

**April 2003**

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**SPRING GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!!**

**ADVOCATE CERTIFICATION AWARDS CEREMONY:** This year's awards ceremony was just wonderful and despite the torrential rains, many of you came. The following advocates received their NYS certification as Rape Crisis Advocates: **April Benitez, John Berenguer, Tina Broco, Sally Clayton, Sheila Feeney, Dana Fulmore, Katherine Gibson, Jill Glassman, Nyja Greene, Aminda Jacobs, Samantha Levine, Timothy Marmo, Aurelia Martinez, Jenifer Mulock and Dawn Volkart.** The Domestic Violence Advocates who were certified are: **Phoebe Furey, Samantha Levine, Timothy Marmo, Sherry Peregrin and Susan Volchok.** The SAFE Examiners who completed their training and precepting and were awarded certificates are: **Tom Ashar MD, Jason Buchwald MD, Caroline Choudhury RN, Joshua Partnow MD, Leo Polosajian MD and Barbara Schnoor RN.** Congratulations, one and all!!!

Special honors were given to **Matt Foreman**, Executive Director of Empire State Pride Agenda Inc., **Mary Haviland, Esq.**, Director of the Family Violence Project, Urban Justice Center, the CTVC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Benefit Committee** and **Kathleen Bishop**, who served as a Rape Crisis Advocate for an amazing 23 years. Kathleen was not able to be with us, as she was in California, caring for her mother. Her good friend, Leslie Shreve (who also joined the Program with her 23 years ago) accepted the award on her behalf. Here is an excerpt of the message Kathleen sent to us through Leslie:

*"We all have had amazing experiences as advocates and have encountered the best and worst of human behavior, our own lives constantly put in perspective. You cannot participate in a program like this without growing as a human being. The roster of my fellow Advocates and Co-Advocates have numbered so many dedicated, caring, interesting people from so many walks of life. I share this award with them all. I have been privileged to be one of you for 23 years. Thank you all!!!"*

And from all of us- Thank YOU, Kathleen!!!

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND ADVOCATES ON-CALL:** Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Advocates were called into the emergency department **35** times during the month of March!...Wow...statistics were high in March. You all did such a great job and made such a difference for the survivor's healing and recovery. Thank you all.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH:** April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The following events are open to you:

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - "Resilience in the Face of Trauma", 8AM-4:30PM, Mt. Sinai Med. Ctr.

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Crime Victims' Candlelight Vigil, 2PM at the West End Collegiate Church

Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> - College Consortium Project, 12-2:30 PM at the New School University Counseling Center, Barnard-Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Center

Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - "New York City Decides to End Sexual Violence" 5-7:30PM, City Hall Chambers, sponsored by the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Columbia/Barnard Take Back the Night!

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, "Safety through Strength: Making Schools Safe." Barnard-Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Center and Girls, Inc. of NYC

For further information on any of the events listed above, please visit the Alliance's website at [www.nycagainstrape.org](http://www.nycagainstrape.org).

**ELDORA:** Singer/songwriter ELDORA will be releasing a new album this month with two new powerful songs that deal with the often forbidden territory of domestic violence and sexual abuse- "*Can't You See Me Crying*," and "*Break in the Clouds*" on the CD titled "Lonely Heart" on the Awe Struck label. CVTC has been selected by Eldora to benefit from sales of the Lonely Heart CD. You will be receiving further information from us as to how you can help to further this project. In the meantime, you can get more information about the Eldora project or purchase the Lonely Heart CD at [www.Eldoramusic.com](http://www.Eldoramusic.com).

Domestic Violence Advocate, **Melissa Bennett** (who is a classically-trained musician) gives us her take on the music with this review of the CD: "Upon a first listen with other CVTC staff and advocates, her music was described as sounding like 'country, folk with a mix of pop.' Eldora's CD has thoughtful lyrics and soaring melodies that have the power to take the listener on a journey. Two tracks on this album are songs with themes of domestic violence and rape. Lyrics such as, 'No matter how you pray for [things] to stay the same, you gotta roll with the punches you think, when he throws them,' and 'He gave me no choice/That night a trusted friend took part of me away/They say I must be strong and lay my burdens down/That I'm not to blame for the shame that keeps me bound.' As advocates, we quickly learn that the people we meet in the emergency department are not "victims" but "survivors," for they truly have lived through and survived dreadful acts of violence to tell stories that demonstrate great courage and strength. The songs on Eldora's album are also stories of strength and courage – songs of survival and whispers of hope."

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR AT NYIT:** The Counseling and Wellness Center at the New York Institute of Technology at 21 West 60<sup>th</sup> Street is having a Health and Wellness Fair on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-3PM. We are looking for **two Advocates** to represent the Program at the fair by manning a table with flyers and providing information about CVTC. If you are available and would be interested, please call Sally at (212) 523-4494 before April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**APPRENTICESHIP POSITIONS:** Public Allies NY is seeking talented and energetic young adults, ages 19-29 to participate in a paid, full-time, 10-month apprenticeship program from September 2003 through June 2004. Successful candidates would receive placement at a non-profit agency, a living allowance, benefits and an education award upon completion of the program. For information, call (212) 244-5335 or e-mail [Abdullah@publicallies.org](mailto:Abdullah@publicallies.org).

### Thought for the Month

**Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph."**

**Unknown**