

WOAR

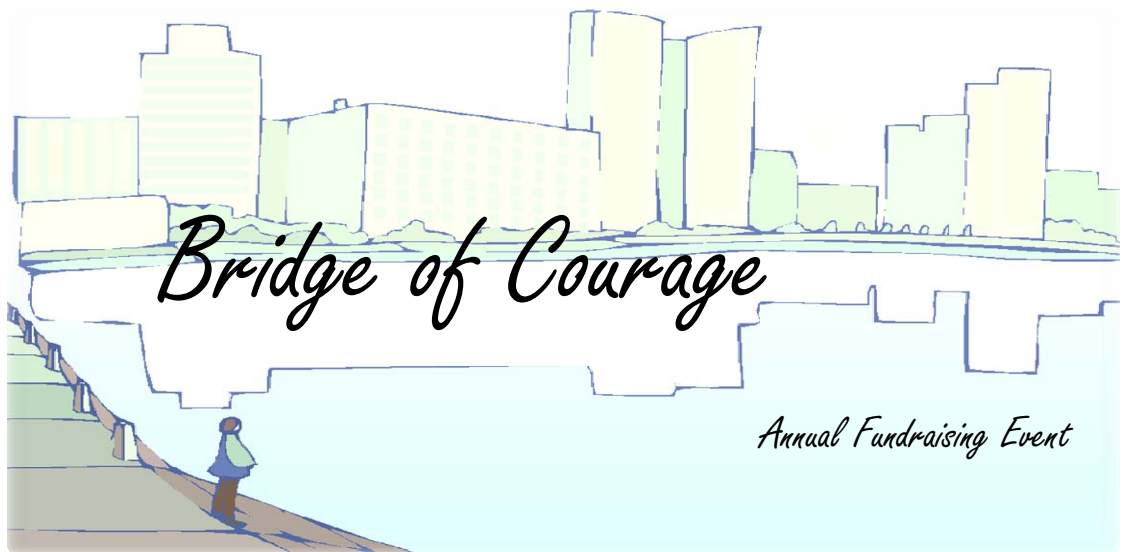
Bringing Communities Together To End Sexual Violence

ABOUT US —

WOAR is a non-profit organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania whose mission is to eliminate all forms of sexual violence through specialized treatment services, comprehensive prevention education programs, and advocacy for the rights of victims of sexual assault.

Speak Up! Speak Out! is WOAR's newsletter. To subscribe, please contact us at (215) 985-3315. If your address has changed, please remember to let us know!

First Annual *Bridge of Courage* fundraiser



Written by Jill Maier, Director of Counseling Services

On September 24th WOAR gathered with friends and colleagues from the community for our first annual *Bridge of Courage* fundraising event. This was a time to celebrate the strength of survivors and the wonderful work that many individuals do every day in the community to help support survivors of sexual assault. The event was named *Bridge of Courage* to symbolize the journey that each child and adult who has been violated must endure. Building a bridge to get through the pain of abuse takes not only determination but courage and WOAR is proud to help support survivors on their journey. The main focus of the event was the 2009 *Bridge of Courage* Award that was given to four professionals in an effort to shine a spotlight for the superior work they have done for

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Dr. Kathleen Brown has been a friend of WOAR for many years and has dedicated her career to focusing the medical community regarding the importance of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and meeting the many needs of someone who has been raped. She is currently an adjunct assistant professor at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Nursing and a SANE nurse for the North Hampton County Sexual Assault Response Team. Dr. Brown was given this award to honor the many years of work she done to advocate for victim's rights, train nurses and medical staff on how to provide care to a survivor and her tireless research on sexual violence.



Dr. Kathleen Brown being introduced by Teresa White, Director of Education Services at WOAR.



