



HAVIN INC. NEWS

HELPING ALL VICTIMS IN NEED

SPRING 2006

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH 2006

Sexual Assault can impact all people, regardless of age, ethnicity, race or socio-economic status. Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), observed in April, is the month dedicated to making a concerted effort to raise awareness of sexual violence and promote its prevention. The following are some facts on sexual violence:

***PFA Amendments

The PFA Amendments (reported in our Winter Newsletter) have been passed and will go in to effect on May 9, 2006.

- In 8 out of 10 rape cases, the victim knew the perpetrator.
- One in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18.
- Among college students nationwide, between 20% and 25% of women reported experiencing completed or attempted rape.
- There is at least a 50% likelihood that a woman will develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after being raped. Sexual assault is also closely associated with depression and anxiety disorders.

For more information on sexual assault visit www.havinpa.org, www.pcar.org or www.nsvrc.org.

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month HAVIN staff will be involved in the following: On April 6th the Commissioners will sign a proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Armstrong County. We will have displays at the courthouse, Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce and community libraries. There will be public service announcements on Family Life TV, and press releases will be distributed to area newspapers. Postcards are being sent to community leaders. Napkins and matches with our hotline numbers will be distributed throughout the county. There will be a parent workshop at HAVIN on April 21st dealing with Child Sexual Assault. Staff will be presenting programs to elementary and preschools on Personal Safety. Staff will also be participating in the Elderton and Kittanning High School Health Fairs and YMCA Healthy Kids Day.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 23 - 29. This year's theme - "Victims' Rights:

Special points of interest:

- *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*
- *Victims' Rights Week*
- *2006 Golf Classics*
- *Training Opportunity*
- *Child Abuse Prevention Month*
- *HAVIN Pizza Hut Night*
- *The Yellow Dress*
- *Shelter Wish List*

Strength in Unity" pays tribute to victims of crime and those who work daily to promote victims' rights and services. National Crime Victims' Rights Week seeks to promote the rights of victims and educate citizens about the devastating impact that crime has on victims, families, neighborhoods, school and communities. For decades, crime victims and those who serve them have joined forces to ensure that all victims are aware of their rights and have access to the many community-based and justice-based services that can help them heal in the aftermath of crime. Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victim Organizations (COPCVO) is holding their 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Rally on Monday, April 24th at 11:00 a.m. at the Harrisburg City Capital Building. If anyone is interested on attending, please contact Laurie Johns at 724-543-1180 ext. 230. For more information on victims' rights and victims' services in Pennsylvania, visit www.pccd.state.pa.us and click on the Victims' tab.

From the Executive Director...Jo Ellen Bowman, LSW

Genarlow Wilson is in prison...Debra Lefave is not!

Many say that Mr. Wilson received more prison time than he deserved. I agree that the Georgia law which mandates him to ten years in prison for having oral sex with a female two years his junior needs to be re-visited and re-written. Yet we all have heard that ignorance of the law is no excuse...it still isn't. I also believe that Debra Lefave is a sexual predator and should be in prison. That being said, I feel there are more issues that need to be addressed regarding this and other sexual assaults.

First, we know that sexual assault often happens in a relationship where someone has power and/or control over another. Power and control comes in many forms including financial, position of authority, status, maturity and physical strength.

Too often teens engage in behaviors such as taking drugs, drinking alcohol, having sexual relationships, providing sexual favors or accepting physical and sexual assault as the norm. These are things they believe they must do to "fit in" or to "be accepted."

In the Genarlow Wilson's case there has been much focus on the victim, including testimony from her mother stating the sex was consensual. Maybe we need to truly understand consent.

Think back in recent history to what happened when Kobe Bryant's victim came forward. She was put on trial, humiliated, and he remains a star. Genarlow's victim is a fifteen year old female from the same school where this young man is revered. There is outrage that Genarlow Wilson is facing ten years in prison because he is a great person, he is popular, bright and an athlete. They focus on how this sentence is stripping him of a bright future. All that is accurate, but we cannot and should not assume that just because someone is intelligent, attractive, and popular that they are innocent. He refused to accept a plea agreement as the others did in this case. Have we thought that this may be because we, as a society, help him and others believe they are above the law because they are special, like Kobe Bryant. Has anyone thought about what this victim is going through? Our society has placed a huge burden on her for stripping him of his future, have we thought about how she is today?

