



# rape recovery center

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## april 2005 volunteer newsletter

### SB177 - INCREASING THE STATUE OF LIMITATIONS FOR RAPE

(During the 2005 Legislative Session, the Utah State Legislature passed SB177, Increasing the Statue of Limitations for Rape [Senator Ed Mayne]. According to the new law, the statue of limitations for certain sexual offenses is now eight years, if the crime is reported within four years of its occurrence. The driving force behind this legislation was Jennifer Boone; this is her story).

My name is Jennifer Boone and I am 22 years old. I have been raped and did not receive justice. This is my story.

In 1997, when I was 15 years old, I was kidnapped, raped and nearly killed. That was the worst night of my life. I thought that I was going to die. That is the worst thing that you could do to a person. I know the perpetrator planned on hurting someone that night, so part of me is glad it was me and not a younger child who would have been more physically damaged. But I also know I was very lucky to survive that night. The crime was reported to the police that evening.

The aftermath was horrible. I had to check out of junior high school for a few months, and was too afraid to go anywhere alone. I had really bad nightmares of him coming to kill me. I had to get an AIDS and pregnancy test, which luckily both came back negative. I had panic attacks sometimes. I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I found it necessary to go the Rape Recovery Center for counseling.

The guy who kidnapped and raped me was finally arrested in June 2002 after kidnapping a 7 year old girl. Thank goodness she was not raped. He was actually already a suspect in my case and had been since January of 1998 (which I did not know at the time) when I picked him out of

a photo line-up, but he refused to come in for questioning without his lawyer. Then the detective on my case was transferred to narcotics - which we were not notified of - and no one was reassigned to my case until September 2002.

By then, I was told that he would not be charged for anything in my case. The police told us that the statue of limitations ran out on the kidnapping and rape charges. He should have been charged within 4 years, and it had been 4 %.

I felt traumatized and victimized all over again. It made me sick to my stomach and angry. The system failed me big time. I went through that night, and what I felt, he could not get away with this! I felt as if no one cared or understood. Didn't they know what this guy was capable of? He made me do disgusting things and he hurt me. I went through hell and back that night; I thought my mom would never see me alive again. And I was not going to just let him get away with it.

I cried uncontrollably as I called many places in the government for help. I cannot even remember all the people I called, but it paid off. I received a letter from then Speaker of the House Marty Stephens. He had some research done on my case and found that kidnapping charges could be brought against this guy. One and a half years later, Kevin Blanke was sentenced for my case to 1 to 15 years in prison - consecutively, while serving a 3 to life sentence for the little girl; but still no rape charges.

I got angry and thought "That law needs to change!" I had no idea what I was running up against, but I knew I had to do something. I did not want to keep quiet about it like

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Blanke wanted me to. Representative David Litvack and Senator Ed Mayne helped me a lot.

Senator Mayne sponsored SB177, increasing the statute of limitations on rape. I testified before the legislature twice. I cried and was really nervous, but I believe it made me stronger. The bill passed, and was signed by Governor Huntsman on March 18, 2005. I was there, it was very exciting. This is the best thing that could have come out of the worst situation.

I cannot change the past, but I did change the law. I think this will help others, especially future unfortunate victims. This is the closest to justice other victims and I can get. Making a change in the law should help me in the healing process; it is a good thing.

Jennifer Boone

(RRC will be honoring Jennifer for her advocacy on behalf of all survivors of sexual violence at our April 22nd Event)

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

SUPPORT GROUP for female adult survivors of sexual violence

Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

@ the Rape Recovery Center

An Intake is necessary before attending group.

For callers who may be interested please have them call RRC at 467-7282

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## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

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Joshua Newbury

What is your favorite movie?

Pay it Forward

List a hobby or two.

Yoga and Writing

What motivated you to begin volunteering with RRC?

My involvement with The National Conference for Community and Justice - a human rights organization; more specifically, volunteering at their leadership camps that empower youth to make real and progressive change in the community through dialogue and understanding. Each camp works with junior high and high school students to address various forms of oppression and injustice; including sexism (which encompasses rape and sexual assault). This particular issue is always one of the most difficult and emotional issues addressed at camp. Having met and loved so many people affected by sexual violence, I could not pass up the opportunity to become a more active and involved advocate. Working with NCCJ prepared me for the Rape Recovery Center, which in turn has made me a more knowledgeable and compassionate volunteer for NCCJ.

What makes you unique?

The combination of transcendentalism, androgyny, sarcasm, and charm.

What is your favorite song, and by who?

"Happier" by Gusher

A quote reflecting why you feel it is important to volunteer.

"Come my friends, tis not too late to seek a better world." - Tennyson

## RRC POLICY UPDATES

The Rape Recovery Center recently revised our Mandatory Reporting Policy to answer several questions: when are volunteers/staff required to report a rape or sexual assault?; what constitutes sufficient information to make a report?; who should make the report?; and how to let the caller make an informed decision about disclosing information?.

While you will all receive a copy of this policy, it is important to quickly address the effects of Caller ID on reporting requirements. The coding-over process precludes RRC from blocking a caller's phone number when the call is transferred to the volunteer's phone. Caller ID is a product of the volunteer's phone service. Unfortunately, it can not be turned on or off without removing this feature entirely from your phone service.

After much discussion and research, it is the policy of RRC that a phone number obtained from Caller ID shall be a part of determining whether sufficient information exists to make a report when it is clear that the caller fits under the mandatory reporting laws. It is critical, therefore, that if you suspect the caller may fit one of the mandatory reporting populations that you quickly make her/him aware of your obligations to report under certain circumstances. It is crucial to help your caller understand mandatory reporting so the victim will be in control of whether to disclose the information or not.

For tips on how to talk with callers about mandatory reporting requirements, please call RRC.

## DID YOU KNOW?

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). In honor of SAAM one thing we can all do is help educate others on ways to prevent gender violence. In that spirit, below is a piece adapted from Men Against Sexual Violence on ways men can be allies (Copyright 1999, Jackson Katz).

1. Approach gender violence as a MEN'S issue.
2. If a brother, friend, classmate, or teammate is abusing his female partner - or is disrespectful or abusive to girls and women in general - don't look the other way. DON'T REMAIN SILENT.
3. Have the courage to look inward. Question your own attitudes.
4. If you suspect that a woman close to you is being

abused or has been sexually assaulted, gently ask if you can help.

5. Be an ally to women who are working to end all forms of gender violence (e.g. support the work of campus-based women's centers).
6. Recognize and speak out against homophobia and gay-bashing. Discrimination and violence against lesbians and gays are wrong in and of themselves, but this abuse also has direct links to sexism.
7. Educate yourself and others about gender violence (e.g., watch films, read books about the root causes of gender violence, about gender inequality, etc ).
8. Mentor and teach young boys about how to be men in ways that don't involve degrading or abusing girls or women. Lead by example.

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Prevention Education Grant  
#VF1/CCV819939-04



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

April 22nd - 6:30 p.m.

An Evening With The Arts - RRC Fundraiser  
Westminster College

April 27th & May 25th

HRT Monthly Meeting

RRC 40-hour Volunteer Training

May 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24 & 26th

T/TH 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

May 19th - 5:30 p.m.

Volunteer In-Service - Psychological First-Aid

July 14th

Volunteer In-Service - Topic To Be Announced