

The Month of April is...

Sexual Violence Awareness Month

Child Abuse Prevention Month

A forcible rape is reported every 7 hours, 42 minutes in the United States. 5,618 sexual assaults were reported to Wisconsin law enforcement in 2004. Sexual assault is a very sensitive issue and an even more hidden crime.

During the month of April, several events will be taking place including our Take Back the Night Rally. Join Advocates of Ozaukee, survivors of sexual violence, and other concerned community members in taking a stand against sexual violence. (See details below)

The Ozaukee County Child Abuse Prevention Committee, which includes both the Sexual Violence Services Director and the Client Advocacy Director, along with the Washington County CAP Committee hold an annual luncheon. This year, the Ozaukee-Washington County Blue Ribbon Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 6. Representing the Greater Milwaukee Area Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Campaign, Nancy Izarry will be presenting information about human trafficking, which is often referred to as the modern day form of slavery.

Please take this opportunity to stand up against child abuse. Wear a blue ribbon during the month of April to show your support for child abuse awareness and prevention.



One in three women are sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

Check out Advocates increased sexual assault statistics in our enclosed annual report.

Take Back the Night Rally
Concordia University Courtyard
April 19 at 6:30
Call for more information
(262)284-3577.

JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP

Domestic Violence

*Tuesdays
6:30—8:00 p.m.*

*Children's domestic
violence support
group meets at the
same time.*

Sexual Violence

*Thursdays
7:00—8:30 p.m.*

*Children's life skills
group meets at the
same time.*

Girls Club

*For middle and high
school girls.
Call for more info.*

Outreach to Youth Program

One of the many programs that Advocates of Ozaukee offers is an Outreach to Youth Program. This means that any child under the age of 18 is eligible for the same services as adults. Individual support services are available to any child who is a victim of domestic or sexual violence. These meetings can be done at the child's school.

Our children are prime targets for violence. Statistics state that one in three high school students will be involved in an abusive dating relationship. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18.

In the state of Wisconsin, adolescents are able to file restraining orders against a dating partner when abuse is present in the relationship. Child victims of sexual abuse who need medical attention have the right to have an advocate present. Advocates of Ozaukee is able to provide both legal and medical advocacy in these situations.

One of the largest aspects of the Outreach to Youth Program is the prevention and education services for children which are provided to all five school districts in Ozaukee County. Presentations topics include: Bullying and Teasing, Sexual Harassment vs. Flirting, Healthy Relationships, and Sexual Assault Prevention. Girls Clubs are available for middle and high school aged girls. These groups address issues of body image, dating relationships, and self-esteem.

The second youth conference hosted by Advocates of Ozaukee will be on October 20. We are pleased to announce that all five high schools have again decided to participate. This year's conference is geared towards respect, communication, and sexual assault awareness. If you are an Ozaukee County high school student or a parent of one and are interested in attending, please contact your school's guidance department.

Each year, the Sexual Violence Services Director reaches about 4,000 children and adults through presentations. Prevention not only helps educate children, it also gives

them an avenue to speak out against violence and to come forward about their own experiences.

For more information, please contact Mary at (262) 284-3577 or email ozyouth@advocates-oz.org.



From left - Mary Placzowski with youth volunteers: Jessie Peters and Carissa Kiepert.

Advocates' Staff

There have been a few changes in staff assignments at Advocates and we thought we would take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about us.

Executive Director, **Barbara Fischer**

In September of 2004, Barb joined Advocates as Executive Director. She comes with 30 years of non-profit management, board development, and fund development experience. Barb was the former Executive Director of Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Fund in Milwaukee, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition, and Associate Vice President for Development for the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Office Manager, **Cindi Hennes**

Cindi has been with Advocates since September of 2002. She has over 25 years of experience in office settings with training which includes accounting and Microsoft applications. She handles the donor tracking, accounting, newsletter layout, provides support to all staff members, and is a backup on crisis calls.

Client Services Director, **Kristen Wheeler**

Kristen has been the Client Services Director for almost 2 years. She oversees all client programs and provides individual counseling services to adults and children. Kristen has Bachelor's Degrees in Psychology and Social Science from Alverno College where she is currently a part-time instructor. She received a Master's Degree in Psychology from the Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology in 2004. Kristen has devoted her career to working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She brings 9 years of experience in working with survivors of trauma to Advocates.

Sexual Violence Services Director, **Mary Placzkowski (Knetter)**

Mary is a licensed social worker for the state of Wisconsin. She is currently attending graduate school at Concordia for counseling. Mary conducts presentations in schools, churches and other youth groups on healthy dating and sexual assault awareness, facilitates Girls Clubs, and organizes events including youth conferences and the Take Back the Night Rally in April. She sits on the Child Abuse Prevention Committee for Ozaukee County and is part of the Washington-Ozaukee County collaboration for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mary has been with Advocates for over six years.

Client Advocacy Director, **Allison Scheff**

In January of 2005, Allison began facilitating support group part time. Her duties in her current full time position as Client Advocacy Director include overseeing the Transitional Living Program, legal advocacy, supervision of part-time staff, and facilitating the Sexual Violence Support Group. Allison provides training to COPE volunteers and presents information to the Concordia Nursing Students. Allison sits on the Salvation Army Board and the Child Abuse Prevention Committee for Ozaukee County and is part of the Washington-Ozaukee County collaboration for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Allison has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a background in Women's Studies and Marketing from the University of Wisconsin and is experienced in support group facilitation.

