

ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER **August 2003**

HELLO ALL!

ADVOCATE ON-CALL CALENDAR: There are still many spots open on the August calendar. If you haven't signed up yet and are available, please check the website (www.cvtc-slr.org) for open shifts and go ahead and sign up on-line. We have received a lot of favorable comments on the new on-line calendar and we appreciate your feedback. As always, if you do not have access to the internet or do not wish to sign up on-line, you can call Sally at (212) 523-4494.

SAFE ON-CALL CALENDAR: SAFE Examiners, please note that although the calendar appears to be full through August 21st everyone who wants to be on the schedule will be accommodated in some way. So (at least for this month), please call Sally if you want to cover a date that is already filled. Enclosed with this Newsletter are sign-up guidelines for SAFE Examiners which officially go into effect for the September calendar. If you do not have access to the internet or do not wish to sign up on-line, you can call always Sally at (212) 523-4494 to sign up for shifts.

JUNE AND JULY STATISTICS: from June 1st through July 27th, Advocates were called into the ED **30 times**- 19 times for sexual assault, 10 times for domestic violence and once for sexual assault and DV combined. SAFE examiners provided **27** sexual assault exams.

ANNUAL TRAINING FOR NEW ADVOCATES: The dates for this year's training have been set and we are trying something new this year! We have decided that all new trainees will be trained in both Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Advocacy. Following training, new volunteers will have the option to sign up for on-call shifts for one or both crimes. The Fall training dates are:

Thursday, October 23 (6pm
to 9pm)

Saturday, November 1 (9am
to 6pm)

Sunday, November 2 (9am
to 6pm)

Friday, November 7 (6pm
to 9pm)

Saturday, November 8 (9am
to 5pm)

Because of the number of cases that involve sexual assault in the context of a DV relationship as well as the frequency of revictimization of survivors of both DV and sexual assault, we believe that cross-training is beneficial for all advocates and will be offering training to current Advocates with the same option of choosing Rape or DV on-call shifts at the end of training. Active Domestic Violence Advocates

who wish to be trained in Sexual Assault would have to attend the sessions on Saturday, November 1st and Sunday, November 2nd. Active Rape Crisis Advocates who wish to be trained in Domestic Violence would have to attend the sessions on Friday, November 7th and Saturday, November 8th. If you would like to register for either of these trainings, please call Erika at (212) 523-4728.

Please post and/or distribute the enclosed (or attached) flyers. If you need more, please let us know. Also, we welcome your input if you have any ideas about where we should be recruiting volunteers.

FOCUS GROUP: Kay Johnson, CSW would like to schedule a meeting of advocates who have responded to ED calls for individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. The purpose of the meeting is to identify what happens in the ED and ways to address these issues. Information gathered during the meeting will be incorporated into the September supervision on “Special Needs” (Kay will be our guest speaker) as well as at the training for new advocates this fall. Please call Kay at 523-4426 if you are interested in attending the meeting, or would be willing to provide information/ideas over the phone. The meeting will be held on a weekday evening to be announced.

CLOTHING DONATIONS: Donations of gently used clothing can be brought into the Volunteer Office at either St. Luke’s or Roosevelt Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM. All items must be clean and in good condition. If you supply an itemized list of the items you have donated, the Volunteer Office will include this information in the “Thank You” letter they will send to you. You can then estimate the value of your donation for tax purposes. Your donations would be greatly appreciated by ED patients and inpatients in need of clothing who are being discharged. In addition, donations may be made to the St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Thrift Shop, which is run by Erika’s father, Ralph Bernardini, who is a Senior Recreational Therapist and Rehab Coordinator in the Psychiatric Outpatient START Program at the St. Luke’s Site. Donations can be brought in to the Thrift Shop (located on the first floor of 411 West 114th Street) on Mondays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:30 AM and 11 AM. Since the items donated to the Thrift Shop are sold to patients and others in the community, Ralph will supply you with a letter stating the estimated value of your donation for tax purposes. If you have any questions about the Thrift Shop, you can call Ralph directly at (212) 523-4106.

STAFF NEWS: In June, CVTC Social Work Intern **Kerry Stout, CSW** became a full-time member of our CVTC Staff. Kerry has taken on many of the responsibilities of Karen Reichert, who continues with us as a consultant. Many of you will hear from Kerry directly, as she is responsible for coordinating all sexual assault cases referred from our emergency departments and in troubleshooting problems with rape. In addition, she will provide individual and group counseling. We are very happy to have Kerry with us on a full-time basis now. **Kay Johnson, CSW** will conduct a course on “Numbing the Pain: PTSD and Substance Abuse” at the 43rd Annual Southeastern School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies Institute in Athens, Georgia from August 17-22. The course will explore the relationship between PTSD, trauma and substance abuse; identify current integrated models of treatment; identify ways to create trauma-informed environments; and provide knowledge/experience in conducting the Seeking Safety Treatment for PTSD/Substance Abuse developed by Lisa M. Najavits, PhD of Harvard Medical School.

Thought for the Month

Some people come into our lives and quickly go.

Some people move our souls to dance.

They awaken us to new understanding with the passing whisper of their wisdom.

Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon.

**They stay in our lives for awhile, leave footprints in our hearts and
we are never ever the same.**

-Anonymous-