Councilman William K. Greenlee

Councilman William K. Greenlee was honored for the recent work he has done as a Philadelphia City Council member. For the last year he has worked to propose and promote passage of a bill that allows individuals who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence to take unpaid leave from their jobs. He had the vision to understand the importance that survivors have the time to attend necessary legal hearings, medical appointments and counseling appointments. The bill also grants the same leave to a parent of a child who has been abused so they can address the needs of their child. The bill was made a law in January 2009. WOAR honors the Councilman for his vision in promoting policies to support survivors of abuse.



Dr. Ralph J. Riviello

Another strong advocate in the medical field, Dr. Ralph J. Riviello has worked on sexual assault issues since 2000. Over the years he has conducted research and published a paper around the issue of genital injury in sexual assault cases. He has also spoken at the state capitol in support of the Emergency Contraception for Rape Victims and Sexual Assault Care Act. More recently he has served as Medical Director of sexual assault services for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Additionally, he serves as an active member of the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Advisory Council and is currently working as a faculty member and attending emergency room physician at Hahnemann Hospital. WOAR cannot imagine a better advocate for the medical rights of a rape survivor than Dr. Riviello.

The final *Bridge of Courage* award was given to Dr. Alyn E. Waller, the Senior Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. Reverend Waller has taken his vision of a strong Philadelphia community to heart and provides supportive healing to everyone, including specialized services for survivors. The ministry staff at Enon provides individual and group support to adult and adolescent survivors of sexual abuse, as well as support groups and workshops for parents of survivors. The entire ministry staff welcomed WOAR and has been receiving training and support from two WOAR counselors. We are proud to collaborate with Dr. Waller and Enon Baptist Church and honor their growing efforts to help bring light to issues of sexual assault.



Dr. Alyn E. Waller with Maria Pajil Battle, WOAR Board President



A final highlight of the evening was a dance performance by ArchDream for HUMANKIND. The dance troop has performed this piece previously at WOAR's *Take It All Back* event in April and once again they impressed the crowd. *Jessica's Story*, directed by Jessica Kroboth, is a dance and mask-theater performance based on her experience with rape in Center City Philadelphia. *Jessica's Story* addresses the denial, anger, and grief of a person's trauma. In this ArcheDream for HUMANKIND production, the audience followed the character on a journey from "rape victim" to "rape survivor".

This much needed fundraising event rose over \$22,000 to help WOAR continue to offer free counseling to survivors and to provide education to the Philadelphia community. The contributions were raised from event ticket prices, raffle ticket sales and a few special sponsors. We would like to once again thank our sponsors who helped in our efforts, despite the struggling economy.

GOLD Level-\$5,000 - Keystone Mercy Health Plan, Drexel University and an anonymous donor.

SILVER Level-\$2,000 - Frank Perras, a WOAR Board member and Carole Johnson, our Executive Director.

Contributing \$750 State Senator LeAnna M. Washington.



Maria Pajil Battle, WOAR Board President with State Senator LeAnna M. Washington



Bethel...the Church at Franklin Mills

Written by Lois Keller, Counselor

The journey to healing for survivors of sexual assault has many components to it. WOAR offers a specialized service to survivors in the form of professional counseling from trained, experienced counselors. However, during a trauma or difficult time in life many people turn to their faith to sustain them and give them support. This means that often people will call their pastor, priest, or other spiritual leader to ask for help. Most houses of faith want to relieve suffering and help the members of their congregation, but may not know how or where to start. This is where WOAR's faith grant initiative comes in. By joining with local congregations that have a heart to help those who have suffered sexual assault, we are able to offer the expertise that WOAR has accumulated over the years so that houses of faith can effectively help their people.

Recently I had the privilege of conducting a training at *Bethel...the Church at Franklin Mills*. (fmchurch.net) Bethel is an exciting church that meets in a movie theater at the Franklin Mills Mall. Bethel is already doing many things to

reach out to the community including addiction support groups and an upcoming free and confidential HIV testing sponsored by the church and the faith-based office of Mayor Nutter.

