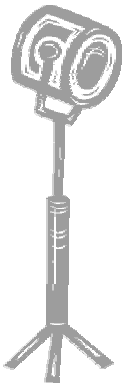


If you would like to help,
please contact Alyson Shinker at:

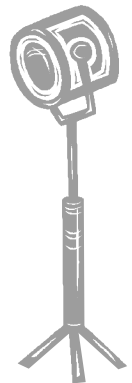
E-mail: alyson@therapeccrisiscenter.org

or Phone: (702) 385-2153

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The Rape Crisis Center would like to extend a VERY special thank you to **Andrea Kunwald, Carrie Healy, & Jamie Kordich** for volunteering countless hours at our storage unit organizing the clothing given to victims at the hospital. It was hot, there was not enough light, nowhere to sit, and all of the clothes had to be RE-folded. These three ladies jumped at the chance to help the organization and spent multiple days in storage folding, counting, and sorting clothing. Thank you Andrea, Carrie, and Jamie for going above and beyond!





MEET THE BOARD AND STAFF ...



Robert (Bob) Davis is principal and owner of The Davis Group, providing accounting and finance services to various clients, primarily restaurant owners and senior management. He consults regularly with executives from a variety of fields and provides financial planning and tax planning services. Prior to his current career role, he was Controller/Finance Manager for a major restaurant chain in California before relocating to Las Vegas in 2005. He is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Maryland.

Born in Dobbs Ferry, New York and raised in New York and Maryland, Bob graduated from the University of Maryland in 1966 and joined the Air Force immediately after graduation. He began his accounting career with Price Waterhouse in Baltimore, Maryland in 1967. Since then, he has provided business management and accounting services to various manufacturing, construction and retail companies during his extensive career and became Vice President of Finance for Simi Winery in Healdsburg, California in 1985.

He served on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sonoma County, California and was a foster parent for several years in Sonoma County. He served as a professor of Accounting at Anne Arundel Community College in the State of Maryland. As an advocate for the prevention of domestic and sexual violence, Bob was honored to be asked to join the board of directors as Treasurer for The Rape Crisis Center in 2007.

Genese Jones is a daughter, sister, wife and mother of two beautiful girls. She is a native of Michigan and became a resident of the Las Vegas valley in 2005. Her career began in Human Resources administration, gaining knowledge in government and private sectors and building strong relationships along the way.

In 2007, Genese fulfilled her true calling to educate, mentor and empower youth. She transitioned into the Human Services field as a counselor working with at-risk teens. She dedicated her life to advocating for children and victims of violence. Genese was introduced to the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Program (hosted by the Rape Crisis Center) in August 2007. She was then trained and certified as a CAP facilitator; traveling across the Clark County School District educating elementary-aged children on their rights and empowering them to preserve those rights.

Today, Genese is the Child Assault Prevention Coordinator. She uses her interpersonal nature as fuel to champion for youth. She truly believes that *'It takes a village to raise a child'*... one person at a time.





Not One for All: Finding the Method that Fits the Client

The Rape Crisis Center sponsored a conference on June 26th entitled, “Not One for All: Finding the Method that Fits the Client.” Over 50 professionals and community members attended this no-cost event at the Springs Preserve. The conference included presentations on play therapy, music therapy, the difference between advocacy and therapy, and community-based advocacy versus systems-based advocacy. The conference also included a panel discussion, which allowed attendees to ask questions to therapists, community-based advocates, and systems-based advocates who sat on the panel.

This event was a huge success thanks to our presenters and panel representatives. The Rape Crisis Center would like to send a special thanks to:

Nadine Cracraft, MFT

Rachel Saines, Board Certified Music Therapist

Ashley, Ed.S., LADC, LMSW, LPC CPGC

Elynn Greene, MA

Felicia Hernandez

Angele Morgan, LCSW

John Pacult, LCSW



“Circle of Friends” No-Cost Support Group



Our "Circle of Friends" Support group will be dormant for the next month. We are redesigning this program to better serve our victims and will keep you posted on the start date for the new support group.

Thank you for your understanding and we hope that this does not cause any problems. Remember, if you need an advocate call our hotline at 702-366-1640.

Community Action Against Rape

6375 W. Charleston Blvd W1B

Las Vegas, NV 89146



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

LAS VEGAS, NV

PERMIT No. 713

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