



PROGRAM NEWS

June, 2005

HAPPY SUMMER!

NEW ROOM AT SLED: We're getting a new Forensic Treatment Room in the St. Luke's ED! Construction is already underway for the new room, which has been designed to provide optimal treatment for sexual assault survivors in a comforting setting. The SAFE closet and all equipment used for the forensic exam will be contained within the space along with a shower and a small seating area for the patient, co-survivors and treatment providers. This is a really exciting project- we'll keep you updated on the progress...

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT: Thank you all for your letters to Senators Schumer and Clinton. Looks like all your efforts are working! Just heard from Washington that the House Appropriations Committee rejected the proposed rescission of \$1.2billion from the Victims of Crime Act fund! It may not be over yet but this is a good sign! On June 6th, Susan and members from the Downstate Coalition are meeting with legal counsel of the Senate, Assembly and Governor's office about: lifting the statute of limitations for all sexual assault B felonies; a human trafficking bill which will make human trafficking illegal in NYS (it is only a federal crime now); a gun trafficking and ballistic imaging bill (similar to DNA but for guns and ammunition); identity theft bill, which will mandate access to a police report for identity theft; and a ban on housing discrimination for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Will let you know how we do!

ED ACTIVITY: Thanks to all the SAFE Examiners- Every sexual assault survivor seen in the ED's this month had a SAFE Examiner This is great!!!

2005					
Crime	# Pts seen in ED	Had Advocate or Social Worker	No Advocate or Social Worker	Had SAFE	No SAFE
DV	7	3	4	N/A	N/A
Rape	12	7	5	12	0
TOTALS	19	10	9	12	0

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE:

On May 12, the Criminal Justice Project hosted by the NYC Alliance held its third annual conference. This year each borough put together a panel to present a sexual assault case that typified collaboration between advocates, SAFE, NYPD and the DA's office. The Manhattan Panel was put together by Lisa Friel, Chief ADA of the Sex Crimes Unit. The panel consisted of: Matthew Grob, CVTC Advocate, Debbie Benito, CVTC SAFE Examiner, Louise Kindley, CVTC Clinical Social Worker, Det Patrick Purcell, NYPD Special Victims, and Lisa Friel. The case she chose was a difficult case seen at SLED last summer. After an extensive investigation, Lisa was unable to take the case to court. This was a provocative and brave case to present because it highlighted all the ways a case sometimes does not go forward despite everyone's best efforts.

COURT ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM:

The following is a thank-you from the survivor who testified at the trial of her rapist in February. This is directed to the Advocates and staff who were present at the trial and is a testimony to the importance of the Court Accompaniment Program and the invaluable service you provide. This client's words say it all...

"Kerry always told me that I wasn't to blame, but everything conspired to make me feel it was my own fault that I was raped.

During those long and desperate months waiting for my court date, I was supported by the CVTC staff. I carried their care within me as I faced the attorneys, the rapist, and his family. Yes, they sat facing me waiting for me to stumble. But also in the courtroom were those who understood completely all that I had already endured and who believed in me absolutely. I know their quiet presence was felt by the rapist, but most importantly, I could see them there so like fellow soldiers in what was the fight of my life.

Maybe I will never forget I was raped, but I will always remember the staff of CVTC and their advocates.

I am a survivor and I thank you."

SAFE SERVICE REPORT FORM: This form has been converted to "entry format" which means that SAFE Examiners can now download the form that is posted on our website, fill it in and e-mail it to us! The spaces for typing information expand to accommodate the text you enter. Many thanks to Advocate Matthew Grob for modifying this form for us- the same way he did the Advocate Report Form. This will make it much easier for those of you who have been having trouble faxing from the ED's or who would prefer to do the form after you get home from doing a case. Thanks a lot, Matt!!!

ADVOCATE NEWS: Rape Crisis Advocate, **Anna-Lize Charles** has new things in store for her- a move to a house in New Jersey and a baby on the way! SO she will be leaving us and will truly be missed but we wish her the best of luck!

SAFE NEWS: Beth Israel has 3 new SAFE Examiners: **Liana Lera, MD** and **Alex Flaxman, MD** are both 2nd year residents in Emergency Medicine and **Beatrice Meenahan, RN** is a nurse in the ED. All three completed the SAFE training last month. Welcome!

We also welcome our new preceptor, **Susan Lacina, CNP**. Susan works at the St. Luke's site OB/GYN clinic and also at the Breast Clinic. New SAFE Examiners who are not proficient in

performing pelvic exams will precept with Susan before trailing with independent examiners.

STAFF NEWS: What a small and wonderful world this is- Former Rape Crisis Advocate and CVTC Webmaster **Bill Dycus** was at the NYU Graduation last month where his wife, Cathy, was being awarded her doctorate in French Literature. When he read the program, he was surprised to see **Ruth Forero's** name listed and there she was- seated on the stage. He captured the moment (Ruth getting hooded) on video and e-mailed it to us. Congrats to both Ruth and Cathy for their marvelous achievements!

DEAR CVTC, I'm going to be away for the summer. Will this be a problem in terms of my meeting the requirements to be on-call?

-Student

Dear Student,

Like you, many of our Advocates are students and are not here during the summer months. As long as you have signed up for at least 12 on-call shifts during calendar year 2005, you're in compliance. To all the non-students or students who will be staying in the City for the summer- You are really needed during this time because of all the people who are away. Please consider putting yourself on for extra shifts if at all possible! Many thanks,

CVTC

Call or e-mail your questions to cvtc@cvtc-sl.org. Ask...and CVTC will answer.



BIRTHDAY WISHES... to all our Advocates, SAFE Examiners and staff who were born in the month of June : Elizabeth Curtis 6/4, 'Johanna Creswell 6/6, 'Janet Aiken 6/7, 'Lorraine Giordano 6/9, 'Keri Hicks 6/12, Erika Guzman 6/14, Caroline Choudhury, 6/17, 'Amy Schachman 6/17, 'Nancy Spencer 6/17, 'Renee Morris 6/18, 'Helen Borten 6/20, 'Anna-lize Charles 6/21.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Crime Victims Treatment Center
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
411 West 114th Street Suite 2C
New York, NY 10025

Crime Victims Treatment Center Staff

Susan Xenarios, LCSW, Director
Andrea Dixon, LCSW
Ruth Forero, PhD LCSW
Kay Johnson, LCSW
Louise Kindley, LCSW
Jane Seskin, LCSW
Kerry Stout, LMSW, Sexual Assault Coordinator
Danette Wilson-Gonzalez, LCSW

Sally Clayton, Volunteer Coordinator
Erika Guzman, Center Manager
Amie Karp, Outreach Coordinator

Lorraine Giordano, MD, SAFE Medical Director
Anne Skomorowsky, MD, Psychiatric Supervisor
Ulrich Vieux, MD, Psychiatric Resident

Deborah Benito, RN, Student Intern
Courtney Rodgers, Student Intern

Crime Victims Treatment Center Funders

New York State Department of Health
New York State Crime Victims Board
New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services
Scaife Family Foundation
New York State Legislature
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center

Thought for the Month

**"To the world, you may be one person, but
to one person, you may be the world."**

-Anonymous