

The Insight

in sight ~ (n) an instance of

apprehending the true nature of a thing, esp. through intuitive understanding

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Unintended, Yet Wonderful, Consequences

by : Melissa Mertz
Community Educator

As one of the two community educators for Hope Crisis Center, I was spending some time researching new materials on the topic of sexual assault in order to prepare for the upcoming school year. My first stop was Amazon.com. This is one of my favorite sites for ordering books and materials. The site is easy to use and, for the most part, reasonably priced. When I entered the topics of "sexual assault" and "date rape" into the search bar, I got shocking results.

Amongst the videos, books, workbooks and other valid materials, T-shirts were also available for purchase. I found this odd. These T-shirts, manufactured by t-shirts.com, were available in a variety of colors, sizes and styles, including women's tank tops. But that isn't odd is it? It was just standard T-shirt information, right? Wrong! These were no ordinary T-shirts. They sent a powerful message. "Anti-Abortion! But Pro-Date-Rape"

I looked at the T-shirt design several times wondering if I was seeing things or reading it wrong. I wasn't. I was appalled. Now, maybe working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault make you a little more sensitive to certain issues, but COME ON! I just didn't understand how something so vile was created, let alone sold on one of my favorite sites. As I investigated the manufacturer, t-shirts.com, a little more, I found that this wasn't the only message that disgusted me to my core. They had T-shirts that read, "She's Fat, I'm Drunk, It's On," "There's No "I" in Tag Team," and "I Love Sluts." The list goes on and on. Is there no limit to what people will say or the level of depravity?

I decided to share my outrage with my co-workers. I used what I found to be an extremely powerful form of media, e-mail. Ah, the power of the written word. I e-mailed the staff of Hope Crisis Center and also shared it with a few staff at other programs in the state and the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. Within 10 minutes, I received e-mails from staff at programs in at least 4 other states. I was amazed. It spread like wildfire. Within a week, the T-shirts were no longer available for sale on Amazon.com.



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Community Education

Believe it or not, it is less than a month until school starts. Yes, less than one month!! Where did the summer go? Upon your return to school, keep an eye on your mail box as our new updated program list will be coming your way! We have changed some programs and have added new ones.

In the Second Quarter of 2008, Hope Crisis Center provided 51 presentations and 3 public awareness activities to audiences totaling 1,844. So be sure to schedule early; our calendars fill up fast. We are looking forward to a great school year and hope we can help you improve the lives of the students you serve. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Second Quarter Donations 2008

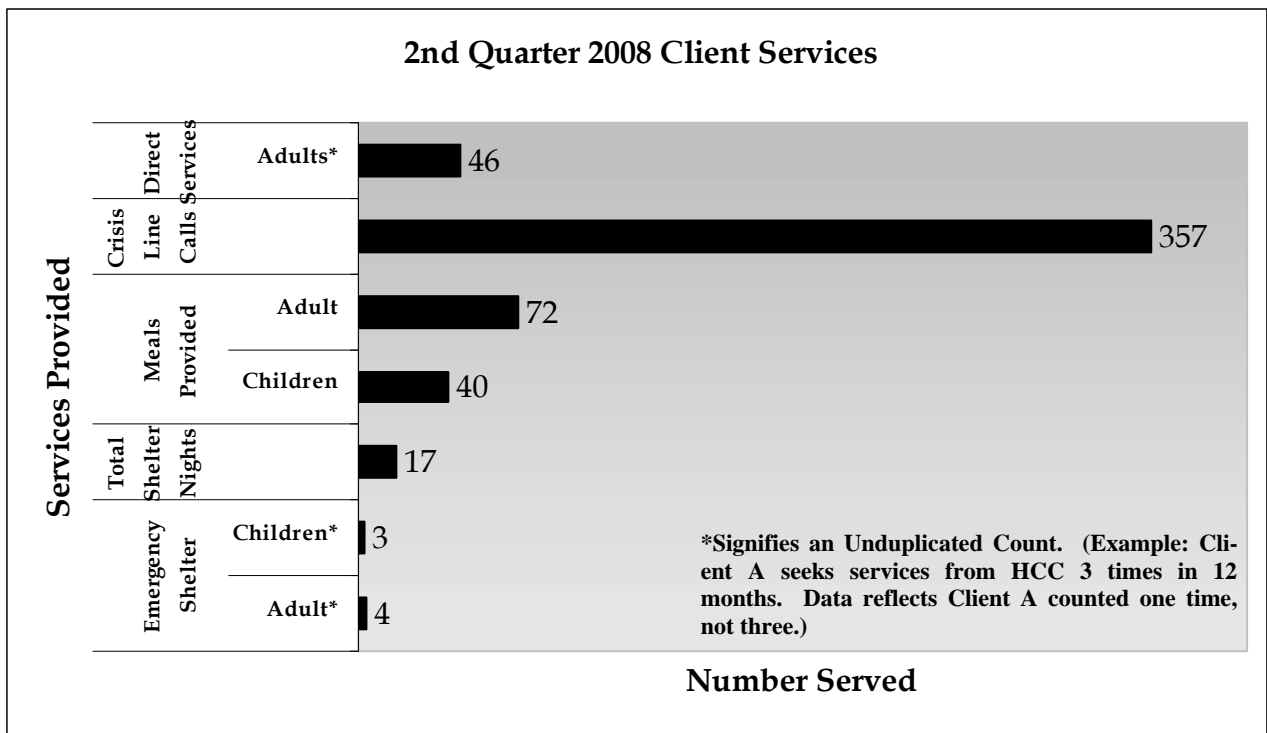
Here is a list of donors for the months of April, May, and June. Thank you to all who donated; your gifts are greatly appreciated.

