

THE SAAFE CENTER NEWSLETTER

January 2015
Newsletter

www.victimsservices.org
myvoicemyturn.weebly.com

Twitter: @SAAFECenter
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IMPORTANT DATES:

1st: New Years Day
- SAAFE Office is
Closed

12th: Beginning of
Spring Semester

18th: R&R
- 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm

22nd: R&R
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm

ON CAMPUS OFFICE

Our on-campus office is always open with free informational materials regarding sexual assault, prevention, and sex trafficking. The SAAFE on campus office is located in room 355 in the Psychology Building. During each school year it has staffed hours for anyone who is waiting to speak with an advocate can stop by.

SPRING SEMESTER HOURS

To be Announced

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH: MY JOURNEY WITH INDIA'S ARUNA PROJECT

In 2010 and 2011, I traveled to Mumbai, India to volunteer with Oasis India's Aruna Project in Mumbai's Red Light Area. My eyes were opened, my heart was broken, and my soul was forever changed.

India is beautiful. The Red Light Area is not. Imagine walking down a trash-covered and overcrowded street. Tall, dirt-caked, once-colorful buildings hide the skyline on either side. On your left, the buildings have narrow, tapestry-covered doorways every few feet. In front of almost every doorway stands a woman in bright yet worn clothing. They are all waiting for the next customers. On your right, men stand staring, waiting. Day after day, this is the scene in the Red Light Area.

The Aruna Project softened my heart and helped cultivate my desire to become an advocate. The Hindi word Aruna means "bright morning sun," which is exactly what the Aruna Project team brings to Mumbai's Red Light Area. Aruna staff and volunteers visit the brothels, slowly learning about the needs of the women and inviting them to their small center in the heart of the red light area. They are taught language and labor skills, and are provided free counsel and medical treatment to prepare them to leave the sex trade.

Since I was a short term volunteer during both visits, my volunteer time was spent helping teach trades and provide art and craft projects during leisure time. One of my favorite days was spent with about 9 women, ages 14-49, creating art all afternoon. One woman that I spent time with that day gave me her paintings before she left for "work," and asked me to pray for her whenever I see them. I was humbled, and of course, I told her I would pray. On my visits, we toured the brothels, and met victims, madams, and pimps. These experiences have forever burdened my heart.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is estimated that each year at least 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold into human trafficking, and 60% of those people are trafficked for sexual exploitation. 2 million children are sold for sexual exploitation yearly. Sex trafficking is a human rights violation, and it must be stopped. Please take a moment to consider how you can help.

My experience with Aruna is one of the reasons I decided to become a SAAFE Center Volunteer Advocate. The SAAFE Center's dedication to providing free and thorough services to victims of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and sex trafficking is an incredibly valuable part of our community. Human trafficking does not just happen in far away places like India. In fact, greater Toledo is one of the USA's largest hubs for sex trafficking of young adults. Let us all take time this month to consider what we can do to educate ourselves and raise awareness about this grave reality.

-Katie

BOOK SPOTLIGHT:

Male On Male Rape: The Hidden Toll of Stigma and Shame

By Michael Scarce

Michael Scarce was a victim of male on male rape while he was attending school at Ohio State University. During the aftermath of being raped, Scarce searched for resources to learn more about rape and sexual violence perpetrated against men. What he found during his research was a lack of research and representation of male rape victims in discussions concerning sexual violence. Male rape has commonly been viewed as a gay male issue that is tied to sexual desire or lust, and has largely been ignored due to homophobia. In response to these stereotypes, Michael Scarce wrote Male On Male Rape to address the stigma concerning male rape and its impact on its victims.

If you are interested in borrowing "Male On Male Rape," or a different book from our library, please call 419-352-1545 and ask for the on-call SAAFE advocate. The on call advocate will make arrangements to meet with you and lend you the book.

-Heather

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR NEW ADVOCATES!

Our fall training class participants worked hard over nine weeks to become SAAFE advocates. During this time our trainees participated in over 40 hours of training with included training classes and core group role plays on sexual assault, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, and more to prepare them for their new role of being an advocate. After completing training, the trainees successfully completed a scrupulous exam process that included completing the checklist, written, and oral examinations.

In addition to the Trainees who became Advocates in Nov., we would like to recognize and congratulate the following trainees on becoming advocates during the month of December:

Maren, who passed her oral examination on December 1st.

&

Kim, who passed her oral examination on December 2nd.

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

SPRING ADVOCACY TRAINING

While there will be no advocacy training during the spring semester, the training of SAAFE advocates will return in the summer.

-Email-

victims@bc.wcnet.org
or stop by the On-Campus office, Room 355 in the Psychology Building, BGSU for an application.

Look for updates in future newsletters as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages.

-WOMEN IN COMEDY- THE SAAFE CENTER THANKS YOU!

On November 23rd, Bowling Green State University hosted the all-female improv comedy group, Lady Parts, who continued to support the tradition of partnering with the SAAFE Center by hosting their third annual Women in Comedy Show to benefit the SAAFE Center's Victims' Emergency Fund.

The Women in Comedy show has raised \$570 for the victims emergency fund! The victims' emergency fund directly supports and helps victims with emergency needs such as transportation, food, or other basic necessities that arise while recovering from sexual assault.

We are very grateful to Lady Parts and Women in Comedy for the continued support, we look forward to the continued partnership in the future!

DECEMBER ADVOCATE OF THE MONTH: HEATHER

We are very pleased to honor Heather as Advocate of the Month for Dec. Heather is a full-time BGSU student and "home" is out-of-county—yet she seemed to make her Winter Break plans around the needs of the SAAFE Center on-call schedule! Heather did get home for Christmas, but she was back the following week and took 3 shifts, including the ever-so-difficult-to-get-covered New Year's Eve, of which we were very grateful. Heather became a victim advocate in July 2014 and over the past several months, she has been very eager to gain as much on-going client experience as possible. She has been assigned 8 client cases, several of which had multiple issues surrounding them. Heather makes herself readily available to her clients and has established a fine working relationship with them. Heather has that enthusiasm for the SAAFE Center that we wish we could bottle! When the question is asked, "who can...?" (insert any number of requests), one of the first voices is Heather's saying, "I will." It is a great pleasure to have her as an advocate. Congratulations on being named Advocate of the Month, Heather.

-Julie