



RAPERECOVERYCENTER

SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER

MINORITY OUTREACH PROJECT

As the diversity of our state continues to grow we must work to ensure that all population's needs are met. The Rape Recovery Center (RRC) is committed to meeting the needs of all sexual assault victims. To achieve this end, RRC is developing a project to eliminate barriers faced by minority victims of sexual violence when locating and accessing community services.

We will identify where the greatest need for services exist, build community partnerships with agencies that currently serve Utah's diverse communities, develop a strategy with these partners on how best to serve victims of rape and sexual violence, and increase accessibility to RRC's intervention and advocacy services.

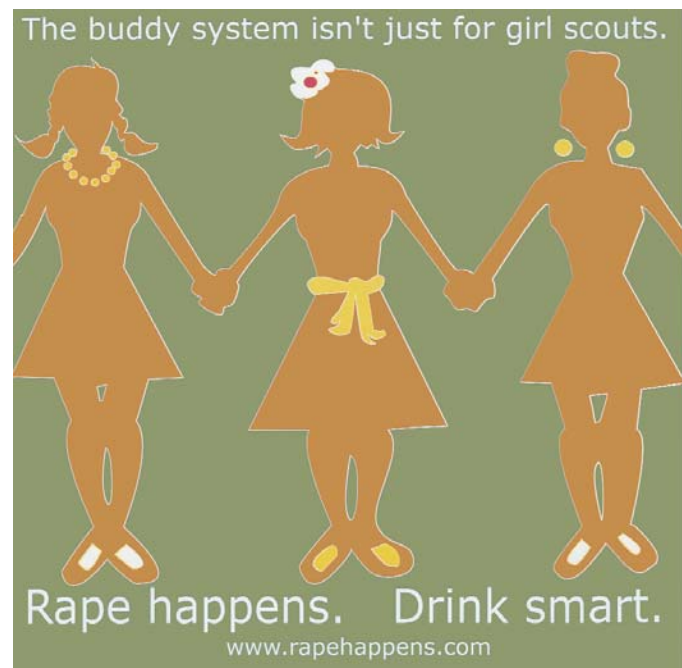
Utah's population is becoming increasingly diverse. The most recent census figures show that 35% of Utah's population increase from 1990-2000 was in minority population groups; this growth increases the percentage of the minority population from 24.4% in 1990 to 30.9% in 2000.

Rape and sexual assault impacts every culture, race, and ethnicity. Some research even indicates that certain segments of our population are disproportionately affected by sexual violence. For example, the 2000 National Crime Victim Survey reported that individuals from the African American community were 10% more likely to be a victim of rape or sexual assault than those from the White community.

We are dedicated to ensuring that all individuals and families whose lives are touched by rape and sexual assault are provided the same tools to heal from the detrimental affects of sexual violence.

We would like to thank the Utah Medical Association Foundation and the JEPS Foundation for their generous financial support of this critical effort.

RAPE HAPPENS, DRINK SMART CAMPAIGN



The Rape Happens, Drink Smart project is a collaborative effort of the Salt Lake Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, the Rape Recovery Center, the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Women's Resource Center at the University of Utah. The goals of the campaign are to educate the public about the role that alcohol often plays in sexual assault, to encourage people to employ tactics that may help to reduce their risk when they are drinking alcohol, make people more aware of methods being used by perpetrators, and to provide information and resources to victims of sexual assault. Posters have been placed on college campuses, dorms, fraternities, bars and other areas. Check out the website at www.rapehappens.com.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I can hardly believe the end of my first year as Executive Director is on the horizon. Although it has been a challenging and, at times, exhausting year - it has also been an extraordinarily rewarding and exhilarating one!

The staff and volunteers at the Rape Recovery Center are making great strides in increasing collaboration with allied agencies and enhancing advocacy for victims of sexual assault. Through the guidance and wisdom of the Rape Recovery Center Board of Directors, we have emerged from a tumultuous time and change in leadership on top and stronger from the experience. With a leaner budget and productive staff we have improved the quality of care for survivors of sexual assault in a cost-effective manner.

We have finished instituting the use of anonymous client satisfaction surveys to ensure that we are maintaining a high standard of care and are making improvements where needed. In addition, we have established measurable outcomes (thanks to the United Way of Salt Lake) in our programs to show the positive effect that our work is having on survivors and the community. The support from our community partners and stakeholders has been tremendous, and their steadfast support of victims of sexual violence has been inspiring.

Thank you for all of your support. I look forward to this next year - where we will build on the strong foundation that has been established. We hope to identify the greatest needs in the community and through enhanced collaboration with partner agencies, reach out to a more diverse client base that reflects the changing face and needs of sexual assault victims in Salt Lake County.

Heather Stringfellow, MPA
Executive Director

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE RAPE RECOVERY CENTER INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH

"AN EVENING WITH THE ARTS"

Emma Eccles Jones Conservatory
Westminster College
1240 East 1700 South

Friday, April 22, 2005

Silent Auction and Reception 6:30 p.m.
Live Auction and Performance 7:30 p.m.
by Kurt Bestor,
Salt Lake Film Center and
Children's Dance Theater.