- American Lutheran Church Women – Adams
- Angie Hamilton – Omaha
- Cheryl Giesbrecht – Seward
- Kirsten VanCleaf – Carleton
- Kiwanis Club – Beatrice
- Kiwanis Club – Fairbury
- Linda Bonow – Fairbury
- Linsey Ziemba – Beatrice
- Mrs. Clarence Zimmer and Volunteers – Friend
- Presbyterian Church – Fairbury
- Dick and Trudy Leonard – Fairbury
- Theodora Boolin – Beatrice
- Tina Kyker – Computer Center - Fairbury
- York Eagles Auxiliary

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to renew our commitment to preventing domestic violence and to assisting those who suffer from its devastating effects. Hope Crisis Center is dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence and working towards eradicating this horrific crime in our communities. As Hope Crisis Center observes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we have several activities planned. Thursday, October 23rd will be designated this year as “Purple Thursday”. Over the years, a number of sources have been credited with originating the use of purple as a unifying symbol of courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending domestic violence. So, make a fashion statement that really says something. Support Domestic Violence Awareness and **gopurple** on Thursday, October 23rd! Additionally, Hope Crisis Center and volunteers will be canvassing the communities seeking donations for yard signs that will read “We Support Victims of Domestic Violence”. We will be asking for your support to display the signs in your front yard during the month of October. Please be aware that we may be knocking on your door. However, if we don’t knock on your door, as we will not have enough person power to knock on all doors within our service area, and you would like to show your support by displaying a yard sign, please contact us at our Administrative Office at 402-729-2570. Working together, we can change attitudes and perceptions about domestic violence. Please look for other activities taking place within your community throughout the month of October.

Client numbers– 2nd Quarter 2008 (April, May, and June)



Looking To Earn CEU's?

Hope Crisis Center is offering Volunteer Training/Education Sessions in October

By: Stacey McLaughlin

Program Manager

Looking for a way to lend a helping hand or just an opportunity to learn more about domestic violence and sexual assault? Hope Crisis Center, your local domestic violence and sexual assault agency, needs you! Beginning Monday, October 6th, Hope Crisis Center will be offering educational classes on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault. Classes will be held for 8 weeks meeting every Monday evening from 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. at the Southeast Community College Campus in Beatrice. There is no tuition fee for this course. The following topics will be covered at designated class times: Overview of Hope Crisis Center Services, Domestic Violence 101, Common Barriers Victims of Domestic Violence Encounter, Domestic Violence and the Effects on Children, Sexual Assault, Child Sexual Assault, Violence in the Media and Skills of Advocacy. Individuals who complete the 16 hours of training and are interested in becoming a volunteer will go through an interview process at the end of the class to determine desired duties and hours of commitment. However, simply going through the training does not obligate you to become a volunteer with our organization.

This class will offer 1.6 CEU's if every class session is attended. This is a great opportunity for nurses, teachers, counselors, daycare providers and many other professions that require CEU's.

A registration form will be included in the Southeast Community College – Continuing Education Tabloid that will circulate in September to all postal customers residing in Gage, Jefferson, Thayer and Saline counties. If you are interested in this opportunity and do not receive the Continuing Education Tabloid or if you have any question, please feel free to contact Stacey at our Administrative Office in Fairbury at 402-729-2570

Domestic violence is a reality that exists in every community across America. One in three women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Domestic violence affects all cultures, religions, ethnic groups and socio-economic sectors.

