

Greetings!

May...showers (oh no that's April), flowers...finals...graduation...celebration...summer plans.... Congratulations to all our advocates who are graduating this year. Please let us know who you are because we would like to celebrate you in our newsletter next month. This is also the time you all begin to organize your summer plans and getaways. If you can, please PLEASE...let us know about them as soon as possible. Summer months are busy months in the ED and we will need to plan ahead for the schedule.

25th Anniversary Celebration: We're now in full swing in the planning for this event, which will take place in early October. We're in the final stages of firming up an exact date and location and will have ALL the details and will pass them on to you next month. Suffice it to say we're very excited about the venue we have in mind and we're planning to go all-out for this important fundraising effort. We will be asking for your help in promoting this event!

As part of this effort, we are collecting anecdotes from advocates. So... if you would like to write a paragraph, a poem, a...whatever... about your experience as an advocate, your experience in training and/or your feelings about CVTC, we'd love to hear from you. We hope to collect these memories/testimonials for a booklet. You can fax your creations to us at 523-4781 or e-mail us at cvtcsx@aol.com.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)/Role of the Co-Advocate: When a sexual assault survivor presents at the ED, the protocol is that EVERYONE on the SART team is called in. If you are the co-advocate and the survivor is alone (was not accompanied to ED by any family members or friends) that does not mean that you shouldn't be called. It is possible that the survivor will at some point request that family members or friends be called and you will be integral in the process of calling them and advocating for them when they arrive. In addition, you may be needed by the primary advocate as back-up and support. If you are called in, and no co-advocate is present, don't hesitate to ask the ED staff if the co-advocate has been called and if not, to please call her/him.

IMPORTANT! Co-advocates should also submit the Advocate Report Form, providing us with information on the CO-SURVIVOR (NOT the survivor). These forms can be faxed directly from the ED before you leave the hospital or no later than the next morning. Please be sure to complete the section listing the survivor's (or co-survivor's) address, including zip code. Not only is this information required for our internal record-keeping system but if we are unsuccessful in outreaching to the patient by telephone, we send a letter asking them to contact us.

Q."If I'm on-call and have a last minute emergency and can't do it, WHAT DO I DO?"

A. Once you sign up for an on-call shift, it is your responsibility to make sure that it is covered. If an emergency arises, or you are ill, it is expected that you will call other advocates on the schedule to arrange for coverage. Look at the schedule and find someone whose shift you can take later in the month and call them to ask if they would be willing to switch with you. When someone agrees to take your shift, you should confirm with them that they will call the ED at the start of the shift. As a last resort, if you cannot arrange for coverage, you should call the ED and tell them and remind them to call the back-up advocates

on the schedule. You should then call the office (523-4728) and inform us of the change (leave a message on voice-mail during off-hours).

DVA Supervision: The next supervision session will be held here at the Program Office on Friday, June 7th from 6PM-7:30 PM. These additional supervisions specifically for DVA's are a great opportunity to discuss cases in detail and address concerns specific to advocating for survivors of domestic violence. Attendance at this supervision counts toward the requirement of 2 sessions per year.

Staff News: Our student interns, who have been working at CVTC since September, will be leaving us on Friday, May 2nd. **Aminda Jacobs** is going to spend the summer working as an intern at the Rogersin Institute, a kidney transplant program at NY Presbyterian Hospital. Next fall, she will resume her final year of studies toward her Master's in Social Work at Fordham University. **Jill Glassman** is graduating this month from Columbia University having completed her Master's degree in Social Work. She plans to move back to California, work and get married next May. Domestic Violence Coordinator **Dwarym Ruiz** is graduating on May 20th, with her Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University. Congratulations, Dwarym!

Advocate News: Rape Crisis Advocate, **Heather Shadley**, will be returning to California in June. Thank you Heather and Good luck! We'll miss you....

Support Group for Battered Women: Jane Seskin is beginning a support group for battered women on Wednesday, May 15th. If you know someone who might benefit from this group, have them call Jane at 523-4728 to schedule an interview.

September 11th Support Group: CVTC will facilitate a 8 week support group for men and women who were "touched by the tragedy of September 11th". This support group will target the needs of friends, roommates, colleagues and neighbors of victims of September 11th. Monica Carr, CSW, a group therapist with a creative arts background will facilitate the group. The support group is planned to begin late May and will meet at Roosevelt Hospital on Thursday evenings. If you or anyone is interested, call Monica at 523-2868 for a pre-group interview or for more information call Erika or Sally at the office.

Advocates Needed for 10th Annual Drug and Violence Prevention Fair: This fair, sponsored by the NYC Board of Education's 75th District Drug and Violence Prevention Program and Project B.R.I.D.G.E.S. will take place on Friday, May 31st from 10AM-1PM at the Manhattan School for Career Development at 113 East Fourth Street. We are looking for 2 advocates to volunteer to set up and be in charge of a CVTC table to distribute information and Program brochures. If you are interested and willing, please call Erika at 523-4728 before May 17th.

Thought For the Month

- II The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
- II The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work is Alaska.
- II The percentage of Africa that is wilderness is 28%; the percentage of North America that is wilderness- 38%!
- II The cost of raising a medium-sized dog to the age of eleven is \$6,400.
- II Tom Sawyer was the first novel ever written on a typewriter.
- II If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
- II "I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- II CVTC's Erika Guzman was named after Erica Kane of ABC TV's "All My Children."