

# THE CRISIS LINE

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



WINTER 2008/2009 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

## Your SPACE

### Safety Prevention Awareness Curriculum for Everyone

The Rape Crisis Center is celebrating yet another milestone. Our primary prevention program Safety Prevention Awareness Curriculum for Everyone (Your SPACE) has been implemented statewide. To date, we have served over 6,000 youth, educators, and counselors.

What is Your SPACE? It's a program targeting middle and high school students that focuses on healthy relationships. Over the course of five days in the classroom, we cover how to identify healthy teen dating relationships and how to recognize the "red flags" in abusive relationships. We define what it means to be assaulted, and how and where to get help for yourself and your friends. We talk about date rape drugs and touch upon domestic violence and risk reduction for teen dating violence.

About a year ago several agencies throughout the state had indicated an interest that they too would like to implement this curriculum. We created a statewide task force and now through the leadership of The Rape Crisis Center's Director of Outreach and Education Elena Espinoza, Washoe County and Winnemucca are beginning to present Your SPACE curriculum in their classrooms. How do we do this with restricted funding? We provide the training and support and the curriculum is free to providers that receive the training. Each individual agency provides the training within the classroom. The result? Our youth win!



It is so exciting to watch the program grow. Our next hope is to receive funding to create a peer education program, teaching teens to educate each other, and providing support and resources to help prevent teen dating violence.

As you can understand, while we are extremely busy, we take time to celebrate!

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Wendy Richau

**Part -Time Advocates:**  
Jeanne Scaffidi  
Carrie Healy  
April Carr  
Jamie Kordich

24-Hour HOTLINE: 366-1640

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



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



This is the time of year when many of us are making our wish lists along with our New Year's resolutions. I invite you to add the following task to your wish list: help stop the epidemic of sexual violence in our community. We still like to think it happens to other people in other communities, not to us or anyone we know and love.

Sexual violence affects every man, woman and child in Las Vegas. It does not discriminate. It knows no racial, economic, social, or age barriers. Sexual violence exists in all of our neighborhoods and the statistics are staggering. The FBI and the Journal of Traumatic Stress estimate that one in four girls, one in six boys, one in three women, and one in 11 men will be the victim of sexual assault at least once in their lifetime. That's one sexual assault every 90 seconds in the United States. While you are reading this letter someone in our community is being sexually assaulted.

Despite these facts sexual assault remains a silent crime, and the least reported crime, nationally. As a whole, we are afraid to talk about sexual violence. Oftentimes, when I speak of where I work, people begin to whisper, back away, and change the subject. I spend much of my time reassuring the community that I love my work, and that The Rape Crisis Center is doing great things. I try to convey that as a community, we do more harm by not speaking out and educating ourselves and others on the effects of sexual violence. I ask you to help end the silence.

Every time we remain silent we send the message to victims that we doubt the validity of their experiences, allowing them to feel shame and guilt. When we are silent we do not provide victims with the help and support they need to become survivors. When we speak out, we are telling them that we care, we believe, and we want to help. When we educate, we teach our children how to say "no" and how to feel empowered. When we speak out we become a stronger community that faces sexual violence head on.

As I begin thinking of a New Year's resolution for The Rape Crisis Center, I begin thinking, like many organizations, about the budget cuts we are currently facing. We have experienced over \$100,000 in budget cuts this year alone. We are speaking out, asking you to help us. Allow us to provide the support and education needed by our community in order to end sexual violence. Now you may be asking yourself, "What can I do to help end the epidemic of sexual violence in our community?" The answer is simple. We are asking you to send \$10.00 to help us continue our effort to speak out and make Las Vegas a better place to raise your family and mine.



## RECAP 2008

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Nina's Night Out surpassed our wildest expectations to become our best event to date. A big thank you to all the local sponsors and volunteers who made the evening such a success. We could not do it without you and without the unbelievable generosity of Palms Casino Owner George Maloof. Thank you, again, George, for sharing your beautiful property with us.

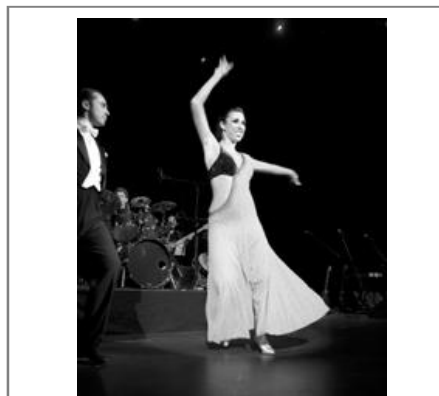
If you weren't able to attend, we hope this will inspire you to join us next year! The event started at Moon nightclub at the top of The Palms Fantasy Tower. Our VIP cocktail party was the place to be seen. We cleared the dance floor so Tony Delgado's dance company could light up the room with an unforgettable performance. But we were just getting started. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails as they bid on a variety of high-end silent auction items. Then the best auctioneer in the business, Christian Kolberg, took to the stage to kick off our live auction. Moments later, our featured artist of the evening, Jessica Simpson, made a special appearance at the event... mingling with guests and addressing the sold-out crowd.

