

February Issue 2015

www.sarcclebanon.org www.sarccschuylkill.org

Preventing Sexual Assaults: On the Front Line

24-Hour Confidential Hotlines

Lebanon: 717-272-5308 Schuylkill: 570-628-2965

What It's Like Battling to Prevent Sexual Assault

Gary Rusen is the sole member of SARCC Lebanon's Education, Training and Volunteer Department. As such, his mission is to educate the entire county about sexual assault. With



Gary Rusen teaches kids about healthy relationships

efforts focused on the prevention of sexual assault, Rusen likes to think of his work as equipping individuals with the "armor" that is given through education. "Another way to look at it," continues Rusen, "is through the concept of vaccination to prevent disease as opposed to treating the disease after it presents." Primary prevention efforts represent a major change within the rape crisis movement. Until recently, Rusen says, education focused on resources after an assault occurred. Now, he says, the approach is to try to prevent assaults from happening in the first place. Education plays a vital role in primary prevention.

To continue learning how this educator takes on his huge task, click here

Students Define Consent

Students at the Penn State Schuylkill campus created shirts that promote defining consent in a clear way for both women and men.

One shirt read: "Consent is an active, sober, verbal YES, not the absence of a NO!"

Students each designed shirts to get the message out that sex between two sober, consenting adults is the only way to go. Men promoted self control and equality in order to keep sexual assaults from happening on their campus.

Although women should take common sense precautions to keep themselves safe, we need to let people know that the fault of rape lies with the rapist and no one else. Instead of telling women how to behave and what not to do, we need to get the message to men that they can not rape! Perpetrators bear all of the blame. No one deserves to be sexually assaulted, and the old approach of focusing on what women do or don't do is out. Though well-meaning, it



puts responsibility for not being assaulted on the shoulders of women. Men need to be told that they are responsible for getting clear, sober consent. Otherwise, it's assault. Time to step up, men, and take responsibility for your actions.

SARCC Enrolls in Thrivent Choice Program



Through a unique charitable grant program called Thrivent Choice©, eligible members of Thrivent Financial are able to help support SARCC.

Learn more at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or contact Jim Gill at his office in Annville by calling 717-867-1500 or emailing him at jim.gill@thrivenet.com.

Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program. Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice** for complete Terms and Conditions.



Green Dot Schuylkill Update

According to SARCC Schuylkill's Green Dot Coordinator, Ben Turrano, the Green Dot community program has made steady and significant progress. "The program as been in place," says Turrano, "since January 2014. It kicked off with a community summit in March 2014." Twenty four people, representing a cross section of the Tamaqua community, were trained as Bystander Intervention Advocates and Educators. Since then, adds Turrano, Green Dot has had a presence at several community events, such as Summerfest, Heritage Day, National Night Out, Penn State Schuylkill's campus health fair and many more. Turrano represents the program by helping to plan many community projects, sitting on community advisory boards, and playing an active role in ensuring Green Dot's participation throughout what is locally and affectionately referred to as "The Skook." In fact, Turrano is currently in his second term on the Board of Directors of the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce where, he says, "Green Dot updates and appeals are commonplace."

According to Turrano, 2015 will be the Year of Green as the program transitions into Phase three of its launch. "This will include a more visible 'brand' through awareness posters, restaurant cards, bartender guides, placemats, speaking engagements, sponsorships of events and continued Bystander Training for key community players," explains Turrano. "The ultimate goal of the program," notes Turrano, "is to reduce acts of power-based personal violence in the Tamaqua area." Cultural norms need to change. People must look out for one another's well being, according to Turrano. The Green Dot program's goal is to create an atmosphere of absolute intolerance to violence: One Green Dot at a Time! No one person can do everything, but EVERYONE can, and must, do something.



Your Help is Needed!



Donations are needed for our fast-approaching Monte Carlo Night, to be held March 27. Do you have any items you would be willing to donate to help SARCC raise the much needed funds used to support the invaluable work we do for victims of sexual assault? Please check with friends, family, and neighbors. We're in need of items such as pieces of art, pottery, paintings, quilts, jewelry, theater tickets, sculptures, etc. Or, perhaps you or someone you know has a talent they would be willing to share? Donations of art lessons or yoga lessons or painting or pottery lessons would make wonderful donations.

We thank you for your support!

JOIN US!!

MONTE CARLO NIGHT

Friday, March 27, 2015

\$150 per Couple ◆ \$75 per Person

Doors open 6 pm at the Lebanon Country Club - 3375 Oak Street, Lebanon, PA



The possibilities are endless and limited only by your imagination!

For additional information, to make a donation, or to reserve a seat, Email: admin@sarcclebanon.org or call 717-270-6972 x350

Thank you to our 2014 Sponsors: GSH Home Med Care, JLF Home Health Care, AT & T, Jonestown Bank, Robert J. Phillips State Farm Insurance, Ms. Linda Hissner.



SARCC ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Keynote Speaker:
Representative Mark Rozzi
" A Story of Survival."
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Lebanon Country Club, 3375 Oak Street., Lebanon, PA 17042
Cost \$35.00 per person
Buffet Dinner



Please contact us if you have any special dietary needs

To reserve a seat please email: admin@sarcclebanon.org or call 717-270-6972 ext 350

WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES - Schuylkill County

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Humane Fire Company 200 Humane Avenue, Pottsville, PA 17901

Call 570-628-2965 to register yourself and a team!



Can You Help?

If you can provide any of the followng items, please drop them off at either SARCC office:

Mini-vacuum - new!
Hand sanitizer - new!
Kleenex - new!
Copier paper
Gift cards for clients
Old cell phones to recycle
Journals
Bottled water for clients
Snacks for support groups
Magazine subscriptions for waiting rooms
Amazon gift cards for books

Toilet paper Paper towels Paper products

Your help is greatly appreciated!

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