

# THE CRISIS LINE

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

SPRING 2009 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1



## Signs of Hope Counseling Services A New Milestone for The Rape Crisis Center

On July 1, 2009, The Rape Crisis Center will open Signs of Hope Counseling Services to provide services to individual, family and group psychotherapy to victims of sexual violence. Services will be provided through a satellite office located at 6402 McCloud, in Las Vegas.

Treatment will focus on victim trauma, substance abuse, relationship problems, depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, and eating disorders. The program will also provide therapy to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals who have been sexually victimized. These services will be offered by a therapist who is fluent in American Sign Language.

In starting Signs of Hope Counseling Services, it is The Rape Crisis Center's hope that no victim will go without therapy because of inability to afford services. Fees for Signs of Hope Counseling Services will be offered on a sliding fee scale and Victims of Crime Compensation will be accepted. Victims who are unable to pay for counseling will be provided counseling services at no charge.

Counseling services will include sexual assault/abuse assessments, victim trauma assessments, adult and adolescent therapeutic groups, and general counseling for adolescents, adults, couples and families. All services will be provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Clinical Social Work Intern who will be directly supervised by an LCSW.

Signs of Hope Counseling Services will be funded, in part, by private donations from *Founding Members*. For \$1,000 you can purchase one of 35 candles to help The Rape Crisis Center light the way as a *Founding Member*. Your name will be placed on a plaque so anyone passing through the doors will see that you are leading the way to a safer community.

For information on how you can become a *Founding Member* please call The Rape Crisis Center at 702-385-2153 or go to [www.therapeccrisiscenter.org](http://www.therapeccrisiscenter.org). You can pay by check, credit card, or set up monthly payments. If you are unable to pay for a candle on your own, build a team of supporters who want to help victims of sexual assault begin their healing process.

Together we can help fulfill The Rape Crisis Center's mission of providing help, hope and healing to victims of sexual assault and their families.

Phone: 702-385-2153

Fax: 702-385-7659

[www.therapeccrisiscenter.org](http://www.therapeccrisiscenter.org)

[staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org](mailto:staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org)

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Carrie Healy  
April Carr  
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24-Hour HOTLINE: 366-1640

[www.therapeccrisiscenter.org](http://www.therapeccrisiscenter.org)



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

If I could relay one message to our community it would be that sexual assault is rarely about sex, it is about power and violence. If you, or someone you know, have been sexually assaulted, remember that it is never the victim's fault.

As a society, many times we place blame on the victim; "she should not have been dressed so provocatively" and "she was drinking" are common statements we hear at The Rape Crisis

Center. Thus, many of our victims do not report when they are attacked. They internalize and never begin the journey to heal. Nationally it is believed that 60% of victims do not report. (Statistics provided by RAINN)

I would like to personally send the message to our community that at The Rape Crisis Center, we never blame the victim. We support and help the victim through their journey to begin healing.

One of the many questions I receive on a weekly basis is "What does it mean to report, what are my rights and if I choose to report, how do I?" The Rape Crisis Center will help you regardless of whether you report to the police or not. If you choose to report, these are the steps for reporting rape for an adult. An advocate from the Rape Crisis Center will answer your questions and help you through the process.

**Should I report my attack to the police?** We hope you will decide to report your attack to the police. While there's no way to change what happened to you, you can seek justice while helping to stop it from happening to someone else. Reporting to the police is the key to preventing sexual assault. Every time we lock up a rapist we're preventing him or her from committing another attack.

**Am I required to report to police?** You are not legally obligated to report. The decision is entirely yours, and everyone will understand if you decided not to pursue prosecution. Many victims say that reporting is the last thing they want to do right after being attacked. That's perfectly understandable — reporting can seem invasive, time consuming and difficult. Still, there are many good reasons to report, and some victims say that reporting helped their recovery and helped them regain a feeling of control.

**How do I report?** Call 911 (or ask a friend to call) to report your rape to police. Call The Rape Crisis Center's 24-hour Hotline or visit the University Medical Center (UMC) emergency room. Tell the nurse you have been raped and she will direct you to a special place in the hospital and you will not have to wait the normal time. The nurse will call a specially trained registered nurse to come in and perform a sexual assault exam. An advocate from The Rape Crisis Center will be called and will arrive to help you understand what is happening. It's completely up to you if you wish to have the police called.

