

The Insight

in sight ~ (n) an instance of

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

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JULY 2009

Breaking Barriers Conference

By: Stacey McLaughlin

Title: Program Manager

The Breaking Barriers Conference held on May 12th and 13th in Kearney was attended by four Hope Crisis Center staff members. For two days, Hope Crisis Center staff gained additional knowledge on the issues of mental health, substance abuse, trauma and cultural concerns faced by victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We had the opportunity to listen to several dynamic speakers regarding helpful tips and information on how to better assist and serve the many families who seek our assistance. One keynote speaker in particular, Olga Trujillo, shared her moving story about how she grew up in a family where her father was extremely abusive towards her mother. Olga also suffered by the hands of her father from physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse as a very young child. She shared several encounters of abuse from her childhood and also showed a power point of various pictures from her childhood which portrayed a very happy independent girl but the truth behind the photo was a very different memory for Olga. In one photo Olga points out that the bridge of her nose is wider and explained that at this point in her life, as a very young child, her nose had already been broken at least a couple of times. Another photo Olga shared with us was a picture of herself with the biggest smile in the world, but what Olga pointed out was the dark circles under her eyes because she could not sleep at night because of her father beating and yelling at her mother. In another photo Olga explained how everything appeared normal in the picture, but the reality was that at this time in her life her father was prostituting her to several men that her father associated with. Olga's inspirational story helps individuals who work in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault to understand complexities of trauma and how each survivor is going to heal in a different way that they see fit to survive. Olga is now an independent consultant and a national speaker on domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse issues.

Another keynote speaker, Ann Jennings, brought forward her inspiring story about her daughter, Anna, and Anna's life experiences of childhood sexual abuse. Ann's story about Anna educated us about the impact this horrendous crime has on an individual and society. Ann's daughter was sexually assaulted at a very young age and ended up taking her own life at the age of 32. It was very interesting to hear Ann speak about the regression Anna started making around the age of 4. From this point forward things in Anna's life were never normal for her. Anna was in and out of facilities through out her life and never disclosed the sexual abuse until the age of 23. It is amazing to me Anna did not disclose her victimization of sexual abuse until this age when she had been seen by numerous mental health professionals for several years. It makes me wonder if Anna would have had the opportunity to talk about the sexual abuse at a younger age, would she have had another outcome in her life. It is so sad that a girl so young and innocent endured a life full of tragedy and trauma after the age of 3 when the sexual abuse began. Anna felt so trapped in her body and that the only way out was to kill herself. Hearing Anna's story, presented by her mother, really made the audience realize how much of an impact we can possibly have on a family or victim that comes in contact with us whether that be as an advocate, mental health, medical or other human service role. This was an outstanding two day conference hosted by the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition and the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, Continuing Nursing Education.

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Students from Concordia University in Seward were asked to pin a ribbon on the "Wreath of Hope" in honor of victims of sexual assault during a Sexual Assault Awareness Month activity in April. Several students pinned ribbons on in honor of a classmate or friend that had been sexually assaulted or for themselves. We would like to thank Concordia University for bringing this awareness activity to their campus.

Second Quarter Donations 2009

The key to success for any agency is the support of the community. Support from community members takes on many forms. One form that is vital to the continued success of Hope Crisis Center in serving victims of domestic violence /sexual assault is financial. 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. We apologize if we inadvertently missed listing you as a contributor.

- Security First Bank - Beatrice, NE**
- Bruce Rice and David Salonia – Seminole, FL**
- Andy Rhine – Haddam, KS**
- Faith Lutheran Church Women – Fairbury, NE**
- Sylvia Cross – Fairbury, NE**
- Presbyterian Church – Alexandria, NE**
- Dorchester United Methodist – Dorchester, NE**
- Orva Hartley – Hebron, NE**
- Steel City Presbyterian Church – Steel City, NE**
- Annette Wise 4H Group – Fairbury, NE**
- Betty Willey- Beatrice, NE**
- Brandy, Keagan, Kaden Brodersen-Kearney, NE**