The eight person staff at Bethel entered enthusiastically into our training which included an overview of sexual violence and how the staff can respond effectively to disclosures of sexual assault. Bethel already has what they call their "Kidsafe Orientation" for anyone in the church who works with children and a detailed manual of procedures to protect children who are attending church events. The staff at Bethel jumped right into discussions about how they could apply what they learned in the training. Ideas included starting support groups for survivors, having workshops for teens on sexual safety, preparing high school graduates for the college transition, and starting support groups for parents. We here at WOAR are excited about the possibilities of equipping houses of faith to better meet the needs of their communities.

Stay tuned!



WOAR's New Board President!

Maria Pajil Battle has been a member of WOAR's Board of Directors since 2000 and in July 2009 she was voted in as the new President of the board.

Currently Maria is serving as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Marketing for Keystone Mercy Health Plan, the largest Medical Assistance managed care plan in Pennsylvania. In this position she is responsible for overseeing public relations, community affairs and marketing for the company.

Through her work, she has become known as an innovator in the area of health access, prevention and education. She has been recognized for numerous awards including the NCQA Awards for both Healthy Hoops and Health Ministry Programs, Quality of Life Patient & Community Services Award, Tree of Life Award; YMCA Women in Leadership Award, Women's History Month Movers and Shakers, WDAS "Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things", Chi Eta Phi Outstanding Community Outreach Award, 2003 Women Making a Difference, Susquehanna Neighborhood Advisory Council (SNAC) Corporate Community Service Award, REDI, Inc. for Community Service, and the Gimper Award.

Maria graduated from the Wharton School of Business, and has spent much of her professional career utilizing her skills and abilities in the Greater Philadelphia health market. She has made a significant impact in improving the health status of underserved populations of every age and race.

She continues to make her home in Philadelphia, where she was born and educated. Along with her husband Rudy, she maintains a close sense of family through strong relations with her son and two grandchildren.

Welcome to WOAR's New Board Member!

For the past seven years, Michele has worked for Children's Crisis Treatment Center (CcTC). She joined the CcTC team as Controller and was promoted to Chief Financial Officer two years ago.

Prior to working at CcTC, Michele spent seven years as the Senior Accountant for Northeast Treatment Centers (NET) and before transitioning into the non-profit sector, Michele spent several years working in the accounting department at Ticketmaster.

Michele's educational background includes an MBA from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Philadelphia University (formerly the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science).

Michele's past volunteerism include several years as a Girl Scout Leader and the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Welcome to WOAR's New Board Member!

Monedia Elzey is a clinical social worker and marriage and family therapist with over 12 years of experience as a psychotherapist. She is currently in private practice in Plymouth Meeting, PA and in the process of completing a PhD in Couple and Family Therapy. Prior to her current position, she worked in the areas of child advocacy, home healthcare, school social work, employment and training, and juvenile probation. Through her volunteer work as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in addition to her professional employment, she has been an advocate for the rights of women and children for many years.

Monedia has had the privilege of living and working in three of the most diverse and dynamic cities in the world - Chicago, San Francisco, and the Washington, DC metro area. During her leisure time, she enjoys traveling, reading, the theater and spending time with her friends and family. She and her husband Thomas, a university executive, have two daughters, Briana, an attorney, and Tommi, a graduate student. They reside in Plymouth Meeting, PA with their daughters and two dogs, Pepe and Onyx.



Welcome to WOAR's New Board Member!

Peter Cronholm, MD, MSCE has an impressive background in health and human services and is dedicated to multiple clinical, academic, research and advocacy interests. He has completed a Faculty Development Fellowship and a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Cronholm's research interests have focused on health services regarding: 1) the primary care management of intimate partner violence perpetration; 2) assessing psychosocial needs of families and patients with cancer; 3) screening for adolescent depression in the acute care setting; 4) pre-teen violence prevention initiatives; 5) assessing Philadelphia-area fathering providers' practices regarding intimate partner violence; and 6) assessing the risk of neighborhood variables on firearm injury and health.

