

January 2014

Important Dates

- * 11th: Amber's Birthday
- * 11th: Autumn's Birthday
- * 13th: MLK Day of Service (BGSU)
- * 19th: R & R 1pm-2pm
- * 19th: R & R 3pm-4pm
- * 23rd: R & R 7pm-8pm
- * 27th: Spring Training Begins

Each year on Martin Luther King Day, BGSU has the MLK Day of Service Challenge. BGSU feels that it should be "a day on, not a day off." Students that participate in this event dedicate a total of 4,000 service hours to many different agencies throughout Northwest Ohio. The SAAFE Center is one of many community organizations joining with the BGSU Service Learning Office and hosting a group of students on the MLK Day of Service. This will be held Mon. Jan. 13 and the students helping SAAFE will be inventorying the 700+ t-shirts in the Wood County Clothesline Project.

SAAFE Center News



www.victimsservices.org
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Guest Columnist: Cate

Over the past few years, I have done crisis and therapy work in a number of different settings. I have listened to teenagers describe their experiences with running away from home, connected them with shelters, reunited them with their families, and even talked a few away from self-harm. I have spent some time in a therapy room, talking with clients about their mental health needs and hearing about the challenges of their daily experiences. And, of course, I have served as an advocate for survivors of sexual assault, talking them through the medical and legal processes, hearing their stories, and working to provide a sense of empowerment. While each of these experiences has been unique in its own way, they have all provided me with valuable experiences from which I have been able to learn and grow, and many of the skills that I have accumulated can be transferred across settings. In fact, some components of advocacy, crisis intervention, and providing therapy are remarkably consistent, particularly those related to basic listening and intervention skills.

One such skill that I have found to be of the utmost importance across settings is that of providing emotional support to clients. In my experience, providing clients with an emotionally-laced supportive statement can be a powerful, powerful thing. Such statements have the ability to transport a surface-level conversation down to something deeper, and entirely more compelling. There is beauty, and there is power in such a thing because it completely disregards the norms surrounding our understanding of what a conversation should look and sound like within our society. We are taught that the expression of emotion, specifically negative emotion, is something that we should keep hidden, something that we should keep to ourselves and hide away behind closed doors, something that should be kept in the dark. By serving as advocates and by encouraging our clients to express what they are feeling, by paying witness to their emotions, both the positive and the negative, and by reinforcing this expression by offering our support for it, we are engaging in something entirely radical and revolutionary. While it may not include the flag-waving and the protesting and the speech-giving typically associated with such ideas, I believe it is just as powerful. It is powerful because it proposes that the expression of emotion and the expression of feeling—forms of communication typically associated with the female gender role—are just as valid as other means of interaction. When we provide our clients with an emotionally supportive statement and hold a conversation where emotions are valued just as much as fact, our words take on a force that is strong enough to put a crack in the androcentric barriers that marginalize women and other underprivileged groups in our society. While there is no denying that one small crack in the wall will not break it down entirely, a wall full of cracks and crevices takes only one small push to knock down.

December Advocate of the Month: Kimber

I'm very pleased to honor Kimber with December's Advocate of the Month award. She was a trainee in the spring of 2013 and has shown her dedication to the SAAFE Center in a number of ways since that time. Kimber has been one of the advocates to staff the On-Campus Office this fall semester (a weekly commitment); she was a sub for the fall Core Groups and helped a trainee complete her Checklist; she received her first on-going client assignment and established a meaningful relationship, empowering the client to choose options best suited for his needs; she took 3 Dec. on-call shifts on the Fri. and Sat. of finals week (a very difficult time to get student-advocates to take shifts!); she was the newsletter's guest columnist last month, sharing some heartfelt and personal perspectives on the work of an advocate; and according to Lauren, "she always 10 minutes early to R&R Gatherings"! Kimber's commitment to the SAAFE Center and her hard work as an advocate comes through in many ways and it is easy to see why she is being awarded Dec. Advocate of the Month. Congratulations, Kimber!

The "Humpraiser" during The Hump Day Revue would not have gone as smoothly without the help of many individuals, bands, and businesses and organizations throughout the community. We would like to thank **Nicole** and **Eric** from The Stone's Throw for welcoming us and allowing us to approach their patrons and hand out the 20% off coupon. A huge thank you to the MC of the evening, **Tim Concanon**, for organizing the line-up and reaching out to us to put the fundraiser on. This fundraiser would not have happened without Nicole, Eric, and Tim. We would also like to thank the business and organizations that donated prizes to our raffle and the bands that played during The Hump Day Revue and showed their support for the SAAFE Center.

Businesses and Organizations

Adam Vaughn	Asherah's Garden
Gallery Salon and Spa	Hannah Brown
Morgan Daniel	Bliss Studio Salon
BGSU Bookstore	Pizza Hut
Taste of Amish Deli	Qdoba
The Stone's Throw	

Bands

Acoustic Penguin	Timmy C and the Chewies
The Gormans	Matt n Jerry's Ice Cream
Russell Martin	Hannah S
Tony Papa	Mollie Weinberg
Sarah Smith	Justin Payne
Maddox	Bruce
Kitty Glitter	

Thank you Advocates!

The SAAFE Center would like to thank Kimber, Ellen, Rob, Patricia, and Jessie for coming to Stone's Throw and volunteering their services throughout the night. We would also like to thank all of the advocates that donated raffle prizes: Amber, Ashley, Autumn, Bethany, Cate, Karrie, Kimber, Lauren, Alexis, Chelsey Lynn, Tiff, Brittany, Ellen, Rob, Laura, Patricia, Gary, and Abby. We appreciate your help, donations, and all that you do for the SAAFE Center.

The SAAFE Center made **\$271** from our raffle at our Humpraiser during the Hump Day Revue at The Stone's Throw: Tavern and Grill. We also received 20% of the proceeds from food that night and we made **\$303**. That brings us to a total profit of **\$574!** Thank you to all that came out and supported the SAAFE Center, we greatly appreciate it!

The Women in Comedy fundraiser, hosted by Theta Alpha Phi, was held on December 8. Though we are not sure yet how much was raised, the money will go to the Victims Emergency Fund. Thank you Women in Comedy, Theta Alpha Phi, the males who ran the bake sale, and everyone who attended the event to support our organization.

Spring Training Class

The SAAFE Center spring semester volunteer victim advocate training will be held:

Mon. evenings from 6:00-8:30 pm for Core Groups (role-plays with experienced SAAFE advocates) from Jan. 27 to Mar. 31.

Thurs. evenings will be the training classes from 6:00-8:30 pm beginning Feb. 6 and ending Mar. 20.

ALL Core Groups and training classes are MANDATORY attendance.

There will be NO sessions on Mar. 10 or 13 due to BGSU spring break.

Request applications by sending an email to

victims@bc.wcnet.org or via the website at www.victimsservices.org

Applications are due Fri. Jan. 17 by 5 pm. An interview will be conducted prior to admittance into training.

The SAAFE Center provides drop in hours on campus. These are hours when an advocate is available to talk to victims face-to-face. The hours for the On-Campus Office will be changing in the Spring according to the availability of advocates. Our On-Campus Office is located in the Psychology Building (Rm. 355). The hours for the Spring semester will be posted on our Facebook page (facebook.com/TheSaafeCenter) as soon as possible. There will be an advocate available in the Women's Center (Hanna Hall Rm. 107) on Wednesday from 4pm-5pm.