

SPEAK UP * SPEAK OUT!

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2006

ANNOUNCING THREE NEW LAWS THAT COMBAT SEX CRIMES

Three new changes to Pennsylvania law address the evolving nature of sexual crimes. On January 9, 2006, WOAR staff joined the Philadelphia District Attorney's office to announce the new state laws.

"We have to come together as a total community to really make sure that our children are safe. They deserve no less," stated Carole Johnson.

Act 64 makes *attempting* to lure a child into a vehicle or structure into a misdemeanor crime. Previously, only a completed act and not an attempt was a crime.

Act 76 increases the maximum sentence for indecently assaulting a child under the age of 13 from 5 years to 7 years incarceration.



Staff counselor Amber Crawford and Executive Director Carole Johnson joined Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham to announce three new Pennsylvania laws. Photo: Laura Beitman, Metro

Finally, Act 69 makes "upskirting," or taking hidden pictures of someone's private parts, a crime. This new law reflects the increase in people using cell

phones to take photographs under women's skirts. An act that before was overlooked as a prank or a nuisance is now a misdemeanor crime.

Sharing or transmitting these images over the Internet is also covered under the act.

"People who subject young children and women to their deviant sexual behaviors must be held accountable for their crimes," Lynne Abraham said.

WOAR would like to thank the advocates and legislators that made these new laws a reality. Even small changes to our laws make a big difference to the survivors they affect!

TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

It is hard to imagine or understand but **one in four girls** and **one in six boys** are sexually abused by the age of 18 (Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, 2005). Given the amount of stress parents are under and the number of obligations par-

ents have today, it is even more important to start teaching children early on about safe touch, private zones, and what to do if someone breaks the safe touch rules. Here are some tips to help you along:

✦ **Children need to hear something more than once.** As children get older, they are able to more concretely understand the differences between safe and unsafe touches. Starting early sets the stage for

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In 2005, WOAR Served

- 6,343 individual counseling sessions; another 686 adults and children had group counseling sessions.
- 47,221 Students, Parents, and Teachers during 1,867 School Programs. 18,648 People during 383 Community Presentations.
- 4,762 Hotline Callers.
- 565 Survivors in hospital Emergency Rooms.
- 1,183 Survivors at their Preliminary Hearings.

Continued on Page 9...

WOAR TEACHES 7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS THE MEANING OF *GIRL POWER!*

WOAR brought *Girl Power!* to two area schools this past school semester. *Girl Power!* is an eight-week prevention program developed by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) in response to the many research studies that have linked drug and alcohol use to sexual assault. *Girl Power!* creates a prevention/education support group for pre-adolescent girls to discuss important issues such as identity, diversity, communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, drug and alcohol prevention, and sexual assault prevention.

Thirty 7th and 8th grade girls from C.W. Henry in Mt. Airy and thirteen 7th grade girls from J.S. Jenks in Chestnut Hill participated. Our goal is to help young girls develop personal and social competency skills that will empower them to promote personal safety in their daily lives. (*Girl Power* 2005; PCAR 2005)

In running *Girl Power!*, we were also helping Caliber Associates to evaluate the program for its effectiveness. We are still waiting on the results of the evaluation, which will hopefully be ready at the beginning of April 2006.



The *Girl Power!* Program brought comprehensive sexual assault prevention education to two Philadelphia schools!

Running this program has been so much fun! The girls appear to truly enjoy the group atmosphere and the individualized attention. It has shown us that pre-adolescent girls are facing so many societal problems and that they don't always have the necessary coping skills or resources to deal with them in the best ways possible. *Girl Power!* gives them an outlet to express what it is like to be a teenage girl in Philadelphia, as well as leads them through difficult situations that even adults would need help handling. One thing I learned from running *Girl Power!* was how much these girls need positive role models and how much they can achieve if someone gives them that first helping hand!

Amber Rose Crawford, MSW
Child/Adult Counselor



KNOW

Looking at your face I can only imagine what you're feeling right now
 Saying to yourself why me what happened how
 I'm here to listen to you in case you want to talk
 I'm here to sit beside you or even just take a walk
 You may even just want to be alone
 I'm here when you're ready, just pick up the phone
 Your tears are speaking for you with so much to say
 As each one fell I heard words of fear anger shame expressing so much dismay
 This act of violence was about power and control
 Not only against your body but your mind and soul
 Your body may feel weak but there is plenty of strength left in your heart
 You can use that to overcome this everyday with a fresh start
 You can beat this pain and place it at a halt
 First step is knowing you're beautiful and this was not your fault

Edwin Desamour
Education Specialist



STAFF PROFILE: GETTING TO KNOW



MRS. SYKES

Those who have seen Nichet Sykes give school presentations are often amazed at the infinite amount of energy and enthusiasm she puts into her programs. Teachers and counselors often observe in admiration as Mrs. Sykes commands the attention and respect of students who are usually rowdy and disruptive. The students themselves become quiet and attentive as Mrs. Sykes launches into a description of her job or shares her personal story of being bullied as a young child.