I do not condone underage drinking, but feel strongly that a teen making the choice to party does not mean they are making the choice to be sexually assaulted. Blaming the victim because they are intoxicated or manipulated into providing sexual favors to "service" the shining star is appalling. This is a societal issue. We have created an environment of entitlement and rights of passage, both with underage drinking and sex. We need to make some changes.

Debra Lafave is a teacher, educated, articulate and physically beautiful. She used her profession to access students and she abused that position. She has said that one of her "turn-ons" was knowing what she was doing was wrong. By definition she is a sexual predator. Her behavior cannot be blamed on a mental health disorder as she claims. Debra Lafave knew what she was doing was wrong; she is responsible for her behavior.

We, as a society, have made it difficult for any sexual assault victim to come forward, and have made sexual assault easier for sexual offenders and predators. We are manipulated by people who present to us as fine, up-standing citizens by not believing victims when they come forward.

We make it especially difficult for a young man to come forward and disclose sexual assault. We believe that

boys and young men should be “tough” that they can stand up and protect themselves. We encourage young men to be sexual, to score, to “be a man.” We don’t even respectfully identify them as a victim when a sexual assault occurs. Many people look at Debra Lafave’s victim as “getting lucky” with many adults saying they wish she had been their teacher. I want you to go into a classroom filled with fourteen year old **boys**, or better yet think of a fourteen year old male you know personally. How would you feel if she did this to someone you know or care about? Ten years doesn’t make much difference when you are an adult, but he is not an adult!

Our youth need education about the dynamics of sexual assault. They need to understand that while drugs and alcohol do not cause sexual assault, when they are intoxicated their judgment is impaired which makes them more vulnerable. We need perpetrators to understand that drinking also does not excuse their behaviors. If they sexually assault someone while under the influence they are still responsible.

Responsible adults must educate and reinforce to our youth that if you hold a position of power, respect, or popularity that you never use that position to gain sexual favors or encourage others to engage in illegal behaviors. A responsible society respects those who do not support, condone or engage in these behaviors and holds accountable those who do. Let’s all be responsible.

Jo Ellen Bowman, L.S.W.

“THE YELLOW DRESS”

Recent statistics have found that 45% of females and 43% of males reported being the victim of violence from dating partners at least one time. During the months of April and May HAVIN is working toward improving that statistic in Armstrong County. Eleventh and Twelfth grade students will see *The Yellow Dress*, a dramatic one-woman play based on the story of a young woman who was the victim dating violence. This drama explains her relationship that begins as young love, full of passion and promise, and ends in tragedy. The carefully constructed program stimulates thought-provoking discussion about relationship. *The Yellow Dress* program is produced and directed by Deana’s Fund, a non-profit organization based in Stoneham, MA that is dedicated to promoting healthy relationships and was established in 1994 after the death of Deana Brisbois who was the victim of dating violence.

HAVIN received a generous grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation to bring the play to our students. This program helps students identify the warning signs of abusive behaviors, learn how to help friends and family members involved in violent relationships and develop awareness within the school community. Our goal is to develop a school and community culture that does not endorse, promote or accept violence in relationships. Thank you Armstrong School District, Apollo-Ridge, Leechburg and Lenape Tech!!

HAVIN Fundraiser...Pizza Hut Night

Cut out the coupon below and present at either the Kittanning or Allegheny Plaza Pizza Huts on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. 20% of your bill will be donated to HAVIN. A separate coupon is needed every trip, so feel free to make as many **COLORED** copies as you like or print them from our website www.havingpa.org.



Present this Coupon

HAVIN’s Pizza Hut Night

2nd Tuesday of Every Month

4 pm to 8 pm

It’s easy...enjoy great food and help HAVIN
Pizza Hut will donate 20% of your bill to HAVIN

Dine In—Carry Out—Delivery

Thanks to our participating Pizza Hut Locations
Kittanning and Hyde Park

Ticket must be presented for HAVIN to receive the 20%!!

All proceeds help provide free and confidential services to survivors of domestic, sexual and dating violence.



Save the date for HAVIN'S 2006 ANNUAL GOLF CLASSICS

WHEN: **FRIDAY**, June 2, 2006
 MIXED SCRAMBLE (Men and/or Women)
 Shot-gun Start 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, June 3, 2006
 WOMEN'S GOLF CLASSIC
 Shot-gun Start 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: The Links at Spring Church www.playthelinks.com

COST: \$100.00 Per Event

Ask your company to sponsor your team and get

GREAT ADVERTISING and tell them it's ***TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!***

For more information, contact Angie at 724-543-1180 ext. 223 or achavin@alltel.net.

