Spring 2010

Advocates
WORKING TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Please visit our website for more information on sexual assault.
www.advocates-oz.org

Statistics Represent People

Statistics seem to be somewhat foreign to the caring, sheltering, supporting, empowering mission of Advocates, but each of the numbers we report to you yearly really does tell a story. Sometimes the numbers are difficult to understand and they tend to take the "people perspective" out of the story. Here is an explanation of some of those statistics and how they relate back to the people and services Advocates offers to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Nights of Shelter - one of those numbers that you might look at and wonder what that is exactly. Nights of Shelter is calculated by the number of individuals in the shelter each night. For example, 10 people in shelter for 8 nights would be 80 Nights of Shelter. In 2009 the Nights of Shelter provided by Advocates was 2,601. Divide that by the number of days in a year and our average number in shelter in 2009 was 7. An average, of course, is not the way it works. There are a few nights in the year when the shelter may actually be empty, while there are others with all 16 beds full plus another person sleeping on the sofa. ***But Nights of Shelter is really just the beginning.***

Of course there are also the things that need to be available that go along with daily living; personal care items, clothing, food, bedding, transportation, etc. These are the core needs that must be met before families can begin to work on creating their new lives.

Advocacy - helping people get linked to the services they need to start again in a safe environment is another role Advocates takes on. The advocacy may be for housing, legal advice, medical care, special needs schooling for their children, child care, and time off from work to attend court hearings, or look for an apartment. Advocacy takes place for all victims whether in shelter or not. For example, last year Advocates worked with an average of 22 individuals a month in addition to those who were in shelter. All of Advocates services are available to all, regardless of whether or not they choose to come into shelter.

Advocates provides counseling, both one-on-one and group. In 2009 counseling hours totaled 5,433 for adults and 654 for children. The counseling numbers have continued to grow each year. With the current economy, many have chosen not to leave their homes for fear of not being able to find a job and support themselves. Counseling these individuals on how to keep themselves as safe as possible has become a large part of our work.

Other services Advocates provides include a complete **Children's Program** including counseling and group for children and teens (1,962 hours of Children's group). Assistance with **Transitional Housing**, (4 families were in the program during 2009), helps families afford rent for up to a year while they get on their feet. We provide medical accompaniment and advocacy for victims of sexual assault. Legal advocacy and assistance with restraining orders is available for both victims of domestic and sexual assault.

During 2009 Advocates

Served: 411 clients
Answered:
- *1,284 Information and referral calls*
- *357 crisis calls*

Provided prevention education:
- *66 presentations*
- *3,007 youth and adults*

Yes, Advocates is a shelter but our services and programs reach far beyond the walls of the shelter. Hopefully this information gives you a better understanding of what Advocates provides to help victims begin the road to recovery – the road to being a survivor. If it is not listed here that doesn't mean we can't help.

Please call us if you or someone you know is in a violent situation. We are here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Barbara Fischer
Executive Director

Your caring means so much to Advocates' clients. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

- Ozaukee Congregational Church
- McNabb & Risley
- Kohl's Cares for Kids
- Carter's Salon
- De Riah Salon & Boutique

2009 Holiday Season Donors

Thanks so much to the individuals and organizations listed below. Your efforts all made the holidays much happier for a number of families.

Please forgive us if you donated to help us over the holidays and you are not included in this listing. Please contact us so we can update our records.

Anonymous family
Alliance Bible Church Mom's Club
American Legion Auxillary 412
Rebecca Arndt
B.J. Becks Toys
Kate Bechen
Kerry Ann Breen
Cedarburg Woman's Club
Charter Steel
Church of Jesus Christ
Crossroads Presbyterian Church-Bible group
Cub Scout Pack 3836
De Riah Salon & Boutique
Dental Office of Dr. Peterson
Chris & Gary Drasch
Mark & Ellen Dybdahl
Julie Edminster
Linda Faas
Feith Family Ozaukee YMCA
Jennifer Fingado & son
The Garden Detectives
Joanna Gerard
Girl Scout Troop 8280
Grafton Women's Group
Greater Port Washington Kiwanis Club
Linda Hillebrand
Miriam Horwitz
Allison Hupfer
Kapco
David & Suzanne Kleckner
Kleen Test Products
Maurice's - Grafton & Mequon
Amy McConeghy
Mequon Woman's Club
Janet Merkt
Kristen & Jeffrey Nagel
Ozaukee Congregational Church
Portview Christian Center
Lorie Robillard
Rockwell Automation
Rosemary School
Roundy's Inc.
St. Boniface Episcopal Church
Saukville Police Department
David Schmidt
Marcia Schwager
Jon & Shari Slinde
TJ Hale
USCG Station
Victoria's Secret - Mayfair & Bayshore
Volunteer Center of Ozaukee
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
YMCA of Metro Milwaukee
Annette Zirbes
Kristine & Leslie Zukrow

A Special Thanks from the Children's Domestic Violence Support Group

On June 27th, 2009, Evan Mehre organized a concert and brat fry to raise money for his Eagle Scout community service project. After brainstorming about the various needs of the shelter, Evan decided to provide our Children's Center with a new workspace and seating.