Younger students are delighted as they sing the lyrics to "The Safe Touch Rule," and participate in skits where they are encouraged to think of alternatives to reacting violently to bullies. Older students participate in discussions on the various forms of sexual harass-

ment that exist in Some pose situations may not be considered sexual harassment while others open up and share their own stories.

Regardless of the grade or age group, Mrs. Sykes is always remembered by those who have seen her presentations in the past. It is not uncommon to see a trail of students following Mrs. Sykes from one class to another or for one to overhear students call out her name before she even reaches their classroom.

A typical day for Mrs. Sykes consists of a 6-program day at a local school in Philadelphia. She often goes from one classroom to another with no more

presently schools. hypothetical that may or

than a five to ten minute break in between and gives presentations on topics ranging from "Saying No to Bullying," to "The Safe Touch Rule," to "Flirting or Hurting." While many of these programs are only one session long, Mrs. Sykes also run long-term programs, such as G.I.R.L.S. (Gaining Independence & Rebuilding Lives Successfully), which is a 10-week long mentoring and leadership program.



Mrs. Sykes has been at WOAR for 5 years, and has been an Educational Specialist for 3 years. Prior to this position, she was an Administrative Assistant for 2 years.

To reach Nichet Sykes, please contact the Education Services Center at (215) 985-3315 x180.

Q & A WITH MRS. SYKES

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: *I've been married for 10 years, and I have 5 kids who are now 8, 9, 13, 14 and 16 years old. Before working at WOAR, I was a stay-at-home mom for 3 years, and worked at the IRS for 7 years.*

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: *Definitely the responses and the looks of interest I get from the children when I go out to the schools. The teachers, counselors, and students always remember me. I get hugs from the kids, and sometimes, the counselors will even bring me lunch.*

Q: Is there a great demand for the programs you run?

A: *There is always a demand. I'm so busy that sometimes, I have to coordinate by cell phone. Teachers will call me in June to set up schedules for September. I'm usually booked through February of the following year by November.*

Q: Do you ever see the students outside of the schools?

A: *There have been times when I've seen the students outside of schools. I've been stalked by some of my younger students when I'm doing grocery shopping. They just won't leave me alone!*

Q: If you had to, could you pinpoint the sections of Philadelphia where there are more sexual assault incidents in the schools?

A: *To tell you the truth, the amount of sexual violence in schools has nothing to do with the area that the schools are in. Some of the worst things have happened at the best schools in Philadelphia.*

Q: I've noticed that you include personal stories in your presentations.

A: *It's like art. Painters all have their particular strokes. I like adding my personal touch to my presentations.*

Q: Your programs only run for about 45

minutes. Is that enough time for the children to absorb the information?

A: *Children are like sponges; they will absorb anything. No matter how the liquid is spilled, they will absorb it.*

Q: Do you have any personal goals for work?

A: *I want to hit all 82 Catholic schools in Philadelphia. So far, I've been to half of them.*

Q: How has working here changed your life?

A: *I've definitely become more aware of personal safety issues for myself and my children.*

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: *Spending time with family and volunteering at church.*

Q: Where will you be in 10 years?

A: *If I'm not still here...then maybe a kindergarten teacher at a Catholic school. I've also recently discovered that people think I'm funny, so there's a chance that I'll become a full-time comedian.*



Nichet Sykes

Chun Mei Lam
Asian Outreach Counselor/Educator

BENEATH THE SURFACE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A GROWING REALITY

Often described as the modern day form of slavery, human trafficking has become one of the fastest growing enterprises in the world and a growing reality in the United States. With worldwide estimates of trafficked persons ranging from **600,000** to **800,000** per year, human trafficking is one of today's largest criminal industries in the world; it is tied with arms dealing and second only to drug trafficking.

In October 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) was enacted as the first comprehensive federal law to prevent human trafficking overseas, protect and support victims in the U.S. and prosecute traffickers under stiff federal penalties.

The TVPA defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as:

- **Sex Trafficking** : the recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a **commercial sex act** is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years; or
- **Labor Trafficking** : the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to **involuntary servitude**, peonage, **debt bondage** or slavery.

Americans would be surprised to discover that approximately **14,500 to 17,500** people are trafficked into the United States every year. Men, women, and children as young as age five are exploited for sexual purposes and forced labor, which includes prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, domestic servitude, sweatshop factory work and migrant farming. They work in factories, fields, restaurants, hotels, homes and every facet of the sex industry.