Tickets: \$75.00 per person
RSVP 467-7282

Light fare & drinks

Parking terrace on 1700 South

STAFF

Heather Stringfellow, MPA
Executive Director

Gail Fidjeland, LCSW
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CLINICAL CORNER

Did you know the RRC has a Sandplay room? What does playing in sand have to do with the center you ask? In sand-play therapy the therapist provides a sand tray, water, and objects and materials with which to create scenes in the sand tray. The connection to sand can help ground and center a client and can transport them to a place that needs healing. Sand and water are particularly powerful tools to use in fantasy play. For children, sandplay is a natural form of expression. Most adults have had some childhood experience with sand, either at the beach or in a sandbox. The sandplay serves as a link to, or reminder of, past experiences and creates a doorway to the realm of childhood. Sandplay allows some clients to finally externalize traumas in their lives, thus facilitating their healing. Sand tray work has been called, by some, "a soul garden."

From *Sandplay Therapy*, Boik and Goodwin, 2000

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month!

- ~ April 14th - Take Back The Night rally and march starting at the U of U Women's Resource Center
- ~ April 22nd - An Evening With The Arts
- ~ April 29 - Application deadline for Utah Victim Assistance Academy
- ~ May 10-26 - RRC Volunteer Training
- ~ May 19th - In-service training for RRC staff & volunteers
Presenters: Bobbi Morgan, CSW and Michelle Call, CSW
"Psychological 1st Aid"
- ~ June 20-24 - Utah Victim Assistance Academy
- ~ July 14th - In-service training for RRC staff and volunteers
Presenter: TBA
- ~ September 23rd - YWCA Leader Luncheon

UTAH LEGISLATURE PASSES SB 177, EXTENDING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

When Jennifer Boone was 15 years-old her life was changed forever when she was kidnapped and raped by a stranger. Five years later, her perpetrator was finally held accountable for the kidnapping, but not for sexually assaulting her. Jennifer's outrage will now be justice for future rape victims. Jennifer was the driving force behind SB177, increasing the statute of limitations for rape. SB177's sponsor, Sen. Ed Mayne says Jennifer's "fearless testimony and efforts to push the bill sealed its unanimous passage by lawmakers".

Jennifer is now 22 years old and the mother of a beautiful four year old daughter, the love of her life. She is a graduate of Central High School with plans of one day furthering her education. She loves art and collecting precious rocks and postcards. When she reflects back on first approaching the Utah State Legislature, she recounts being very nervous and scared that no one would care about her story, but through her courage, persistence and determination is now a champion in the eyes of many.



Signing SB 177-Jennifer Boone, the impetus for the bill, is seated in the Governor's chair, putting the date on the bill.

"A story untold may be the one that kills you."

-Pat Conroy

"THE PROBABILITY THAT WE MAY FAIL IN THE STRUGGLE OUGHT NOT TO DETER US FROM THE SUPPORT OF A CAUSE WE BELIEVE TO BE JUST."

—Abraham Lincoln

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OUTRAGE

At your local rape crisis center: Answer hotline calls, counsel victims, offer clerical support, support fundraisers.

In your school district: Expect sexual violence prevention programs to be part of the curriculum in your school district; tell administrators that you want your local rape crisis center's peer educators to teach sexual violence prevention in the schools.

At your college: Question campus policies on the treatment of sexual assault victims; establish appropriate victim-centered campus response; develop campus sexual assault risk reduction campaigns; demand well-lit walkways and visible police presence.

In your home: Educate family and friends about the prevalence of sexual violence; teach family and friends how to prevent sexual violence.

In general: Donate money to organizations at the local, state, and national level that support victims and prevention programs; confront attitudes and myths that contribute to a victim-blaming culture; write legislators at the local, state, and national level to demonstrate your support for victim-centered policy, increased sexual violence prevention programming, and funding to support the incorporation of these activities. *From wherestheoutrage.org*

This project funded by the CDC Rape Prevention Education Grant #VF1/CCV819939-04

RAPE RECOVERY CENTER SERVICES

Rape Recovery Center is a non-profit agency that provides no-cost confidential crisis intervention counseling, advocacy, and referral information to victims of sexual assault, and to their families and friends. The crisis hotline* is operated by trained and certified volunteer counselors 24-hours a day. All services are available to all primary and secondary survivors, including recent and former victims of child sexual assault. The Center also provides free presentations to civic, educational, business and professional groups. Presentations can be tailored to the interest and educational level of the audience. ~

**Confidential, yet governed by mandatory reporting laws.*

24-hour crisis line: 467-RAPE (7273)

Utah toll-free, 24-hour crisis line and

information line: 1-888-421-1100

RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National

Network): 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)



United Way of Salt Lake



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