Dr. Cronholm has a secondary appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and is an Affiliate Faculty member in the Graduate Program in Public Health Studies, a Senior Fellow in the Center for Public Health Initiatives, a Senior Scholar at the Leonard Davis Center for Healthcare Economics, an Associate of the Firearm and Injury Center at Penn, an Associate of the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center, and an Affiliate of the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner-Unity Program in Family Violence at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice. Dr. Cronholm is an Associate Program Director and the Director of Community Programs for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, coordinating and evaluating the didactic and experiential components of the community medicine curriculum for the department's residency program. He is the Associate Director of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health's Faculty Development Fellowship. Dr. Cronholm is also involved with the department's pre-Doctoral division in teaching community medicine to medical students during their Family Medicine clerkship. He serves as Co-Chair of the Society of Teachers of



Family Medicine's Group on Violence Education and Prevention and member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Education, Research and Scientific Programs Committee for the Academy of Violence and Abuse whose mission is to advance health education and research on the prevention, recognition, treatment and health effects of violence and abuse.

Dr. Cronholm is actively involved in community programs addressing family violence, serving as a member of the Board of Directors, a Clinical Consultant, and former Director of the Men's Council on Family Violence for the Institute for Safe Families (ISF) in addition to being a member of ISF's Clinical Network on Family Violence. Dr. Cronholm also serves on the Board of Directors for the Men's Resource Center (MRC). Dr. Cronholm also has served as a Clinical Consultant



Welcome to WOAR's New Staff!

Greetings! My name is Ahyana King and I am a new Crisis Intervention Counselor at WOAR. My previous work experiences include working as an HIV prevention counselor for youth in foster care, an HIV housing counselor, HIV counselor and tester, as well as resident director. When I'm not at my desk, I am a graduate student pursuing a Master's in Mental Health Counseling and managing a small design company dedicated to raising money for non profit organizations. It is my hope as a Crisis Intervention Counselor here at WOAR to continue to use my skills and passion to serve our clients.

Welcome to WOAR's New Staff!

I would like to introduce myself. I am Frankie Cruz, a Gulf War veteran. My experiences has been working with at risk youth in the North Philadelphia area. I believe they are the "Garden of the World". I enjoy teaching and mentoring today's youth. At WOAR, as an Education Specialist. I hope to support the effort in spreading awareness of sexual assault/sexual violence and wish to give a voice for those who can't speak out. When I am not at WOAR I enjoy running and am very passionate about dancing and teaching Latin Rhythms.



Welcome to WOAR's New Staff!



Oscar Steven Escobar, Crisis Intervention Counselor

Hi! I first heard of WOAR through a course offered at Arcadia University, where I am currently working on my MA in Child and Family Therapy. After finishing the course I decided to remain as a volunteer because it was a great opportunity to help give back to the community and get some much needed clinical experience. I heard that there was a position available and I jumped at the chance to be able to devote more time to the mission of WOAR. I feel that it is a true privilege to work with WOAR, as it not only provides me the opportunity to work for a worthwhile cause, but I also get to work with a dedicated, welcoming, and civic minded group of individuals.

Girls Leadership Camp

Written by Lunden Abelson, Counselor

Girls' Leadership Camp is a nonprofit organization composed of teenage girls and adult women, who are working together to build an affordable overnight camp program to benefit Philadelphia area girls. In the summer of 2009 the camp had their second season of Camp Sojourner. As a new organization, established in 2007, the staff and board of Girls Leadership Camp worked hard during a tough economic climate to maintain programming. The financial commitment that donors made to this new organization and the success of the Camp Sojourner Program speaks to the quality of the programming and the commitment of the staff. WOAR is proud to support Girls Leadership Camp.

Camp Sojourner is an overnight camp for girls ages 8-14, with 15-17 year old girls working as junior counselors. The program is offered through the organization Girls Leadership Camp. The camp program focuses on team building, leadership development, self-expression through creative arts, and appreciation of the natural environment. The summer program is located in the Pocono Mountains at the New Jersey School of Conservation, about

two and a half hours away from Philadelphia (www.csam.montclair.edu/njsoc). Buses take girls up to the camp at the beginning of the session and bring them home at the end of the session.

