



Spring 2016 Newsletter

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

The Staff...

Executive Director
Geri

Assistant Administrator
Sue

Receptionist, Administrative Assistant
Glori

Resource Development Coordinator
Lori

Domestic Violence Program Director
Jeni

Domestic Violence Advocate
Cara

Domestic Violence Youth Advocate
Erin

Sexual Assault Victim Services Coordinators
Blythe
Amanda S.

Parent Services Provider

Prevention Educator
Kathryn

Parent Services Program Director
Becca

River Source Parent Services Provider

Family Support & Resource Coordinator
Shannon

ATODA Prevention Coordinator
Deb

UWEC Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault (CASA) Victim Services Coordinator
Amanda L.

Contact us...

(715) 723-1138 or 1-800-400-7020

Fax: (715) 723-8460

www.familysupportcentercf.com



April is



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), and I'm so excited to be part of the staff at the Family Support Center this year! I'm Blythe, the Sexual Assault Victim Services Coordinator. I started at FSC last July, and I'm thrilled to be spreading awareness about Sexual Assault and Abuse to Chippewa County for the first time.

The current statistics are that every 107 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. That means that each year, there are approximately 293,000 victims of sexual assault (rainn.org) At Family Support Center, we provide free and confidential services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence 24 hours a day with our crisis line. We also provide one to one counseling during our regular business hours, and provide legal and medical advocacy for survivors of violence and their families.

In honor of SAAM, we have a few activities planned in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire this April. On Wednesday, **April 27th**, we are celebrating **Denim Day!** On this day, please wear denim jeans to show your support for survivors of sexual assault. In honor of Denim Day, we are hosting displays at different public spaces in the Chippewa Valley which call attention to sexual assault awareness. These displays will feature jeans that area survivors have decorated with messages for other survivors and the community. They will also include information about Denim Day, its purpose and resources for area survivors. You may also start to see

the color teal in a few places around Chippewa Falls this April. This color symbolizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and our willingness to recognize and honor the millions of people around the globe who have experienced sexual violence.

Also on **April 27th**, Family Support Center of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, and the Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault (CASA) at UW-EC, are partnering to present the Chippewa Valley Area **KNOW MORE** event. The free event will be held at The Plus (208 S. Barstow Street, Eau Claire.) We will have performers and a resource fair of information for survivors and their friends and families. At this year's event, we are requesting new-in-package socks & underwear to donate to local programs serving survivors. The focus of **KNOW MORE** is twofold: showing support for survivors of sexual violence, and demonstrating our collective commitment to the safety and health of Chippewa Valley communities. Please join us!

This year during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Family Support Center would like to invite you to participate in raising mindfulness in our community about the realities of sexual assault and its effect on survivors. Family Support Center supports women, men and children in the Chippewa Valley who have experienced sexual and domestic violence through education, prevention and intervention services.

~Blythe
Sexual Assault
Services Coordinator

Working Together For Health Equity

As the Program Coordinator at the Eau Claire Sexual Assault Outreach Office, I am proud to be part of several teams, working in the Chippewa Valley to address critical community needs. Last year, I had the opportunity to join two new teams, both of which have exciting plans underway for 2016!

The **Healthy Relationship Promotion Action Team** is sponsored by the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. It was developed in response to the results of a local community health needs assessment, in which many of those surveyed identified “family and relationship violence” as a top health concern. The HRPAT seeks to address prevention of violence through the promotion of healthy attitudes and behaviors: encouraging every individ-

ual to think about what “safety” means to them, and how they can embody this in their own relationships. The HRPAT is currently in the midst of a year-long capacity-building process with the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute, which offers helpful tools and strategies that we can bring back to our work in the Chippewa Valley!

The **Safe Spaces Coalition** emerged from a workshop the Outreach Office presented, last May, in conjunction with Q2 (a social and support group for Chippewa Valley LGBTQ youth) and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The workshop drew from the results of several studies noting striking health outcome disparities among LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) youth, including an increased likelihood of experi-

encing dating violence. It sought to illuminate these concerning findings, and launch a community-wide commitment to fostering a supportive climate for LGBTQ people. The Safe Spaces Coalition meets quarterly (with “pillar group” subcommittee meetings more regularly) to discuss strategies for effecting positive change.

If you or your organization would like to learn more about how you can contribute to the Healthy Relationship Promotion Action Team or the Safe Spaces Coalition, contact me at **715.830.0188** or **EauClaireSAVS@fscf.org**.

~Amanda S.
Eau Claire Sexual Assault
Outreach Office

Protection for Pets

On March 3, 2016, 2015 WI Act 253 went into effect. This legislation adds language and options to current Restraining Orders to order respondents to “refrain from removing, hiding, damaging, harming, or mistreating, or disposing of, a household pet.” These changes also order the respondent to “allow the petitioner or a family member or household member of the petitioner acting on his/her behalf to retrieve a family pet.” This step is an incredibly important safety measure for survivors of domestic violence, as pets are often used as a way to maintain power and control by an abusive partner. Statistics tell us that, nationally, women who seek safety at shelters are nearly 11 times more likely to report that their partner has hurt or killed their pets (compared to women who have not experienced domestic abuse). Other statistics show that between 25-40% of women who have been in abusive relationships feel that they can not leave the relationship because they worry about what will happen to

their pets if they leave.