Human traffickers prey on individuals who come from vulnerable populations,

such migrants, oppressed or marginalized groups, runaways, displaced persons or those who are poor, frequently unemployed or underemployed, and those who lack access to social safety nets. These individuals are often exploited under the guise of opportunity; they are lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, and then forced to work under brutal and inhuman conditions. Many believe they are coming to the U.S. to work in a legitimate job or for academic education.



Special visas do exist to help trafficking victims to become permanent residents of the United States.

Traffickers often use rape, physical abuse, confinement, threats of physical harm to self or family members, and false offers of employment, marriage and/or a better life to force or coerce victims into lives of servitude and abuse.

Experts in the field say that one of the most difficult realities in the trafficking

issue is the propensity of governments worldwide to treat trafficked persons as criminals or as unwanted undocumented workers rather than as people with human rights that are being violated. This is compounded by the fact that many victims of human trafficking are taught by their traffickers to fear government

officials, especially law enforcement and immigration officers. As a result, they are extremely distrustful of the system and are not aware of the fact that human trafficking is illegal and that they may be able to apply for visas which would allow them to be legally employed and eventually become lawful permanent residents of the United States.

In Philadelphia, the Special Immigrant Populations Project (SIPP), a program through the Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia, works with law enforcement, medical professionals, and other points of contact to identify human trafficking victims, to secure their safety, and ensure that they obtain services such as: housing, medical/mental health services, food, clothing, personal items, interpreter services, cultural orientation, and legal representation for immigration needs.

For more information on SIPP, please contact Christina Miller, Project Coordinator at the Special Immigration Populations Project (SIPP) of Catholic Social Services: (215) 313-9008 or (215) 854-7078 or cmiller@chs-adphila.org

If you think someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline: **1-888-373-7888** or the SIPP 24-Hour Hotline: **215-313-9008**

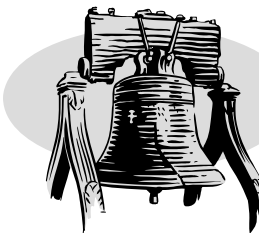
The information for this article was compiled from HumanTrafficking.org (2005), Vital Voices Global Partnership (2005), and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (2005).

For more information about human trafficking, visit:

www.vitalvoices.org

www.humantrafficking.org

www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking



Human Trafficking is described as modern day slavery.

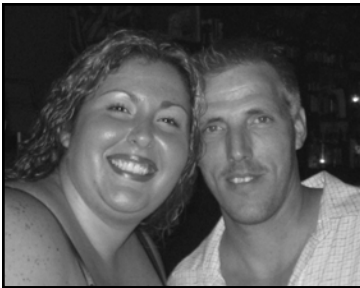
Human Trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world.

Chun Mei Lam

Asian Outreach Counselor/Educator

WOAR ROCKS SOUTH STREET: THE TRITONE BENEFIT CONCERT

On August 13th, WOAR packed Tritone on 1508 South Street for a benefit rock concert! Our promoter Plain Parade and three Philadelphia bands known for their amazing female rockers—Ken, The Jane Anchor, and Beretta 76—made the scene. And WOAR made over \$800 to support our free services for the people of Philadelphia.



Senior Counselor Sandy Capaldi and her husband Gary Weaver at Tritone.

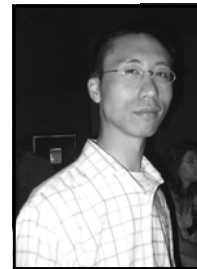


Don't be fooled by a flowery dress. Beretta 76 features some dangerous lady musicians.

Many, many thanks to the bands, our awesome promoter Plain Parade, and the venue for donating their talent and time to support our causell



Office Manager Estelle Faust and former Child Court Advocate Matt Rubin enjoy the show.



Volunteer Jeff Valdez chills out to the sounds.

Photos courtesy Liane Rice

CAROLE JOHNSON RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD

Pennsylvania's reputation as a leader in crime prevention is reinforced through the vast number of citizen volunteers who support our law enforcement in the continuing war on crime and drugs. Once each year, the law enforcement community is given the opportunity to formally recognize special citizens who work to rid communities of criminal activity.

On October 21, WOAR's Executive Director Carole Johnson was a recipient of the Governor's 2005 Citizen Crime Prevention Volunteer Recognition



From left: Chun Mei Lam, Jacqueline Johnson, Capt. Sonia Valazquez, Carole Johnson, Insp. Jeanette Dooley, Officer Kathy Thompson, and Representative of PCCD.