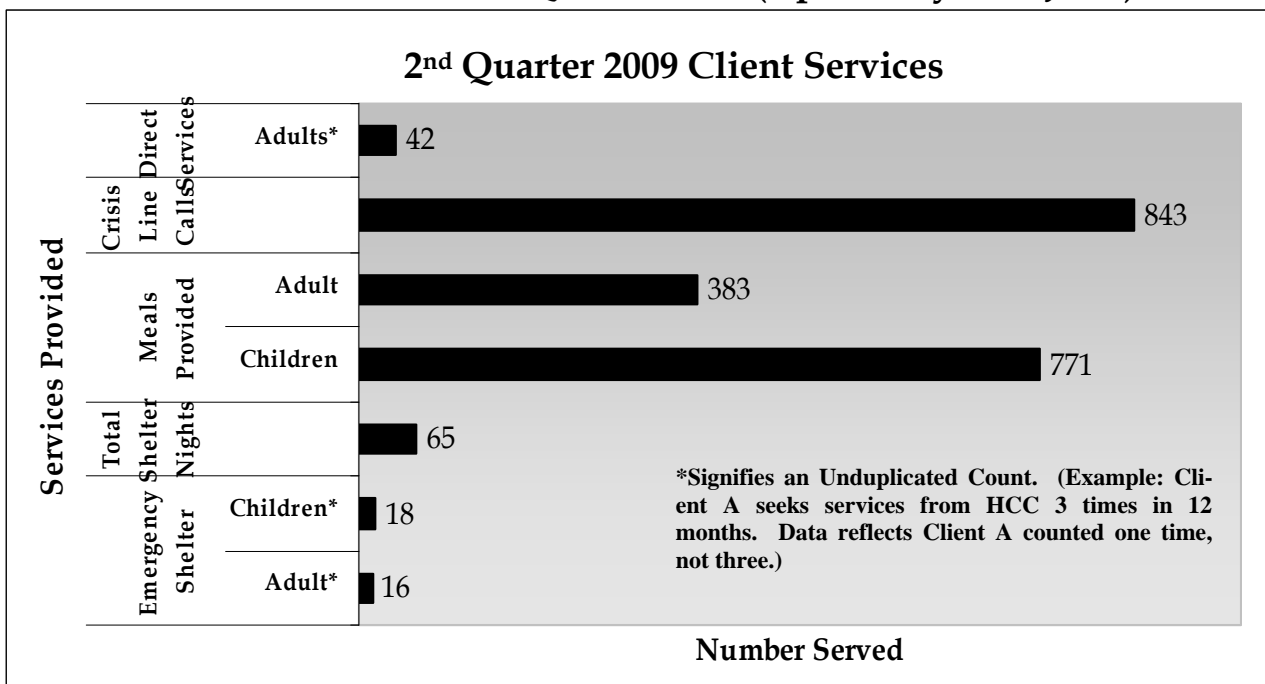
Thank you to all who gave donations!

Beatrice 8th Grade Art Work



What does a healthy relationship look like to you? As an awareness event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month the 8th grade Art class at Beatrice Middle School were asked by Cari Emerson, Gage County Victim Advocate, and Trudy Spicer, Community Educator, to illustrate through a drawing their interpretation of what a healthy relationship looks like through their eyes. Kristie Hollman, Art Instructor, did a great job guiding the students with basic examples to give them a jump start on ideas for this project. Over 30 pieces of outstanding artwork were completed by the 8th grade students. Hope Crisis Staff along with Hope Crisis Center’s Board of Directors judged the artwork and chose the top 3 entries to receive prizes. Above, 1st place honors went to Cali Shelburne, 2nd place to Rebecca Behrends, and 3rd place went to Chase Buettner.
Congratulations!

Client numbers – 2nd Quarter 2009 (April, May, and June)



5th Annual Put Your Foot Down Against Sexual Assault

By: Tami Redfield

Title: Victim Advocate

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month and on Saturday, April 25th 2009 we held our 5th Annual "Put Your Foot Down Against Sexual Assault" run/walk event at the city park in Fairbury. Men, women, boys, and girls of all ages took the opportunity to participate in the event. The 10k run or 2 mile run/walk began with a prayer from Hope Crisis Center board member Sylvia Cross. Hope Crisis Center Executive Director, Carmen Hinman, shared the fact that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetime and that every 2 ½ minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. Bright teal balloons were released in honor of the many victims and survivors of sexual assault. One staff member reported that passer bys admired community members for supporting such a worthy cause and thanked Hope Crisis Center for helping victims and creating awareness about sexual assault. This year's winner of our 10k run was Andy Rhine from Haddam, KS, Jim Criner from Fairbury came in 2nd, and 3rd place was Lindsay Fritz from Wilber. The 2 mile run was won by Damian Otto from Beatrice and cousin Cayman DeBoer from Fairbury came in second. Hope Crisis Center would like to thank all who participated and all who donated items to be given away at our event. It wouldn't have been a success without you. Mark your calendars for next year, Saturday, April 24th.

Hope Crisis Center thanks all of the participants and hopes to see you all next year!!



Thank You!!!

To all the following businesses THANK YOU for your donation to our Run/Walk Event.