**Is there a time limit on reporting to the police?** There's generally no legal barrier to reporting your attack, even months afterwards. However, to maximize the chances of an arrest and successful prosecution, it's important that you report as soon as possible. If you aren't sure what to do, it's better to report now and decide later. That way, the evidence is preserved should you decide to pursue prosecution.

(continued on page 3)



**What if I need time to think about whether I want to pursue prosecution?** Understandably, many people aren't ready to make the decision about prosecution immediately after an attack. It's normal to want time to think about the decision and talk it over with friends and family. In Nevada you have 30 days after the exam to decide if you want to prosecute.

If you think you might want to pursue prosecution but haven't decided for sure, we recommend that you make the police report right away, while the evidence is still present and your memory is still detailed. The district attorney will decide whether or not to pursue prosecution, however, it is unusual for cases to proceed without the cooperation of the victim. And if prosecution is pursued, the chance of success will be much higher if you reported, and had evidence collected, immediately after the attack.

**Can I report to police even if I have no physical injuries?** Yes. In fact, most rapes do not result in physical injuries. So, the lack of such injuries should not deter you from reporting.

It's also important to get medical care and to be tested for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, even if you think you aren't injured. And keep in mind that rape can cause injuries, often internal, that aren't visible. UMC has special equipment that can detect such hidden injuries.

**The rapist got scared away before finishing the attack. Can I still report it?** Yes. Attempted rape is still a serious crime and should be reported.

**I know the person who raped me and invited him/her in. Can I still report it?** Yes. About 2/3 of victims know their attacker. The fact that you were voluntarily together, or even invited him/her home with you does not change anything. Rape is a serious crime, no matter the circumstances.

**What's the reporting process?** In most cases, the police will come to you and take a statement and collect physical evidence. Also, the nurse or will collect hair, fluids, fibers and other evidence.

The police interview may take as long as several hours, depending on the circumstances of your case. Some questions will probably feel intrusive, and the officer will probably go over the details of your attack several times. The extensive questioning isn't because the police don't believe you; it is the officer's job to get every detail down precisely, to make the strongest possible case against your rapist.

**Do most rape victims report their attack to police?** Just over half of rape victims don't report the crime, however, reporting is up substantially in the last decade. Our goal is to have every rape reported to police, just as every murder is investigated.

**I'm not sure my rape is serious enough to report to police.** The FBI ranks rape as the second-most violent crime, behind only murder. Every rape is a very serious crime that should be prosecuted, even if no physical injuries occur during the assault.

**I'm afraid that my actions will be scrutinized and I'll have to testify about intimate details of my personal life.** Many successful prosecutions end in a plea agreement, without trial, which means that the victim will not have to testify. If your case does go to trial, you will generally have to testify. Although there are no guarantees, prosecutors have legal tools they can use to protect you in court.

If you are worried about having to testify about intimate matters, let the police or prosecutor know about your concerns. They can explain the laws in your state and help you understand what might happen if you do go to trial.

**I'm afraid of getting in trouble.** Sometimes victims, particularly youth, are afraid of getting in trouble for doing something they weren't supposed to be doing when the assault took place, such as drinking. While there's a possibility that you can get in trouble, most authorities (and parents) will be understanding, particularly about minor infractions.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE



As everyone is well aware by media coverage the downturn of the economy has forced challenges upon all charitable organizations, such as The Rape Crisis Center, to look for unique ways to raise the necessary funds to continue to operate. The last thing The Rape Crisis Center wants to do is to compromise its services to victims.

Both staff and Board members have brainstormed to cut expenses and find innovative ways to raise money, continue to raise awareness, and carry on our mission. Staff has worked diligently to offer new cost effective ways around the office and the Board of Directors Fundraising Committee has discovered that by changing current special events and creating new events – they can be just as effective.