Award for her significant contribution to community crime prevention. Ms. Johnson was nominated by Officer Kathy Thompson with the endorsement of the Victim Services Division of the Philadelphia Police Department. This is an exemplary example of community and law enforcement working to make Philadelphia a safer place in which to live, work and raise a family. The award is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

NEW FACES, NEW PLACE FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

2006 has brought many changes for the District Attorney's Family Violence & Sexual Assault Unit. First, WOAR would like to say good bye and good luck to **Chris Mallios**, who was the Unit's chief since 2002. Chris was a dynamic and dedicated leader who worked closely with WOAR. Recently, he made headlines in the case of Tracy McIntosh, a UPenn professor who pled no contest to sexually assaulting a prospective stu-

dent. After serving only 6 months of the mere 11.5 to 23 months house arrest he was sentenced to by Judge Rayford Means, McIntosh was allowed to take a job in Italy *and* the DA's office wasn't notified. Thanks to ADA Mallios' hard work, McIntosh is back in the USA.

Chris Mallios is also an outspoken advocate for revising the sexual assault sentencing guidelines and his talent for public policy has led him to a new posi-

tion as Assistant Chief of the Legislation Unit of the DA's Office.

WOAR is excited to welcome **Deborah Harley** as the new Chief and **Jim Carpenter** as Assistant Chief of the Unit. ADA Harley was previously the Assistant Chief and ADA Carpenter has been with the Unit for six years.

But that's not all! The DA's office moved to the Widener Building at 35 Penn Sq. It's a big improvement for everyone.

PENN STATE PROFESSOR TRAVELS THE GLOBE USING POETRY TO HEAL

For the past twelve years, Professor Suzanne Stutman has been using the power of poetry to address issues of abuse and trauma. Dr. Stutman recently released her third book of poetry, All the Power Rests with You, her first book written specifically for child readers.



Suzanne Stutman, Ph.D.

It is ok to feel different feelings – including anger. I want them to love themselves heart and soul, head to toe, and to look hopefully to the future,” Dr. Stutman said of her goals for the book.

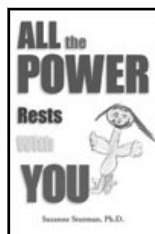
Dr. Stutman’s book has received a warm reception all over the globe.

“I understand through my teaching and through my own personal experience that poetry can heal. I wanted to write a healing text for children that they can use and relate to – hopefully all over the world,” explained Dr. Stutman, who is herself a child abuse survivor. In writing her book, Dr. Stutman brought in many consultants, including Christine Kirchner, the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Children’s Alliance, and two WOAR staff members: former Director of Counseling Tammy Ann West and Legal Services Coordinator Liane Rice.

“Hopefully, our efforts will help lots of kids. If so – our dreams will come true.”

She worked closely with Heartbeat, a South African organization dedicated to supporting children affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. “The year before the book was published, I took copies of the featured poem “All the Power Rests with You” to many Heartbeat kids, and we did interactive workshops with them. They loved the poem!” she stated. At the time of this article, she has just returned from another trip to visit her friends at Heartbeat and has received the amazing news that the Nelson Mandela Foundation is reviewing the book for possible wider publication and distribution.

Dr. Stutman has made quite an impression at WOAR by initiating many excellent collaborative projects. She shared her poetry with our Teen Group members and invited us to give a presentation about WOAR’s work to her students at Penn State University’s Abington campus. She also generously donated 50 copies of All the Power Rests With You so that our child counselors can share the book with our clients.



Dr. Stutman’s book is now available on Amazon.com

A unique aspect of the book is that it encourages children to create their own poetry, stories, and artwork as part of the reading experience.

“I want them to experience poetry that will help them to feel that they are not alone in their feelings. I want them to be able to understand their rights, and to love themselves and know that it

The book was also presented at the United Nation’s (UNESCO) Globalism Institute in Sarajevo this past August. “The best part was in sharing the book with young people who were so thirsty for expressions of poetry and healing text,” Dr. Stutman said.

And even more good work is on the horizon. “I’m so happy to tell you that I have been accepted to work with a team at the University of Pretoria who are using narrative – and my poetry – to tell the story of children facing issues of AIDS and abuse,” she told us.

Working with Dr. Stutman has been an incredible opportunity for the staff at WOAR. As she explains it, “Hopefully, our efforts will help lots of kids. If so – our dreams will come true.”

Liane Rice
Legal Services Coordinator

Sometimes I feel like a dog who quacks

from All the Power Rests with You, by Suzanne Stutman, Ph.D.