Evan used the money he raised to purchase a large table from the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. He then purchased lumber and, with his grandfather's assistance, built four benches as seating for the table. With the help of other Scouts, Evan removed the old Children's Center furniture and set up the new workspace. The new table and benches are used every Tuesday for the Children's Domestic Violence Support Group.

Many Ways YOU Can Help

Cell Phone Collection

Thanks so much to all of you who donated your used cell phones to us and helped us to provide emergency phones AND earn over $4,000 since we joined the program!

Advocates receives money for each phone collected, no matter how old or what shape it is in. This program also keeps old phones out of landfills.

If you or someone you know have cell phones you are no longer using, please send them our way!

Sanfillippo's Sentry

Collect your receipts from Sanfillippo's Sentry in Port Washington and send them to us quarterly. We will receive a check back from the Community Dollar Program for a percentage of the total amount collected.

Please mail them to us often so we can send them in for the rebate.

Wills & Memorials

Remembering Advocates in your will can be beneficial for you as well as the agency. Many people also support Advocates by naming us as a beneficiary of their life insurance, and by making memorial gifts upon a loved one's death or gifts in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or other special occasions.

Pick 'n Save

The We Care program helps non-profit organizations raise additional funds through supportive shoppers who use their Advantage Plus Savers Club card. A percentage of the total We Care dollars spent at participating Wisconsin Pick 'n Save stores will be given back to each participating non-profit organization.

The We Care program provides you with an easy way to give to our agency. Each time a shopper uses the Advantage Plus Savers Club card, the non-profit organization of their choice receives a cash rebate. The amount the organization receives is a percentage of the total amount of We Care dollars that Pick 'n Save contributes.

Our number is 014750

Cornerstone Community Charitable Checking

Open or switch your existing Cornerstone Community Bank Checking Account to a new Charitable Checking Account before June 1, 2010, and Cornerstone will make a $25 donation to Advocates. But wait there's more! At the end of each year, Cornerstone Community Bank will make an additional donation equal to 1% of the average balance you keep in your Charitable Checking Account.

Call 262-284-3577 for more information about any of these programs.

Join a Support Group

Groups are open to all women and their children experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence.

Domestic Violence

Tuesdays
6:30—8:00 p.m.

Children's Domestic Violence Support Group meets at the same time. It is open to children of all ages.

Sexual Violence

Children's Life Skills Group meets at the same time. It is open to children of all ages.

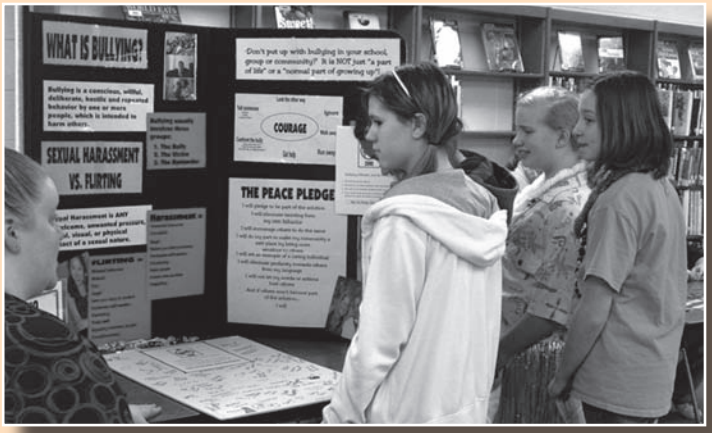
Call for more information.

262.284.6902 or 1.877.375.4034

Wellness Fair

This picture was taken at Thomas Jefferson Middle school. Sam, one of out dedicated volunteers, helped attend our display booth at their annual Wellness Fair in February. Students stopped by the booth to learn more about bullying and to sign the poster in support of putting an end to it.

Advocates is available for presentations in your school, church, or civic organization meetings to provide information on bullying, teasing, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or sexual assault.



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Thank you for using the enclosed envelope to make a donation.

milwaukee.bbb.org

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Please contact us!
Support lines: 262.284.6902
877.375.4034
TTY/TDD 262.284.8828
www.advocates-oz.org

It's tough keeping something like sexual assault inside.

In 2009 Advocates assisted 151 sexual assault victims as they began the healing journey to becoming sexual assault survivors.

Feeling confused, overwhelmed, or even feeling nothing at all is understandable. Beginning to explore these feelings can help you start to heal.

It's never too late to call.

Compassion Not Judgment
Call Advocates
24 hours 7 days a week
1-262-284-6902

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