Volunteer & Shelter Services Director, **Kerri Miller**

Kerri's first contact with Advocates was as a volunteer in 2000 and then she assisted the agency as an intern in 2003 while working to complete her Associate's Degree from Milwaukee Area Technical College. She began working part-time as the Shelter Manager in January 2005 and a year later, she took her current full-time position. Kerri oversees all the volunteer and in-kind donations and shelter maintenance. She is currently attending Concordia University to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

Shelter Manager, **Laura Lingle**

Laura came to Advocates as an Associate and children's support group facilitator in October 2005. In January she was promoted to Shelter Manager and shortly thereafter the position was made full-time. As Shelter Manager Laura holds weekly house meetings, works closely with other staff to ensure all the needs of the shelter are met, and provides direct services for clients. Laura has a BA in Women's Studies from UW-Milwaukee with an emphasis in Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Studies.

Shelter Associates

Weekends and overnights are staffed with part-time Associates who are available to assist clients in shelter and to answer the 24-hour hotline. Current staff include Karen Biebel, Chris Drasch, Christina Kotlowski, Patrice Moore, Debra McShane, Sue Staffeld, and Grace Sparapani.



From left - standing are Kristen, Cindi, Allison, and Kerri. Seated are Barb and Mary. Laura and Associates are not pictured.

Visit our website: www.advocates-oz.org

In the headlines...

Barb Fischer, Executive Director

Earlier this year our community was shocked by the senseless death of a young woman; a mother of two who seemed to have it all. This tragic event is a reminder to all of us that domestic violence has many faces, but the face we see as we drive by and wave or shout "good morning" is not always the face families see inside their homes.

As a community it is time to come together, to recognize that we are not immune, realize that we don't always really know what is going on inside our neighbor's home, and create a community atmosphere that not only supports victims in their decision to come forward but encourages them to.

Advocates doesn't have a simple, easy formula to make this happen but we do know that lives can change and families can be safe if we give them a protected refuge and support them as they make a new start.

This tragic event is a reminder to all of us that domestic violence has many faces.

We recently received a thank you card from a former resident. Inside she wrote about how her life had changed since she made that first call to Advocates and eventually came

into shelter. She also wrote "I am a regular ordinary, normal person with many friends and supportive family."

After spending 6 weeks in the shelter, Janet moved back to the town where she had grown up. She is working part-time, living in a safe place, her grown children visit her, and she had just been accepted into a Master's Degree program at U-Mass Dartmouth.

With community involvement, acceptance, and support there can be a lot more outcomes like Janet's.



Crisis Lines: (262)284-6902 or (877)375-4034

Website: www.advocates-oz.org

Email: officemanager@advocates-oz.org

Break the Silence!

Advocates' Board Welcomes New Member

Yvonne Clemins, Saukville

We welcome Yvonne Clemins, the newest member of Advocates Board of Directors. Yvonne was unanimously elected at the December 2005 board meeting.

Yvonne lives in Saukville and works as Southwest District Team Leader for SEEK Careers and Staffing. She has been with SEEK since 1996. Yvonne is also involved in the Personnel Management Association serving as the Vice President.

Another Year of Happy Holidays...



Each year the staff and clients at Advocates are amazed by the generosity of individuals, civic groups, churches, foundations, and corporations as the holiday season approaches and 2005 was no exception! There were many organizations which were instrumental in insuring that the season was as joyful as possible for our clients. We received numerous calls from people wanting to help. In years past, we held a holiday party for clients and passed out bags of donated items to clients but this year

we did something a little bit different. We collected your generous donations and then displayed them in an area where mom's and kids could choose and wrap gifts for each other secretly. That way they had gifts to surprise each other with. The kids were thrilled to be able to 'shop' for gifts for their mothers on their own. Because of you, 30 families celebrated the holidays, which included 4 families in shelter with 7 kids.

Thanks again for your continued generosity!



Nicole, Melissa, and Shawna pose with donations from Victoria's Secret-Mayfair.



Pictured above are 5th grade council members with items collected from families of Parkview Elementary School students.

Some of the holiday season donors include:

- Cedar Grove/Belgium Middle School
- Cedarburg High School
- Community Programs
- Crossroads Presbyterian Church
- Cub Scouts Pack 3838
- Curves
- Fredonia Lioness Club
- Kids Kingdom
- The Lawrence Family
- Deb Loderquist
- Lori MacGregor-Monte
- Nancy Milbauer
- Northern Ozaukee High School
- Ozaukee Bank
- Ozaukee Congregational Church
- Parkview Elementary School
- Alex Pieper
- Rockwell Automation
- St Boniface Church
- St. Francis Borgia
- Nancy Sterkenburg and her generous friends
- The Retirement Advantage
- Victoria's Secret-Mayfair
- Webster Transitional School
- Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

There were many, many more who space prohibits us from listing individually.

Thank you to Cafe Forte for hosting our Mequon community meeting on March 28.

Advocates of Ozaukee

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newsletter electronically,
please email Cindi at
officemanager@advocates-oz.org



Speak Up!

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John Gable
Pastor, Crossroads Presbyterian Church

Jill Zoromski
Managing Director, Capital H Group

Barbara A. Fischer
Executive Director

We hit the jackpot!

On December 15, Potawatomi Bingo Casino presented funds totaling \$1,001,933.80 to the 2005 Miracle on Canal Street charities at a dinner in its Northern Lights Theater. Twenty organizations from the five surrounding counties, including Advocates, each received just over \$50,000. We are grateful to Potawatomi and all who played the Miracle games to raise this record amount for children's charities in the area.



Wishlist...

Visit our website at www.advocates-oz.org to view our wishlist!

Mark Your Calendars...

October 3 - Paper Bag Princess Luncheon

October 20 - Youth Conference