Sometimes I feel like a dog who quacks or a cat who moos.	Sometimes I feel like a Mean machine. I don't say what I think.	I say or do the stuff I do. Sometimes it's hard just being me. In side it's tough, sometimes
It's the con tra dic tory things I do.	I don't think what I say.	
As if up was down, or yes was no, or in was out - you know what I mean. O O	I am up and down in a funny way. But it's not funny. I just don't understand why	

V IS FOR VICTORY, VALENTINE & VAGINA

Inspired by the hundreds of women who told her their stories of rape, incest, domestic violence and genital mutilation, Eve Ensler, the writer of the Obie-Award winning play, "The Vagina Monologues," founded V-Day. V-Day is a non-profit corporation that distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations that work to stop violence against women and girls. Since it was founded in 1998, the V-Day movement has raised over \$25 million.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and has been a catalyst promoting creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of anti-violence organizations. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances

of The Vagina Monologues to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. As part of the 2006 V-Day College

Campaign sponsored by the Trustee's Council of Penn Women, the students of the University of Pennsylvania presented a benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness of violence against women and to raise funds for Women Organized Against Rape. The performances ran on February 15th and 17th at the Irvine Auditorium on 3401 Spruce Street.

WOAR would like to thank the students and staff who helped spread the word about violence against women in our community and who chose WOAR to benefit from their hard work!

Chun Mei Lam
Asian Outreach Counselor/
Educator



UPenn Senior Caroline Rothstein has organized the Vagina Monologues at UPenn for the past 4 years. Thank you Caroline and good luck in the future!

NEW FACES AT WOAR

Please join us in welcoming four new staff members!



Edwin Desamour,
Education Specialist,
at work in the
Education Office.



Kathy Fidler,
Child Court Advocate,
showing off the
"Going to Court"
coloring book



Chun Mei Lam,
Asian Outreach Counselor/
Educator, at the
WOAR office.



Steve Harrell,
Education Specialist,
poses for us after
returning from a
school training.

ASHER & COMPANY BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

Every year, Asher & Company, Ltd. coordinates a Holiday Drive and designates an organization to which they donate holiday gifts and care packages. Asher & Company, located at 1845 Walnut Street, is one of Philadelphia's largest accounting and consulting firms. (www.asherco.com) This year, Women Organized Against Rape was the lucky organization that received Asher & Company's great generosity. Beautifully



Asher & Company gave special Christmas gifts to 15 of WOAR's child clients.

wrapped gifts and care packages filled to the brim with canned goods and snacks were given to 15 of WOAR's child clients and their families. Please join us in thanking Asher & Company for their commitment to the community and for helping 15 lucky children who might not have otherwise had such a wonderful holiday season.

CHRIS WITTY: OUR OLYMPIC HERO

As far as we're concerned, Olympic speed skater and cyclist Chris Witty is a gold medal winner for her efforts outside the Games as well. Since disclosing in October 2004 that she was a victim of child sexual abuse, Witty has dedicated her time to speaking at schools, promoting Good Touch/Bad Touch education. "To me, it's a great accomplishment, as big or bigger than winning a gold medal," she said at an October 2005 media event.



Chris Witty, true gold. (AP Images)

When Witty competed at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, the press was told that she was recovering from mononucleosis. It was a huge shock when she then won gold in the 1000m.

In reality, however, the speed skater had just disclosed to her team therapist that she was an abuse survivor.

From ages 4 to 11, she was abused by an elderly neighbor. This abuse only stopped after she saw an educational video in school that taught her to say "no" because the abuse was wrong and not her fault. Although Witty never told about the abuse, another girl on her street who was abused by the same neighbor did tell. He was sentenced to four years incarceration, but just before the 2002 Games, Witty learned that he would be getting off of house arrest. And she found that she

could no longer hide her feelings.

When she contacted her team therapist, he told her to first concentrate on the Games she had worked so hard to compete in and to start therapy afterwards. She did just that, and after a year of therapy, she was ready to share her story for whatever good it would do. "Abuse of any kind thrives off secrecy. That's why it continues. If I started talking about it, other people can talk about it. Or if it's started with someone, maybe I can inspire them to go tell somebody about it and they can get help. I just wanted to break the silence," she explained.

For all of her amazing courage and strength, we at WOAR were proud to see that Witty's teammates chose her to bear the American flag at the 2005 Olympic opening ceremonies. (information from *NBCOlympics.com* and *TheNewsTribune.com*)

WOAR'S ASIAN OUTREACH IS FRONT PAGE NEWS

WOAR's message reached new audiences through two exciting articles in Asian community newspapers. Journalist Sung Young Yun wrote a front page article for the Korean language newspaper *Dong-A Daily News*, which highlighted



WOAR is featured in two local Asian Community newspapers.



