

ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER

June 2003

GREETINGS!

Yes!! Summer's almost here and I know most of you are planning your "getaways" to the far end or not so far end of our planet. Already many advocates have reported that they will be heading off to Venezuela, the jungles of Brazil, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Helsinki, the islands of Puerto Rico, Mykonos and then...LA!! That is just great and we want you all to have the best summer and come back to us refreshed and rejuvenated. However, with so many advocates away....we anticipate coverage crisis for the ED. So...for those of you who will be in town, please consider signing up for two or more shifts for the month or...put yourself on back-up.

MAY STATISTICS: In May, rape crisis and domestic violence advocates were called into the ED 16 times and SAFE examiners were called in 10 times.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION UPDATE: On Tuesday, June 2nd, the NYS Coalition against Sexual Assault will co-sponsor a legislative action day and press conference in Albany with the NYS Family Planning Coalition in support of the emergency contraception bill which is close to being pushed for a vote in the NYS legislature. This bill mandates that every hospital in NYS provide emergency contraception as a treatment option for survivors of sexual assault. At the same time, CVTC will be calling and faxing our legislators to support this bill. It would be great if "all of us" do the same...if you support this bill. The bill passed in the Assembly. Please call NYS Senators from the westside: Senator David Paterson, tel. 518-455-2701; Sen. Eric Schneiderman, 518-455-2041 and Senator Guy Vellela, 518-455-3264 from Bronx. Tell them that we need this bill to be put on the Senate floor for a vote.

SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAINING VIDEO: As some of the newer Advocates may remember, the video enacting the experience of rape survivors being treated in the ED that we use in training is a not only outdated but in many cases, is not very accurate especially with the new technology and treatment protocols. We looked for an updated version and didn't find anything we liked, so!!!... we decided to film our own!!!! (with the help of some talented Columbia film students...).

The film will include interviews with rape crisis advocates, SAFE examiners, ED and CVTC staff. Advocates will talk about why they became an advocate and what their experience of being an Advocate has been like. The interviews will be filmed in the Program Office on Saturday, July 5th from 9am-5pm. So!!! Are you interested??? If you are available and would be interested in being interviewed for the video, please call Sally or Erika ASAP. This is going to be a really fun project, so come in and be part of it!

ELDORA: In the April Newsletter, we told you about singer/songwriter ELDORA whose new album was released with two 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. Radio stations across the country have begun playing these songs, and as you know, the more airplay songs get, the more they sell. You can help increase sales (which ultimately benefits CVTC and other Rape Crisis Centers across the country) by calling the radio stations you listen to and

asking them to play the songs. You can also ask at the music stores you frequent if the CD is in stock, and if not, ask them to order it. If you'd like more information about Eldora or would like to purchase the Lonely Heart CD, go to www.Eldoramusic.com.

DIRECT HELP: Direct Help is an organization founded by Scott Case (co-founder of priceline.com) whose mission is "to use communication technology to provide caring people with a simple, compelling and direct way to support organizations with the goods and services they need to help people in their community." Erika and Sally attended Direct Help's first Impact Conference in New Haven, CT at the end of April and CVTC is now enrolled as one of the organizations whose needs are accessible to prospective donors on the Direct Help website. CVTC can attract donors at no financial cost by posting client or program needs on the website. For donors, 100% of what they give goes directly to the recipient- no administrative or service charge is deducted from their gift- so they are providing DIRECT HELP to those who need it. We are very excited about this initiative and have already posted our first need. Check out the website- www.directhelp.org!!!

CVTC LOGO: We're in the process of developing a CVTC logo. We'll keep you informed of our progress...

SEEKING SAFETY GROUPS: Starting in June, CVTC will have a men's group and a women's group to address both traumatic experiences and substance abuse. The men's group will be facilitated by Kay Johnson, CSW and Louise Kindley, CSW; the women's group by Kay and Danette Wilson-Gonzalez, CSW. Both groups, which will meet for 8 weeks, are free of charge and services are confidential. Referrals should contact Kay at (212) 523-4426.

ADVOCATE NEWS: Rape Crisis Advocate, **Cara Buono** can be seen on the big screen in "The Hulk," directed by Ang Lee. It opens everywhere on June 20th. She plays Edith Banner, the Hulk's birth mother, in flashback scenes. Yes, she actually gives birth to the Incredible Hulk! Who would think??? Our Cara.... DVA, **Lisa Ernst**, appeared on the 1st page of the Sunday New York Times Real Estate section. She was cited for her apartment-selling savvy... Rape Crisis Advocate, **Jenifer Mulock**, has completed her Master's in Forensic Psychology at John Jay and is going on to do an internship at the Forensic Division at the Center for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto... Rape Crisis Advocate and DVA, **Tim Marmo** passed the test for his 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do!

Thought for the Month

A book is like a garden
carried in the pocket

-Chinese Proverb

Enjoy your summer reading!!!