The fun then moved downstairs to The Pearl Concert Theatre in The Palms. Tony Delgado's dancers warmed up the crowd with a spectacular number. Then fresh off her publicity tour to promote her brand new country album, Jessica Simpson took the stage. She wowed the crowd with songs from her country debut... ending with the chart-topper "Come On Over."

This was a night to celebrate the survivors of sexual assault. With your help, we raised more than \$250,000 for The Rape Crisis Center so the center can continue its important work in this community. We hope we can count on your support next year for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Nina's Night Out. We promise a night to remember!



Channel 13 Action News Anchor Nina Radetich and Nina's Night Out featured artist Jessica Simpson.



Tony Delgado's Dance Company light up the room with a spectacular number.



The Rape Crisis Center's Executive Director Louise "Lu" Torres and Nina Radetich

A special thanks to Kerry Christofferson and Stephen Salazar of Bell Photographers for donating their photographic talents for Nina's Night Out!



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

By Hannah Johnston – Director of Development

### Thank You for making The Rape Crisis Center Possible!

Each quarter I'm asked to write an article about fundraising. This quarter, I thought, how will I write an article asking for more funds while people struggle to put food on their table? Instead, I choose to thank you, the person that is taking the time to read our newsletter and support our cause.

All non-profits across Clark County and the rest of the United States are scrambling for money to make up for lower donations and less funding. Whether or not funding is cut, our services will be needed. On behalf of the staff of The Rape Crisis Center we would like to thank you, the donor, for your continued support. As we delve into our pockets further and further to pay for rising food and gas prices, The Rape Crisis Center continues to receive daily donations. The checks may be smaller, but you continue to remember that there are victims that need our assistance, or perhaps *you* remember how an advocate drove 20 minutes to the hospital in the middle of the night to sit with you, or when *you* needed to talk, you know you could dial our number 24-hours a day.

On behalf of the spouse or family member of the victim, thank you for taking the time to look for a stamp or an envelope. And thank you for realizing the importance of educating our youth about healthy relationships, empowerment and self-esteem because our educational programs would be non-existent.

Whether you've donated money, your time, your voice, or even an ear, we want to thank you for supporting The Rape Crisis Center.





## DONOR HIGHLIGHT

### H. Dean White

#### Director of Marketing and Promotions

#### Nina's Night Out Media Partner—The Las Vegas Review-Journal



Dean is a native of the Chicago area and a long suffering Cub fan. He has lived in the Las Vegas valley for 16 years; working for the Review-Journal since 1993.

In addition to handling all marketing functions at the RJ, he is active in a number of nonprofit organizations and serves on several community boards, such as The Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame, Purrfect Friends cat rescue, and the American Marketing Association. He is a member of the Marketing committee for the YMCA and The United Way of Southern Nevada.

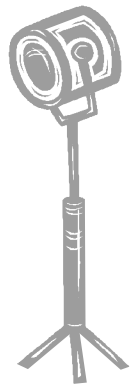
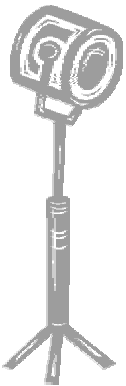
Dean holds a Bachelors degree from Northern Illinois University, an MBA from UNLV, and a certificate in Media Management from Northwestern University.

While Dean is an avid reader and cyclist, he is the self proclaimed - worst golfer on earth.

The Rape Crisis Center would like to thank Dean White and the Las Vegas Review Journal for supporting The Rape Crisis Center and Nina's Night Out with an extensive promotional ad schedule and professional design work. Thanks to Dean and the RJ, we achieved record event awareness in the community for Nina's Night Out.

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month's volunteer in the spotlight is **Joanna Yoder!** Joanna is an intern from UNLV's Counselor Education Department. She has signed herself up to be on-call for hotline and hospital calls around the clock, and she currently holds a larger caseload than any other volunteer at The Rape Crisis Center. She has been a phenomenal advocate in terms of following up with her clients, accompanying clients to court hearings, and researching resources and information to better serve victims of sexual assault. Oftentimes, interns are concerned about completing their 200-hour requirement, but Joanna has no problem going above and beyond the requirements because she truly views her time with the organization as a learning experience. She is more focused on the process as opposed to the final result. Thank you, Joanna, for going above and beyond what is expected of you as a volunteer/intern with The Rape Crisis Center. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.





## MEET THE BOARD AND STAFF ...



**Marcy Humm** has served on the board of directors for The Rape Crisis Center for the past three years, most recently as Vice President and Fundraising Chairman. After years of volunteering at her sons' schools and sporting events as the "room" and "team" mom, Marcy decided to put her skills to work by becoming a board member and selling Nina's Night Out sponsorships for the past three years.