Come join Hope Crisis Center for this opportunity to gain knowledge of these crimes that may affect you or someone you know at some point in your life. This is a great way to educate yourself on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault and how you can possibly help support your local domestic violence and sexual assault program.

Laura Deterding
Victim Advocate



T-Shirts or Koozies anyone?



Shawn Cole



Risky's setup a Red Bull Tent
 for the event

Rock Against Rape Review

**EVERY 2 MINUTES IN THE UNITED STATES SOMEONE IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED
 1 IN 3 GIRLS AND 1 IN 6 BOYS WILL BE SEXAULLY ASSAULTED BEFORE THEY ARE 18
 OF THE 650,000 WOMEN IN NEBRASKA 84,000 HAVE BEEN RAPED AT LEAST ONCE**

Because of these staggering statistics Hope Crisis Center held our first annual Rock Against Rape. It was held May 30th at Risky's Sports Bar and Grill in Beatrice and it was a success!! We had approximately 400 people attend. The following 8 bands donated their time in support of victims of sexual assault: Whizker Bizket, Escape, Price of Progress, Mother Tung, Mandy VanLaningham, , Shawn Cole, Third World War and 12YC. We would like to extend a special thank you to Terri Todd and Risky's Staff for all of their hard work and support to help make the event a success. We would also like to thank Brian Barnhouse from Wizker Bizkit for organizing all the bands and arranging the music for the event, and to our families, friends, and the community for their help and support. All proceeds from the event will be used to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!



Consequences cont.

By: Melissa Mertz

People all over the United States, who had this information forwarded to them, contacted Amazon regarding their disgust of the T-shirt design.

So many times we convince ourselves we have no say, no control. I must admit I felt there was nothing that could be done to fix this. I love to admit, I was wrong this time! What a wonderful, unintentional, consequence. It served as a great reminder that when we see something and we know it isn't right, something has to be done. Because, not doing anything at all just is not an option.

Client Needs

It is not the sole responsibility of Hope Crisis Center to make the lives of victims safe. It is the responsibility of every community member to make victims' safety a goal. We have to work together to achieve a violence-free community.

In order to help us better serve victims and children of domestic violence and sexual violence, we have included a list of needed items below. Your support and contributions are desperately needed and appreciated more than words can *ever* express.

Hope Crisis Center's Wish List

Monetary donations	Pillows
Phone cards	Blankets
Trash Bags	Diapers/Pull-Ups
Paper plates	Deodorant
Gas cards (Casey's cards)	Kleenex
Shampoo/Conditioner	Toothpaste
Plastic silverware	Wal-Mart gift cards
Toilet tissue	Paper towels
Women's Underwear (NEW)	Sports Bras (NEW)
Women's Socks (NEW)	Flip Flops (All Sizes)
Children's Underwear, Socks (NEW)	

**If you or your organization would like to donate or volunteer,
please contact our Administrative Office at 402-729-2570.**

Hope Crisis Center Newsletter

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425 F Street
Fairbury, NE 68352

Phone: (402) 729-2570

Fax: (402) 729-2572

E-mail: chinman@hopecrisiscenter.org

Hope Crisis Center is a non-profit organization committed to empowering victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as our communities through advocacy, education, and confidential emergency services.

If you would like to receive this publication as an e-version only, please e-mail Trudy at communityed2@hopecrisiscenter.org with your request.



Please Recycle-Share this Newsletter with others!

HOPE CRISIS CENTER

Administrative Office

PO Box 365
Fairbury NE 68352
(402) 729-2570

Beatrice Outreach Office

(402) 223-6635

Crete Outreach Office

(402) 826-5727

York Outreach Office

(402) 362-4724

Toll Free Confidential Crisis Line

1-877-388-HOPE (4673)

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Member

Dennis Byars, Beatrice

Member

*If you would be interested in serving on Hope Crisis Center's Board of Directors, please contact Carmen at the Administrative Office (402) 729-2570.

Staff

Carmen – Executive Director

Stacey – Program Manager

Cari – Victim Advocate, Gage, Jefferson and Thayer Counties

Elvira – Bi-lingual Victim Advocate, Saline County

Laura – Victim Advocate, Fillmore, Seward and York Counties

Melissa – Community Educator

Trudy – Community Educator