

SEPTEMBER 2014  
NEWSLETTER

# The SAAFE Center Newsletter

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Sept. 4th:**  
Campus Fest
- **Sept. 9th:**  
Volunteer Fair  
McDonald's Fund Raiser
- **Sept. 15th:**  
First Day of Fall  
Training Classes
- **Sept. 20th:**  
Rob's Birthday
- **Sept. 24th:**  
7-8pm R&R
- **Sept. 28th:**  
1-2pm R&R  
3-4pm R&R
- **Oct. 19th:**  
First Sistas' of Nia  
Meeting

## Fall Training

Fall Volunteer Advocate Training will begin Sept. 15th this year. Prospective advocates-in-training can find an application [here](#) and submit it to

[victims@bc.wcnet.org](mailto:victims@bc.wcnet.org)

A SAAFE  
ADVOCATE IS  
ALWAYS  
AVAILABLE  
24/7 BY  
CONTACTING  
THE LINK AT  
(419) 352-1545.

## Rape on the Reservation

Rape on the Reservation was originally aired as a part of a TV series of documentaries called Vanguard. The series focused on a variety of international, environmental, drug-related, financial, and social issues from around the globe. In Rape on the Reservation, in particular, the show focused on the epidemic of sexual assault that occurs on Native American reservations within the U.S. The episode mostly focuses on two women from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota to illustrate the larger issues that women face on reservations across the U.S. First they introduce us to a woman whose teenage daughter was raped and murdered at a party, and then a woman who was raped by a friend's uncle.

Both cases are heartbreaking on their own but the details surrounding the cases that arise throughout the documentary, all share a disturbing image of the surrounding culture. The host of that episode interviews some of the classmates of the teenage girl who was murdered and they guess that a sexual assault happens every weekend at parties. A police officer who is part of the severely understaffed tribal police estimates that he answers a call about a sexual assault case every time he goes on call, and those calls most likely do not make up a majority of the sexual assault cases that are occurring. One thing discussed by the woman who was raped by her friend's uncle was how the greater culture of the area silences victims. Even if the perpetrator is caught, quite often that perpetrator's family and friends may retaliate, and the victim usually cannot rely on their own family for help because they (the victims) often are not believed.

Women of color are already a group of people at high risk for sexual assault, but in the case of Native American women, that risk also comes with the slow death of their culture. The people of the Rosebud Reservation come from the Lakota and in the documentary it is expressly said that when Lakota people lived within Lakota culture, if a woman was raped she would be believed and action would be taken. Instead an invasive culture prevails in which rape thrives and women of color suffer for not being pale and European enough to be valued by that conquering rape culture.

Here I only share a couple of the many details and accounts given about the greater problem of sexual assault on a reservation. Rape on the Reservation is both a much larger and more detailed picture and is free to watch on YouTube. For anyone with the desire to be further informed on and moved to action by the topic, I would highly recommend it. This show is required viewing for all the staff at the SAAFE Center and will be a focus of discussion at an upcoming group supervision meeting.

—Jessie

## Advocate of the Month: Ellen, Brittany, and Rob

The Aug. Advocate of the Month award is being shared by three very worthy volunteers: our Senior Advocates who gained that status by reaching the milestone of having volunteered with SAAFE for 2 years. Brittany, Ellen and Rob all attended the Summer of 2012 training session and became advocates in Aug. of that year. A prerequisite to being accepted into training is the commitment to volunteer for at least a year. So when someone volunteers for a whole year past that time, it is a celebration! The Senior Advocates are skilled in working with clients and in helping to train new volunteers and their expertise and knowledge are valued and appreciated. To Rob, Ellen and Brittany, we thank you for all you have given over the past 2 years and we hope to have you with us for months (if not years!) to come. Thank you and Congratulations on this award!

—Julie

## ON CAMPUS OFFICE

Our On-Campus Office is located in 355 BGSU Psychology Building. It is always open with free written materials. During the school year it has staffed office hours where anyone wanting to speak with an advocate can stop by

### Staffed Hours:

Monday 1:30pm - 2:20pm  
Tuesday 10:00am - 11:00am  
Wednesday 1pm - 2pm  
Thursday 3pm - 4pm  
Friday 1:30p-2:20p

## MCDONALD'S FUND RAISER

Come join us on Sept. 9th at the McDonald's at 1470 E. Wooster St for a benefit night from 4-7pm. A percentage of all the sales made in that time will go towards the SAAFE Center's victims emergency fund.

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## Sistas' of Nia

We are sistas' with a purpose and destined for greatness! On a continual journey of healing and empowering each other.

**Sistas' of Nia** is a support group for African American adult women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This group is organized by the SAAFE Center and will meet once a week in the BGSU Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall, for four weeks, on Sundays from 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm on Oct. 19 & 26 and Nov. 2 & 9. The group is closed meaning that people can only join the first week. This group is available to community members and students. African American women are less likely than any race of women to report rape or sexual abuse and being a survivor of sexual abuse living in silence is a huge burden to carry. The group is to bring awareness in the African American community of women to let them know that there is healing and they are not alone.

Nia (NEE-ah) : Purpose To restore African American people to their traditional greatness. To be responsible to Those Who Came Before (our ancestors) and to Those Who Will Follow (our descendants).

For any questions and to sign up to attend, call 419-352-1545 (The Link) and ask for Taneisha.

## E. Wooster Street Protest Update

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Move-In Day Protest Aug. 22 to join the SAAFE Center in support of the new incoming freshmen. The response from students and other community members was incredibly positive and with all the wonderful people who teamed up at the protest we were all able to help the new members of our community start their year off on a welcoming note. Many thanks to Lauren for coordinating all of the efforts for the day. It was a successful undertaking!

## Rise: Taking a Stand for Change Presentation

On Aug.28, staff Dan, Heather, and Jessie gave presentations on campus—Dan gave a Prevention workshop with the masculine identified individuals while Heather and Jessie gave a Bystander Intervention workshop with the feminine identified participants. Both presentations produced great discussion and personal insight for the attendees. If you or your group would like such a presentation, please email [victims@bc.wcnet.org](mailto:victims@bc.wcnet.org). All presentations are free.

## Becoming an Advocate

Starting Sept.15 we will begin our Fall training session at the SAAFE Center for prospective future volunteer advocates. Training runs from Sept. 15 - Nov. 17, 2014 from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm every Monday and Thursday. These roughly forty hours of training are split between classes and core groups where trainees will practice the skills and knowledge they have learned with role-play situations. When they have completed that training and passed the three final tests, they will officially be full-fledged volunteer advocates. Then as volunteer advocates they will be responsible for covering three on-call shifts a month and working with victims to provide them with things like emotional support in person and over the phone, referrals to other services they may want or need, and knowledge about legal processes.

Becoming and being an advocate is a large commitment but also incredibly rewarding. The training provides you with invaluable knowledge and skills, it looks great on a resume and has helped many advocates find employment, and nothing compares to the emotional rewards of having the opportunity to help someone who truly needs your help. If you are interested in becoming an advocate, you can download the cover sheet and application on our [website](http://www.bc.wcnet.org), fill out the application, and email it in to [victims@bc.wcnet.org](mailto:victims@bc.wcnet.org) by 5:00 pm on Mon. Sept. 8th.