WOAR's services, statistics on sexual violence, and WOAR's commitment to the Asian community. Journalist Lin Liu's article for the Chinese language *World Journal* highlighted WOAR's program after a presentation at The Children's Village, a daycare center in Chinatown. WOAR is proud to be challenging language and cultural barriers to bring our services to all members of

Chun Mei Lam, Asian Outreach Counselor/Educator, with the two articles.

the Philadelphia community.

MAKING HEADLINES

Renewed and Remarkable

- Congress reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which combats human labor and sex trafficking. Also included was the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act, which funds law enforcement to prosecute the customers of sex traffickers.
- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was renewed for another

5 years for \$3.9 billion to fund community education, counseling, outreach, and law enforcement training. The renewed VAWA includes initiatives for health care and tribal community outreach.

New in New Jersey

- Nonprofits, including churches and schools, are no longer shielded from civil suits filed by child sexual assault survivors abused by their

staff. AL and TN are now the only states in which charities are immune from such lawsuits.

In World News

- Fifteen African nations ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, a women's rights treaty that bans female genital mutilation and gives women the right to an abortion in cases of rape and incest.

TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS FOR KEEPING KIDS SAFE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...)

this to happen more easily. There are excellent books, such as Sandy Kleven's *The Right Touch*, that help address this issue with young children. Starting young and talking about the issue will also reduce the awkwardness of later conversations about sexual health.

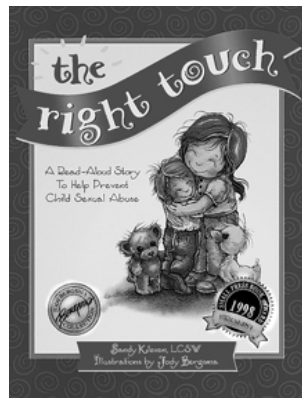
✦ **Teach your children the proper names for their body parts.** I know many parents are fearful of their children picking the wrong moment to proudly state the differences between boys and girls, but this is a small risk compared to what could happen if children use "code names" for their body parts. My colleagues and I have often come across children who attempted to disclose about sexual abuse, but were misunderstood because of their lack of vocabulary. When a teacher or counselor hears a child say "someone has been touching my cookie," he/she may not pick that up as something to be alarmed about. While names such as "cookie" or "pocketbook" may feel more comfortable to teach at first, they could prevent children from getting the help they need when they ask for it.

✦ **Make sure your kids know your values and what you expect from them.** Get to your kids before the media does. Let them know what you want for them, what you expect from them, and that they can come to you with any questions.

✦ **Make a special time each week for just you and your child.** Spending 15 minutes a week of undivided, television- and phone-free time together creates space to check in and check up on your child. This creates a structured time for your child to tell you what is on his/her mind and reassures them that you really do want to listen.

✦ **Know who your child is around.** The fact is **90%** of child sexual assaults are perpetrated by people known to the family and to the child, not strangers

(Greenfeld, 1996). If an adult tries to spend all of his or her time with kids, or seems to encourage inappropriate behavior in children (such as drinking, smoking, or sneaking out), it is possible that all may not be well.



Sandy Kleven's *The Right Touch*

✦ **Know the law and make sure adolescents and teens do as well.** Statutory rape is a serious offense and is taken seriously by Philadelphia law enforcement.

In the state of Pennsylvania, anyone under the age of 13 is incapable of giving consent to *any* sexual act. Any sex act involving a child 12 or under is automatically a crime – regardless of whether or not consent was given.

If an adolescent between the ages of 13 and 15 engages in a sex act with someone who is four or more years older, this is also automatically a crime, regardless of consent. 16 is the age of consent.

Prevention is key, but unfortunately child sexual abuse still occurs. If the unthinkable does

happen, **here are some tips on how to handle your child's disclosure:**

✦ **Stay calm.** Hearing that your child has been hurt, especially by someone you may have trusted to care for your child, can be a truly devastating experience. Make every effort to stay calm in front of your child. Call your supportive family, friends, or partner and vent with them. Keep in mind that children who disclose sexual abuse are vulnerable and scared; if the adult they are looking to for support seems to fall apart too, it can be a frightening experience.

✦ **Let children know you are proud of them for telling and that they did the right thing.** Children often fear getting into trouble or being blamed for sexual abuse. Reassuring children that they are not in trouble and are not at fault for what happened will make a world of difference to them.

✦ **Contact the police and take your child to get medical care as soon as possible.** If you are unsure of how this process works, you can contact your local Rape Crisis Center.

✦ **Try to avoid questions like "Why didn't you tell me sooner?"** or statements such as "I told you not to go over there" or "I never liked that person." Statements like these are often made when we are upset and or when we feel guilty or responsible for what happened. While we may not mean to be victim-blaming, such comments can sound that way to children and may cause them to think that they are being partially blamed for the abuse.