Abuse of a pet can range from calling a pet names, refusing veterinary care, blaming a survivor or the pet for violence, to threatening to harm, harming, and even killing a pet to intimidate a survivor. Oftentimes, when animal abuse in the home happens, it is in front of the abusive person’s partner and children in order to intimidate and control them.

This legislation is an important step in continuing efforts to keep survivors safe, and expand options for safety to all members of the family- pets included.

~Jeni
Domestic Violence
Program Director



Power & Control Tactics: Using Animal Cruelty As Part of Domestic Violence

Intimidation: Harming or killing a pet and threatening that the same thing will happen to you if you don’t comply with abuser’s demands.

Emotional Abuse: Calling your pet names; giving away or killing a pet to take away your primary source of comfort and unconditional love.

Isolation: Refusing to allow you to take your pet to your preferred veterinarian. Prohibiting you from socializing your dog with other dogs.

Minimizing, Denying, & Blaming: Blaming you or your pet for the cruelty.

Economic Abuse: Refusing to allow you to spend money on adequate pet food and/or veterinary care.

Legal Abuse: Trying to take possession of a pet for which you have been the primary caretaker, or filing charges of pet theft against you if you leave with the pet.

Coercion & Threats: Threatening to harm or kill your pet if you leave or assert any independence.

This information provided by Safe Passage.

Local events
for

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

at THE PLUS
208 S. Barstow St. • Eau Claire

resource fair with information and representatives from Chippewa Valley organizations
drawings for free prizes donated by area businesses
music + entertainment featuring local performers
survivor and ally speak-out
...and more!

Chippewa Valley Area
know more
April 27
5:30p - 8:00p
AN EVENT TO COMMEMORATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

bring new-in-package
SOCKS & UNDERWEAR
to donate to local programs serving survivors!

FREE
all ages • all welcome

FOLLOW US
Follow Family Support Center (Chippewa Falls) on Facebook for event details!

On Tuesday, April 19th,
there will be a showing of the
movie

Spotlight

at the L.E. Phillips
Memorial Public Library
in Eau Claire

Show begins at **6:00 p.m.**

Presented by:

Family Support Center
of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls

April 27th
DENIM DAY
WEAR JEANS TODAY
TO SHOW YOUR PROTEST
AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In 2015, 6,788 People Benefited from Family Support Center's Services

Family Support Center provides support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. In 2015, 6,788 people benefited from the services provided by Family Support Center.

In 2015 in Chippewa County:

- 421 survivors of domestic violence received support, counseling, and advocacy.
- 154 youth affected by domestic violence received support, counseling, and education.
- 215 survivors of sexual assault received support, counseling, and advocacy.
- 510 parents learned how to improve their parenting skills.
- 4,442 children and teens received prevention education to enhance their safety and help them cope with difficult issues in their lives.

In addition to our primary Chippewa County office, we have two Sexual Assault Outreach offices in Eau Claire.

In 2015 in Eau Claire County:

- 283 survivors of sexual assault received support, counseling, and advocacy.
- 763 high school students, college students, educators, professionals, service groups and others received sexual assault awareness and prevention education.

Save the Date!
Ladies Evening Extravaganza
an evening of elegance

Join us for the **9th annual Ladies Evening Extravaganza**
to benefit the Family Support Center!

Thursday September 8th, 2016

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| At the Heyde Center | MC Judy Clark |
| Various Local Wines | Leinenkugel's Beer |
| Dinner by Franzwa's | Amazing Raffles & Prizes |

Tickets on sale soon!

All proceeds benefit the Family Support Center. Must be 21 years of age to attend.



Family Support Center
 P.O. Box 143
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
 715-723-1138 or 1-800-400-7020

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The Family Support Center is an equal opportunity agency. The Family Support Center celebrates the diversity of all people and does not discriminate in any manner on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation. The Family Support Center's programs are funded in part by United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.



We are in need of the following items for client use.
With a little help you, too, can make a difference
 Please drop off items at **Family Support Center.**

- Gas gift cards
- Grocery gift cards
- School supplies
- Facial tissue
- Juice
- Snacks
- Stickers
- Toothpaste
- Diapers **size 4 & 5**
- Wipes
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Fabric sheets
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- 33 gallon garbage bags
- Large latex-free plastic gloves
- Hand wipes
- Feminine hygiene products (especially tampons)
- Paper towels
- Cleaning disinfecting wipes
- Dish soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Young Girls Underwear (new)
- Sweat Pants

Volunteers needed for our Safe Exchange program

Volunteers are needed Fridays and Sundays, 4:00-7:00 p.m. to assist families in safely exchanging their children for visitation. **If interested, please contact Lori at 715-723-1138 or resourcedev@fscf.org**

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Thank you to those of you who have donated items for our clients.
We appreciate your generosity and continued support!

Would you like to receive our future newsletters by e-mail or be removed from our mailing list?
 If so, please request at familysupport@fscf.org