

## ***PROGRAM NEWS***

**July 2004**

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### **GREETINGS!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!:** During the month of June, Advocates were called in to the ED 10 times- 3 for sexual assault and 7 times for domestic violence. SAFE Examiners were called in 7 times. There were 15 patients seen in the ED who didn't have an Advocate and 5 sexual assault survivors who didn't have a SAFE Examiner.

Although some of the survivors who did not have an Advocate were seen during the day, there were a number who came in on nights when we had no coverage. The summer months are statistically high for both sexual assault and domestic violence. It makes such a difference when an Advocate is present. We can see it from the reports and the medical charts. Survivors receive far better care when an advocate is present. So please consider placing yourself on call several times in July and August!! Or Back-up...especially for DV!!!! If we have several people on back-up, the chances are much greater that someone will be able to come in. THANKS, everybody!

**ATTENTION!:** We have voter registration cards (in English and Spanish) at the office. Or you can download them for yourself and friends at [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us). PLEASE remember- every vote counts!

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Susan and others went to Albany AGAIN!!! to speak to legislators about some bills. We met with the Governor's counsel, the Senate's and Assembly's counsel and Majority and Minority leaders. As you know, Albany has been stuck on the budget but a DNA bill was passed which allows DNA to be taken on

“most” violent felony and “some” misdemeanor crimes post conviction. The DNA will then go into the state registered DNA databank. Victim/Advocate concerns about privacy issues and regulation and security of the DNA were addressed and so far we are satisfied with the language in the bill.

Senator David A. Paterson, Minority Leader of the NYS Senate and friend of CVTC, was the focus of a recent article in Newsday, “His Methods Earn Kudos”. In the article, both parties hailed Senator Paterson as one of the most respected legislators for his honesty, intelligence and direct style. His response to his role in Albany? “I now see as my role...a kind of political stem-cell surgery, reattaching spine to some very talented people.” Each year, Senator Paterson has given CVTC a \$5,000 grant for Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Advocates.

### **SAFE PROGRAM DESIGNATED AS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE!!**

In May, the SLR SAFE program received certification and designated status as a Center of Excellence from the NYS Department of Health. SLR was the second SAFE program in NYS to receive this designation. This is a great achievement and we are honored. Congratulations to all!!

**A VICTORY!:** CVTC recently issued an “Action Alert” (which many of you received via e-mail) with specific suggestions on how to protest the highly inappropriate t-shirts being sold to young girls by the Joyce Leslie stores. These shirts sported the slogan, “You can beat

me, you can abuse me, but don't touch my hair or I'll kill you." Due to the immediate and overwhelming outcry from the antiviolence community, the company has issued a recall. If you were one of those who took action to get these shirts off the market, THANK YOU. AND you can also thank Joyce Leslie for their responsiveness by calling 1-800-526-6216 (speak to Rita or Customer Service) or write to: Joyce Leslie, Attention: President; 135 Commercial; Moonachie, NJ 07074.

**ADVOCATE NEWS: Jo Giacolone** received the "Outstanding Student of the Year" award from Bronx Community College. Yay, Jo! Domestic Violence Advocate, **Tracy-Ann Stewart** is a soldier for the NY National Guard and has been activated into duty to provide additional protection for NY State during the summer and through the Republican National Convention, which will be held here at the end of August. This comes right on the heels of her graduation (magna cum laude!) from John Jay College with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. Congratulations, Tracy-Ann!

**TIP OF THE MONTH:**

**Kerry:** Barefoot dancing at the annual series of world music and dancing on Wave Hill's lush lawns. For information and schedule of events, go to: [www.wavehill.org/barefoot\\_dancing.html](http://www.wavehill.org/barefoot_dancing.html)

**STAFF NEWS:** BIG, BIG news here: **ERIKA** is expecting a BABY!!! Estimated time of

delivery? January 2005. We can't wait!!!  
Congratulations, Erika and Ray!

**DEAR CVTC:** I see that there is an up-training on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> on "Forms and Procedures." What will be covered at this session?  
**-Curious**

**Dear Curious,**

We're going to go over all the "nuts and bolts" of advocating in the ED- the procedures you follow, the forms you have to fill out, the forms the SAFE Examiners fill out or those that go into the chart, pictures, reimbursement for travel or funds given to survivors, etc. We'll also do Program updates and case review. Hope you can make it!  
**-CVTC**

Call or e-mail your questions to [cvtc@cvtc-slr.org](mailto:cvtc@cvtc-slr.org). Ask...and CVTC will answer.



**BIRTHDAY WISHES...** to all our Advocates and staff who were born in the month of July:

Jean Hamerman 7/6, Stephanie Yazgi 7/10, Patria Weston-Lee 7/12, Bodden Sween 7/17, Susanna Beacom 7/23, Sherry Peregrin 7/23, Katarzyna Barszcz 7/25, Dana Fulmore 7/25, Meta Resnick 7/25, Nilda Lopez 7/26, Silvia Freschi 7/30.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ONE AND ALL!!!**

## Thought for the Month

**"I never wanted to be famous. I only wanted to be great."**

**Ray Charles**

**Farewell to "The Genius"**