The Rape Crisis Center re-visited its current major event, Nina's Night Out, and decided that we would cancel it. Instead of putting money towards an event, we would be putting it directly back into clients. After much discussion we decided to also revamp the event and make it more within The Rape Crisis Center mission. In the month of April 2010, instead of a dinner and concert, we're going to work closely with Nina Radetich and KTNV to provide a week-long series to educate the public about sexual assault and preventative education. April also happens to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Our next event will be held August 22, 2009, at The Fiesta Hotel & Casino Ice Rink. Guns & Hoses Ice Hockey Team will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Guns & Hoses Ice Hockey Game to Raise Money for The Rape Crisis Center. Law enforcement and fire fighters from around the United States gather in Las Vegas for their annual hockey tournament and wrap up the week with the charity game.

From Wednesday, October 28 – Saturday, October 31, 2009, The Rape Crisis Center will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Sexual Assault Education Summit at The Las Vegas Hilton. The conference is open to anyone involved in the area of sexual assault education.

On Saturday, November 28, 2009 at Town Square located on the Las Vegas Strip, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rape Crisis Center "We Knead the Dough" will gather local celebrity chefs and bakers for a bake off and sale. Holiday time is the perfect cookie time! Since it will be "Black Saturday" after Thanksgiving, bring the kids, visit Santa, and enjoy a fun way to support The Rape Crisis Center.

All events are looking for sponsors and volunteers. If you would like to do either – or even both – please contact our office at 385-2153.



## DONOR HIGHLIGHT

### A Tribute to The Tiberti Family



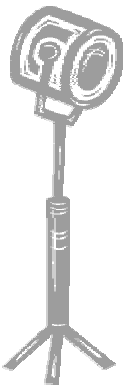
Jelindo, “J.A.” Tiberti moved to Las Vegas in 1941. He arrived from the University of Southern California to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to lay out runways and general engineering for the development of Nellis Air Force Base. Shortly after settling in Las Vegas, J.A. met his wife Marietta. Marietta was a nurse and worked at Las Vegas Hospital.

In 1950 J.A. started his own company, J.A. Tiberti Construction, which over the years built many civic buildings, schools, banks, reservoirs, hotel/casinos, commercial and industrial buildings in Las Vegas. J.A. also served on the city Planning Commission for 25 years, serving as chairman four different times. He was a member of the Las Vegas Rotary for over 50 years as well as a member of the Board of Directors of Nevada Power Company for 35 years. Throughout the years J.A. and Marietta were very active in the development, growth and financial support of the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

In 1989 J.A. received an honorary law degree from UNLV and in 2002 he was awarded the President’s Medal.

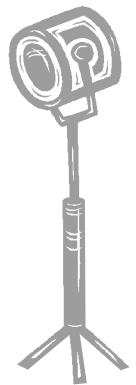
J.A. and Marietta were strong supporters of the Las Vegas community. That support carries on through their six children: Tito, Laura, Andra, Renaldo, Mario and Jelindo. They are pleased to be able to contribute to the success of The Rape Crisis Center and encourage the good work of the Center.

**The Rape Crisis Center would like to thank the Tiberti family for their past support of Nina’s Night Out!**



## VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month’s volunteer in the spotlight is **Natalie Kaufman!** The Rape Crisis Center would like to recognize Natalie for her outstanding volunteer service. She has been providing individual and group therapy to our clients since January 2009, and they are very appreciative of all of the time and energy that she devotes to their needs. She is compassionate, dedicated, and eager to learn. We are extremely appreciative of the positive energy that she brings to the office along with her phenomenal counseling skills. **Thank you Natalie!**





## MEET THE BOARD AND STAFF ...



**Samesha Ramadan** is a Senior Office Assistant 1 in Public Information at the Las Vegas Valley Water District and Chief Executive Officer at M.R. Consulting, Inc.

Samesha began working at the District in June 1986. Her responsibilities include administering and coordinating the financial process for the budget, plan and coordinate internal and external events, provide administrative support to the Public Information division and works diligently on the Diversity Council. Additionally, Samesha is Chief Executive Officer of M.R. Consulting, Inc., a firm founded in 1983. She is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations; assist with the development and designs of promoting personal communication skills, enhancing awareness and characteristics of other cultures, religions, gender and social diversity issues.