✦ **Tell your child that you are willing to hear about what happened to them without pushing them to go over the abuse repeatedly.** Talking about the abuse can be very helpful in recovering, but it needs to be done in a supportive way.

Seek support from counseling centers for yourself as well as for your child. Having the necessary energy and support will make it easier for you to support your child. You can always contact Women Organized Against Rape's 24-hour hotline number (215-985-3333) for support, counseling services, or referrals.

Always remember that the abuse is the fault of one person and one person only: the offender. Feeling guilty is a common reaction after any kind of sexual abuse or assault, but it is never your fault.

Anna Grenier, LSW

Child and Adolescent Counselor

These facts can be scary to think about, but they are important for your children's safety and well being.

Action Alert!

RAPE VICTIMS DENIED EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AT MOST PA HOSPITALS

In 2004, a forcible rape was reported to Pennsylvania police every 2 hours and 38 seconds; this means 9 Pennsylvania women were forcibly raped every day. While this truth is staggering and appalling, even more shocking is the number of women across the nation who are forced to relive their assault day in and day out faced with carrying the child of their rapist...25,000 to be exact.

You may be asking yourself why victims are not taking the necessary steps to prevent pregnancy; but the harsh reality is that more than half of Pennsylvania hospitals and healthcare systems do not offer emergency contraception (EC) – an FDA approved medication that can PREVENT pregnancy – to victims of rape and sexual assault.

We at WOAR find this lack of regard for victims' rights inexcusable. As the first point of contact for many sexual assault victims, hospitals and healthcare facilities must be required to provide comprehensive health information to victims of sexual assault; they deserve nothing less than the best medical practices and emotional care.

Let's be clear; we are not talking about abortion. This is a victims' rights issue. EC cannot terminate a pregnancy; it works like regular birth control pills and can safely and effectively prevent pregnancy for up to 120 hours following a sexual assault.

Too often, the misconceptions surrounding EC cloud the real issue – the right of all victims to reclaim a sense of security and empowerment following a sexual assault.

For example, in southeast Pennsylvania, the mother of a 14-year-old rape

victim who was denied access to EC in the emergency room could not find a pharmacy that would fill the prescription given to her daughter by the doctor; for weeks they lived in fear and terror of pregnancy conceived in violence.

Legislation recently introduced by Representative Bill DeWeese and Senator Joe Conti and Senator Connie Williams

could reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies resulting from crimes against an innocent victim by up to 89-percent. The Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act will require hospitals to inform victims about EC, provide the full regimen to victims upon request, provide information about rape crisis services, and allow for an advocate from the rape crisis center to accompany victims at the hospital.

With 84-percent of Pennsylvanians in support of requiring the changes proposed in the CARE Act, it is evident that our citizens understand the problem and support this legislation as a reasonable require-

ment to further assist victims of sexual violence.

One victim denied EC in the emergency department is one too many. Help protect victims' rights. Contact your legislators today and encourage them to support the CARE Act.

Contact Barbara Sheaffer
(717) 728-9740 x132

Or Liane Rice (215) 985-3315 x186

For survivors' stories:
www.raisinghervoice.org

In America, an estimated 25,000 rape victims become pregnant from an assault each year.

Over 50% of Pennsylvania hospitals do not offer emergency contraception to rape victims who request it.

84% of Pennsylvanians support the CARE Act.

Do you?

WHAT YOU CAN DO, IN 2 EASY STEPS

Find out the names and addresses of your Pennsylvania legislators at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

1: IS YOUR LEGISLATOR ON THE LIST?

The following members of the PA Senate co-sponsored the CARE Act:

Joe Conti, Lisa Boscola, Patrick Browne, Jane Earll, Jim Ferlo, Wayne Fontana, Shirley Kitchen, Gerald LaValle, Charles Lemmond, Raphael Musto, Christine Tartaglione, LeAnna Washington, and Constance Williams.

The following members of the PA House of Representatives co-sponsored the CARE Act:

Linda Bebeko-Jones, Robert Belfanti, Louise Bishop, Thomas Blackwell, Raymond Bunt, Ronald Buxton, Thomas Caltagirone, James Casorio, Mark Cohen, Susan Cornell, Thomas Corrigan, Lawrence Curry, Frank Dermody, William DeWeese, Todd Eachus, Dan Frankel, Richard Geist, Camille George, Michael Gerber, Marc Gergely, Neal Goodman, Ted Harhai, Lynn Herman, Harold James, Babette Josephs, Frank LaGrotta, Daylin Leach, David Levdansky, Kathy Manderino, Jennifer Mann, Mark McNaughton, Ronald Miller, Phyllis Mundy, Merle Phillips, Frank Pistella, Joseph Preston, Ron Raymond, Harry Readshaw, James Roebuck, T.J. Rooney, Chris Ross, Carole Rubley, Mario Scavello, James Shaner, Josh Shapiro, John Siptroth, Bruce Smith, David Steil, Stephen Stetler, Michael Sturla, John Taylor, W.C. Thomas, Greg Vitali, Don Walko, and Jake Wheatley.