Pla-More Lanes-Fairbury
Fairbury Journal News
U-Needa's Hair Salon-Fairbury
Runza-Fairbury
Pottery Art Gallery-Fairbury
Lily's-Fairbury
Subway-Fairbury & Beatrice
Risky's-Beatrice
Pizza Hut-Fairbury
Casey's-Fairbury
Radio Shack-Fairbury

Union Bank-Fairbury
YMCA-Beatrice
Farmland-Crete
Rowdy's-Fairbury
Eakes-Beatrice
Maurices-Beatrice
Cutting Edge-Beatrice
Curves-Beatrice
Wal-Mart-Beatrice
Maatches-Fairbury

M&D Auto-Fairbury
Food Mart-Crete
Pepsi-Lincoln
Shear Impressions-Fairbury
Burkley Wellness Center-Fairbury
Alco-Beatrice
Starlight-Beatrice
Endicott Clay
Apple Studios-Beatrice
Tropical Tan-Beatrice

Magical Memories Photography-Fairbury

Legacy Images Photography-Hebron

“ROCK AGAINST RAPE’ STOP THE VIOLENCE



Trudy S. and Denny Morgan sell merchandise



Prize packages on display



Risky's staff sold 504 guitars for \$1 ea.

Hope Crisis Center and Risky's present The 2nd Annual “Rock Against Rape” Stop the Violence



T-Shirt



Hope Crisis Center Staff



“The Bands”



Carmen welcomes Board Member Sylvia Cross and husband Gail.



Trudy along with Scott Wolbert and Jeff Lytle from Escape Band and Brian Barnhouse with Whizker Biszket.



Risky's Staff Lindsey and Mackenzie did a great job of keeping up with the crowd.



Staff members Tami, Carmen, Elvira, and Stacey get ready for the big event.

“Rock Against Rape” Stop the Violence: 2nd Annual Review

By: Cari Emerson

Title: Victim Advocate

Hope Crisis Center held their 2nd annual “Rock Against Rape” Stop the Violence on Friday, May 29, 2009 at Risky's Sports Bar and Grill in Beatrice, NE. Approximately 250 people attended the event. The following bands donated their time and support: Shawn Cole, Joker Band, Jack't, Whizker Bizkit, Mother Tung, The Noize and Escape. This year's event would not have been possible without the help and support of Risky's Manager, Terri Todd, and Risky's staff, Brian Barnhouse for organizing all of the bands, Harms Farms Trucking, Inc. for supplying the flatbed, family, friends and the community. Proceeds from the event will go directly to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We look forward to seeing you next year!!!

Hope for Immigrant Women Victims of Crime

By: Elvira Basques

Title: *Bilingual Victim Advocate*

For immigrant women, domestic violence is a complex issue. The problems and difficult choices that all battered women face become even more complicated for battered immigrant women. When battered immigrants turn to the justice, health and social service systems for help, they often encounter even more barriers that go beyond those experienced by women of domestic violence who are not immigrants. Immigrant victims need access to attorneys and advocates who both are knowledgeable about immigration law, the process of obtaining legal immigration status and public benefits for battered immigrants. Fortunately, there is help available for immigrant victims. The Department of Homeland Security (Immigration) created three different visas to help victims of domestic violence sexual assault and trafficking.

U-Visa: The U visa is designed for noncitizen crime victims who (1) have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse from criminal activity; (2) have information regarding the criminal activity; (3) assist government officials in the investigation or prosecution of such criminal activity; and (4) the criminal activity violated US law or occurred in the United States (including Indian country and military installations). The abuser does not need to be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, nor does a victim have to be married to the abuser to be eligible for a U visa.

VAWA (The Violence against Women Act): This type of Visa allows battered immigrants to petition for legal status in the United States without relying on their abusive spouse who may be a legal U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident, or their parents or children who may also be legal permanent residents. For many immigrant victims of domestic violence, the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family member who could sponsor their application will threaten to withhold legal immigration sponsorship as a tool of abuse. The purpose of the VAWA program is to allow victims the opportunity to “self-petition” or independently seek legal immigration status in the U.S. Once a Petition (VAWA self-petition) is approved, the immigrant victim may file for adjustment of status application (after 3 or more years continuously present in the USA holding this legal status) to become a lawful permanent resident (green card holder).

T-Visa: This status is available to aliens who are victims of a severe form of trafficking and who are assisting law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the acts of trafficking. The purpose of this type of visa is to provide temporary immigration benefits to aliens who are victims of severe forms of trafficking, and their immediate family members, as appropriate. Victims of severe forms of trafficking may apply for a T visa by submitting a complete application package to Immigration. Sometimes victims of trafficking also are victims of sexual abuse and violence. After approval the immigrant victim may file for adjustment of status (after 3 or more years continuously present in the USA holding this legal status) to become a lawful permanent resident (green card holder).

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 & Children’s Underwear (NEW)	Sports Bras (NEW)
Women’s & Children’s Socks (NEW)	Flip Flops (All Sizes)

**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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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!



Administrative Office

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

Beatrice Outreach Office

(402) 223-6635

Crete Outreach Office

(402) 826-5727

Toll Free Confidential Crisis Line

1-877-388-HOPE (4673)

Board of Directors

Heather Lambert, Crete
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Treasurer

Sylvia Cross, Fairbury
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Member

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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

Trudy – Community Educator

Tami – Victim Advocate, York, Seward, and Fillmore Counties