With help from the community, Marcy's ultimate goal for The Rape Crisis Center is to someday raise enough money to build a free-standing center to house staff, counselors, and an in-house Metro desk.

Born in Denver and raised in Las Vegas since the age of seven, Marcy is from a prominent, longtime Las Vegas family; her father Donald "Doc" Romeo and late mother Barbara were both active in the community. She enjoys spending family time with her husband Tom, three adult sons Steve, Joey and Jimmy, and their three dogs.

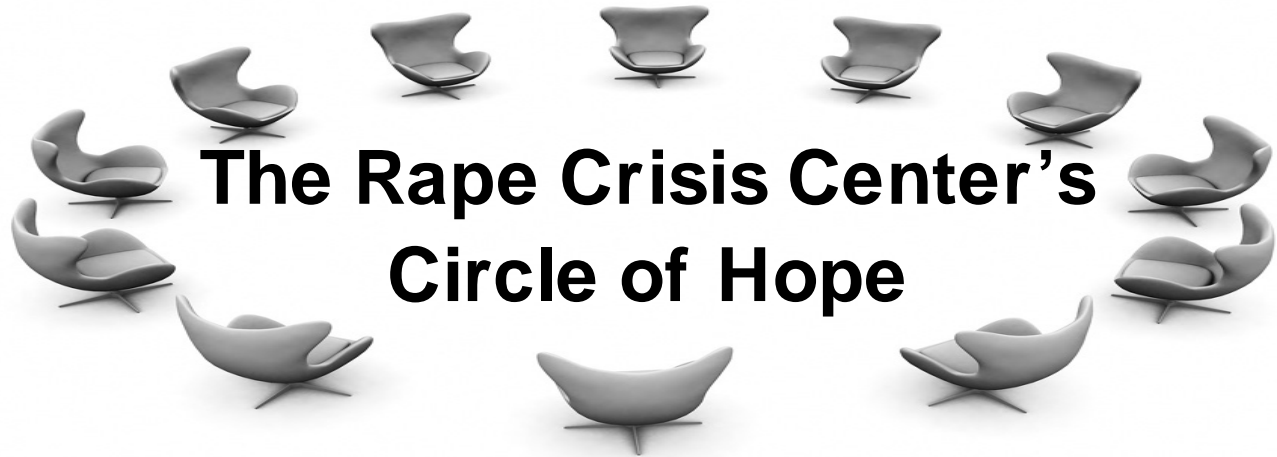
Successful events require endless hours of planning and coordinating behind-the-scenes details. Nina's Night Out 2008 was one of the most successful events in Las Vegas thanks, in great part, to our Development Officer **Hannah Johnston**. At The Rape Crisis Center, Ms. Johnston is responsible for fundraising, event planning and management, sponsorship sales and community partnerships. Her daily schedule changes but her commitment to the center never wavers.

Prior to working at The Rape Crisis Center, Ms. Johnston has worked in sales and marketing for several high profile nonprofits and businesses. She helped open the Springs Preserve, assisted with planning and promotions for Super Bowl XL while working for the Wayne County Airport Authority, and established sponsorship programs for The Detroit Zoological Society. Her strong communication skills have helped raise hundreds of thousands for worthy causes.

Ms. Johnson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from the University of Toledo, in Toledo, Ohio. She has been active in the Las Vegas community for many years; volunteering with PAYBAC, a program with the Clark County School District in which business professionals share their job experiences with students, and serving on the DARE board of directors.

Despite all of her professional successes she is most proud of her two children: Zoe, age 8, and Macauley "Mac", age 5.





## **The Rape Crisis Center's Circle of Hope**

**A No-Cost, Open Support Group for Adults  
(regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation)  
Who Have Been Sexually Victimized**

**Every Thursday 6pm-7:30pm**

FIRST GROUP BEGINS ON JANUARY 8, 2009

**Town Executive Suites inside Summerhill Office Plaza**

**7465 W. Lake Mead, Suite 108**

**Las Vegas, NV 89128**

**(Just east of Buffalo on south side, behind Colonial Bank)**

**Professionally Facilitated by a Licensed Therapist**

**Jane Heenan, MFT**

**(vegascounselor@aol.com, 702-810-4159)**

**For additional information and directions,  
please feel free to call The Rape Crisis Center's**

**24-hour hotline:**

**(702) 366-1640**

**(888) 366-1640**

## The Rape Crisis Center turns 35 years old this year and we're going to celebrate!!!



It's that time of year again when we recognize all of the wonderful supporters of The Rape Crisis Center.

The date has been set for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at The Terrace in Henderson.

If you would like further information on this special event, please contact The Rape Crisis Center's Executive Director at (702) 385-2153.

### 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](mailto:staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org)**