2: TELL THEM WHAT YOU THINK OF THAT!

A) If your legislator ^{co}-sponsored the

CARE Act, please call or write to say "thank you!"

B) If your legislator was not a co-sponsor, please call or write, asking for their support!

A Sample Letter

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

Thank you for co-sponsoring the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act [HB 2159 or SB 990]. Upon passage, this bill will provide victims with the complete, comprehensive healthcare that our citizens deserve, so that they may begin the arduous journey of healing from violence. Thank you for your leadership and vision in supporting this critical victims' rights issue.

Sincerely, *Your Name*

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

Your help is needed on a critical victims' rights issue: the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act [HB 2159, SB 990]. Currently, more than 50% of hospitals across Pennsylvania do not provide emergency contraception (EC) to sexual assault victims even if they ask for it. Emergency contraception is an FDA approved drug that can be taken up to 120 hours after a sexual assault to prevent a pregnancy.

The CARE Act would require that all hospitals in Pennsylvania which treat victims of sexual assault to:

- Provide medically accurate information about EC to all victims of sexual assault who present at the hospital.
- Provide the full regimen of EC to the victim upon her request.
- Provide the victim with information about rape crisis services and allow for an advocate from the rape crisis center to accompany a victim at the hospital.

The CARE Act needs your support. Victims of rape and incest should be able to protect themselves against a pregnancy resulting from the assault and should have information and access to the medical care they need.

Sincerely, *Your Name*

A Sample Phone Call

Please thank _____ for co-sponsoring the CARE Act. This bill will make a big difference in victims' lives by ensuring complete access to medical care and rape crisis support in the emergency department. Thank you for supporting this victims' rights issue!

A Sample Phone Call

I am asking _____ to cosponsor HB 2159 (or SB 990), known as the CARE Act. Victims of rape and incest should be able to protect themselves against a pregnancy resulting from the assault and should have information and access to full medical care, support and advocacy. Please support this victims' rights issue!

Want to do more?

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.

Tear these pages out!

Educate your friends and family about the CARE Act.

Look for events in April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

**WOMEN ORGANIZED AGAINST RAPE
AMERICA'S FIRST RAPE CRISIS CENTER**

1233 Locust Street, Suite 202
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Business: (215) 985-3315 24 Hour Hotline: (215) 985-3333
TTY: (215) 893-8021 Fax: (215) 985-9111

We're on the Web!
www.woar.org

Enjoy a private tour of the Philadelphia Art Museum's upcoming Andrew Wyeth exhibit and support WOAR at the same time! Wyeth, one of the most celebrated living American artists, is known for his contributions to American realism.

Join us on Sunday, April 23rd (9:00am), Saturday, April 29th (8:30am), Sunday, April 30th (9:30am), or Saturday, May 6th (8:30am). Tickets are \$40. Contact Estelle Faust (x179) for details.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH: JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING FREE EVENT!



Women Organized Against Rape
will be hosting a

Take It All Back!

event Saturday April 29th
from 1:00pm-4:00pm on
the lawn next to the visitor's center
at 5th and Market Streets in
Philadelphia. (Rain Date: Sunday,
April 30th)

Participate in a self defense demonstration, a clothesline project, and children's activities. Learn from local social service agencies, speakers,

and hear survivors' stories. Enjoy free refreshments and blues music
by **the Deb Callahan Band!**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

The Board of Directors salutes the staff and volunteers of WOAR for your outstanding service to the Community. Your commitment to making a difference to survivors and their families is phenomenal and we sincerely thank you. We give special recognition and appreciation to our Executive Director, Carole Johnson, for your outstanding leadership and direction.

Our thanks are also extended to our supporters for your continued contributions to our Organization. Through your generous donations, WOAR has been able to seek new opportunities to strengthen and diversify our services. This has been demonstrated through programs geared toward males and the Asian and Latino communities.

We solicit your continued commitment and support of WOAR's mission. Help us continue to make a difference for the individuals and families we embrace by sending your financial donation today to the WOAR office. Again... congratulations team for a job WELL DONE!!

Juanita Solomon, President • Maria Pajil Battle, Vice President • Mary O'Brien, Secretary • Donna Tschoepe, Treasurer • Peggy Andrews, Co-Chair Fundraising Committee • Susan Coan, Finance Committee Member • Patricia Dubin, Fundraising Committee