Samesha was one of the founding members of Masjid As-Sabur. She was instrumental in the development of Clara Mohammed Weekend School, where she served as principal for more than five years. She is the founder of the American Muslim Women of Nevada (AMWON), President of the International League of Muslim Women Southern NV Chapter, Secretary for the local AARP chapter and Secretary for the local Branch of the NAACP. Samesha has been a volunteer advocate at The Rape Crisis Center for the more than seven years. She is the first advocate to be appointed to the Board of Directors, and was recently appointed to serve as Board Secretary.

Samesha was born in Monroe, Louisiana and moved to Las Vegas in 1956. She and her husband, Mujahid have been married for 37 years. They have two daughters, Shasta and Sumayah and one granddaughter, Kailyn. She and Mujahid are both active in the community.

**Wendy Richau** is a native of Henderson, Nevada. Born and raised in the valley, she has seen quite the growth. She is the proud parent of a married daughter who has two children.

Wendy started her career in the casino restaurant business as a bus girl, moving on to casino management. She wanted to learn a trade she could take anywhere in the U.S. so she took up bookkeeping.

Since coming to The Rape Crisis she has taken the Victim Advocate Classes and become a Notary Republic. She is taking other classes to further her growth in the world of finance





## The Rape Crisis Center's 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and Volunteer Recognition Dinner



The Rape Crisis Center's 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held on March 3, 2009 at The Terrace, located in Henderson. Over 100 guests enjoyed sumptuous appetizers, a gourmet chicken dinner, and delectable oversized cupcakes. The evening's program began with a video tribute to The Rape Crisis Center co-founder Florence McClure, commemorating The Rape Crisis Center's 35<sup>th</sup> birthday, and featured an inspiring commentary by Mujahid Ramadan, an advocate trainer for The Rape Crisis Center.

The evening also featured an awards presentation to our volunteers, trainers, facilitators, advocates, and outreach workers. With crisis intervention, education, support groups, and our 24-hour hotline, The Rape Crisis Center served over 34,000 clients in 2008. Without the hard work and dedication of these special people, The Rape Crisis Center would not be able to fulfill its mission of providing help, hope, and healing to those affected by sexual violence.



Shizue Hill with Metro Detectives



The Rape Crisis Center Board President Pat Thacker and Executive Director Louise "Lu" Torres, with Keynote Speaker and Volunteer Trainer Mujahid Ramadan



Staff (back row): Genese Jones, Lu Torres, Alyson Shainker, Shizue Hill, Cindy Jones, Wendy Richau, Terry Macias and (front row) Hannah Johnston



Volunteer of the Year Winner Joanna Yorder

We'd like to extend a special Thank You to our friends at The Terrace for hosting our annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, donating the dinner and the use of their beautiful banquet room for our guests. The Terrace has hosted this event for The Rape Crisis Center since 2002 and we are grateful for their generosity each year.



## Planned Gift Giving

The Rape Crisis Center relies on the support and generosity of the community. We have a number of life income gifts, gift annuities and other planned giving programs available. Many of these plans have wonderful benefits for our donors.

For more information, please call Lu Torres at 702-385-2153 or go to the How You Can Help Page at [www.therapecrisiscenter.org](http://www.therapecrisiscenter.org).

### Community Action Against Rape

6375 W. Charleston Blvd W1B

Las Vegas, NV 89146



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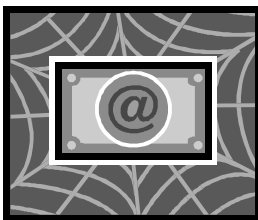
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Help... Hope... Healing...

## The Rape Crisis Center Launches New Website

We are excited to debut our new website at [www.therapecrisiscenter.org](http://www.therapecrisiscenter.org). The new site provides information about our programs and advocacy services and will help us better serve the community.



Interested in getting involved with The Rape Crisis Center? Our website offers a secure donation button, sponsorship opportunities, and a page for planned giving. Volunteers and interns can get details on our volunteer training program and download the necessary applications.

Current and archived issues of The Crisis Line can be found on the Media page.

24-Hour HOTLINE: 366-1640

[www.therapecrisiscenter.org](http://www.therapecrisiscenter.org)