Girls who attend will build leadership skills, engage in a caring community, build self-esteem, express themselves through creative and performing arts, enhance their appreciation of natural surroundings and environmental conservation and enhance their appreciation of diversity and respect for others. There is nothing quite as empowering as experiencing the strength and power amongst strong friends in the great outdoors.

During the 2008 session of Camp Sojourner, I went to the camp to work to send our message of self respect and healthy relationships with oneself and others. During the 2008 and 2009 session WOAR was able to provide toiletry bags to each camper to reinforce our message of positive self image and self care.

WOAR is happy to be able to support the work of this small non-profit that is doing great things. If you are interested in learning more about Girls Leadership Camp visit their website at

www.girlsleadershipcamp.org

Meaning & Purpose

Written by

Tia May, WOAR Volunteer

Top Executives leave jobs with mountains of prestige and awesome salaries or take huge pay cuts to (of all things) volunteer their time or to support a project that they felt was worthy. It wasn't until now in my life that I could understand why someone would do that. I mean really *understand*.

If for 8 hours a day we spend our time and effort in a place that has no meaning and brings us no satisfaction, why do we do it? I came to a place that everything I do, everything I say, everywhere I go has to have some valid meaning and purpose. One of my purposes is now being filled with volunteer efforts with WOAR. To help someone, to be there for someone, to be a shoulder to lean or cry on, to supply needed, helpful, comforting, life building and restoring information – that is the purpose that I

must serve.

There is a need that being busy with work can't fill. There are times when you need to reach out to a person, touch a human life, see the difference that you are making in human form. A conference call can't replace a smile, a business meeting will not suffice when a hug is needed, an office lunch is not needed when the real thing is a smile that needs to be shared or an ear that needs to be made available to listen – just listen.

There is a personal touch to WOAR. Something that laptops, blackberries, and fax machines can't replace. There is a sisterly love, affection, support – a need that is met when a caring voice offers a kind ear. So, yes, I now *understand* what draws the heart to a non-profit organization that may not offer a high profile lifestyle, but would instead more importantly encourage your heart as you encourage others.



Bringing Communities Together To End Sexual Violence

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One Penn Center, Suite 1100
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Administrative: 215-985-3315
Hotline: 215-985-3333
Fax: 215-985-9111
<http://www.woar.org>
TTY: 215-564-1413

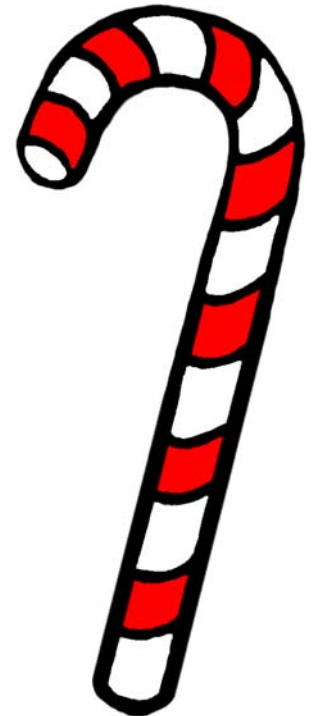
Healing through support, education and advocacy

Thank You to Our Funders!

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Violence Against Women Act (Campus Community Consortium Grant and STOP Grant), Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (VOCA), Community Behavioral Health, Philadelphia Department of Human Services, Philadelphia Department of Public Health-Division of Maternal Child and Family Health, Philadelphia Bar Foundation, Philadelphia's District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia School District, UPenn Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety, Verizon, Women's Way and our numerous individual donors for supporting us in our mission to eliminate sexual violence.

We could not do it without you!

Happy Holidays



As you enjoy the holiday season with friends and loved ones, take a moment and make a donation to help less fortunate families.

Remember your donation is tax deductible.