All proceeds benefit survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault!!!

Mark your calendars!!

2nd Tuesday's of the Month
 for 2006
 April 11th
 May 9th
 June 13th
 July 11th
 August 8th
 September 12th
 October 10th
 November 14th
 December 12th



3rd Annual Groundhog Open

On February 4, 2006, the 3rd Annual Groundhog Open was held at West Shamokin High School to benefit the West Shamokin After Prom and HAVIN. We are pleased to announce that \$269.25 was raised for HAVIN. There were two divisions - Competitive and Recreational. HAVIN took first place in the Recreational Division! A special thanks to those who participated in the event and especially to Mike Greenlee of the Rural Valley Police Department and Zoe Ritchie from West Shamokin High School for all of their work in organizing the event. This event is great fun...hope you join us next year!

FIRST RESPONDERS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAINING

A comprehensive training for law enforcement, prosecutors, medical personnel, advocates and other professionals.

June 12 & 13, 2006

Lenape Heights Golf Course
Ford City, PA

Sponsored by The Pennsylvania Coalition
Against Rape & HAVIN

Training Hours

June 12th - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 13th - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$15.00 registration fee for one day

\$25.00 registration fee for both days

Continental breakfast & lunch provided.

R.S.V.P. by May 29, 2006

For more details, contact Angie at
724-543-1180 ext. 223 or achavin@alltel.net

SHELTER WISHLIST

Phone & Dept. Store Gift Cards	Paper Products
Shampoo/Conditioner	Hair Dryers
Cleaning Products	New Bed Pillows
Mops/Brooms	Drinking Glasses
New Socks, Underwear & Bras	Pots/Pans
Gasoline Gift Cards	
Money designated for Client Relocation & Direct Service.	

On behalf of HAVIN's Board of Directors, Staff, and most importantly the people we serve, we would like to thank everyone for the generous donations that we have received. Without your support, HAVIN would not be able to continue to provide the level of services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. You, our community, has been very generous to victims of natural disasters and we appreciate that you recognize that we also need continued support.

Thank you for thinking of HAVIN!

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

Child abuse may include physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect. Children living in homes with Domestic Violence is also a major concern. Nationwide, it is estimated that between 3.3 and 10 million children are at risk of witnessing Domestic Violence each year. In families, where there is domestic violence, most children - some estimate as many as 90% - see or hear it. Domestic Violence in an adult relationship affects the well being of the entire family, and often, when an adult is abused in the home, the children are being abused as well. Even in families where the children are not being physically abused there are still damaging effects of living in a home with domestic violence. In homes where domestic violence occurs, fear, instability and confusion replace the love, comfort and nurturing that children need. Children live in constant fear of physical harm due to the unpredictability of violence from the person who is supposed to care for and protect them. They sometimes feel guilt for loving the abuser or blame themselves for causing the violence. Studies show that children who were raised in violent homes often will imitate the behavior they witnessed as they enter into adulthood - 85% of batterers witnessed violence as children, and 50% of adult victims of domestic abuse were raised in violent homes.

We can help children try to stay safe. If you know a child who lives in a violent home, teach them to stay away from the fighting, how to get out of the home safely, identify trusted adults to talk to, go to a neighbor's home or other safe place, know their full name, telephone number and address and how to call 911. Adults can help children cope emotionally. It is important for children to know that violence is never their fault, violence by one parent against another parent is never okay, their job is to stay safe and not to stop the violence or try to protect the parent, they don't have to keep their feelings inside...they should share their fear, anger or any other feelings, and it is okay to love both parents. Children need love and support from trusting adults. Most importantly they need the violence to stop...and to know that the violent person is solely responsible for the violence. Counseling may also help children exposed to family violence. For counseling or more information contact HAVIN at 724-548-8888 or 800-841-8881 or visit www.havinpa.org.



**P.O. Box 983
Kittanning, PA 16201**

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**24 Hour Hotline
(724) 548-8888
1-800-841-8881**



HAVIN is a
United Way agency.

I WANT TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO HAVIN, INC.!

_____ I would like HAVIN to use this donation where it is most needed.

_____ I would like HAVIN to use this donation for _____.

\$30 will provide food and shelter for one day.

Send donations to: HAVIN, Inc., P.O. Box 983, Kittanning, PA 16201.

HAVIN, Inc. is funded in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delin-