



2018

Family Support Center
EAU CLAIRE SEXUAL ASSAULT OUTREACH OFFICE

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**MOBILIZING FOR CHANGE
IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.**

Much like last year, the topic of sexual violence, in its many forms and with its wide-ranging impact, was never far from the 24-hour news cycle in 2018. High-profile cases involving celebrities and other public figures generated near-constant conversation about the way our society currently responds to sexual violence: including the beliefs, attitudes, and systems that are deeply flawed.

This was, perhaps, most clearly illustrated in September following Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony dur-

-ing then-U.S. Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings. Family Support Center, like other agencies of our kind across the country, saw a dramatic increase in contacts from individuals whose sometimes years-or-decades-old trauma had been reactivated by discourse in the media and in their daily lives.

Advocates at FSC were especially grateful, in this time of heightened visibility *and* emotions, to have such strong, community support for the services we provide. It was heartening, too, to see survivors – often the *same* survivors who reported feeling (cont'd on p. 2)

COMING SOON IN 2019 ...

January is **Stalking Awareness Month**

Learn how stalking and sexual assault are interrelated forms of violence.

February is **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**

a great opportunity for schools and youth groups to start conversations about healthy relationships!

Contact the Outreach Office for more information.

April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

featuring community-wide events!

(cont'd from p. 1) triggered by the testimony itself and ensuing discussions – showing great resolve to be the change-makers, and lead the movement to encourage both a compassionate reception for current survivors, and an end to structures of violence in our culture.

More than even the individual work we do as advocates, *this* is why our programs remain so crucial: so we can ensure that emerging leadership among those most impacted by sexual violence (survivors, their loved ones, and their chosen allies) can reach a place where they feel healthy, balanced, and empowered to lead a movement!

SAAM 2018

We observed Sexual Assault Awareness Month this April with the fourth annual Chippewa Valley Area **KNOW MORE** event, presented by Family Support Center's Eau Claire and Chippewa offices, as well as CASA (the Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault) on the UW-Eau Claire campus. For the third year, planning was driven by UW-EC Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies capstone students (Alejandra Estrada, Chandler Roberts, and Holly White), whose semester-long project involved learning about FSC services and other community resources while ensuring **KNOW MORE** was a success.



KNOW MORE 2018 was held on April 22 at The Plus in downtown Eau Claire. Admission was free, but we encouraged donations of new-in-package socks and underwear to benefit

Eau Claire SANE services and other programs assisting vulnerable populations. Representatives from several area organizations took part in our Community Resource Fair, and attendees who engaged with them were entered into a prize drawing with generous donations from area businesses. Highlights of the evening included a featured speaker (Wisconsin Women's March activist Violet Kilmurray) and entertainment by local performers Caitlin McGarvey, Lasa Anahata Dance Company, and Soren Staff of Them

With SAAM 2019 quickly approaching, we anticipate exploring new ways to advance the conversation about sexual violence, while continually striving to center often-unheard voices.



If you would like to be part of planning SAAM activities in 2019, contact Amanda at 715.830.0188 or EauClaireSAVS@fscf.org.

THANK YOU, EAUX CLAIRE!

In light of the recent news that the Eaux Claires music and arts festival will be taking a break to regroup in 2019, we wanted to thank all those involved, especially Middle West



Management, Bon Iver, and our partners at Embrace, for four great years of outreach to music lovers through the 2 A Billion: Neaux Violence project. We can't wait to see what 2020 will bring!

OTHER 2018 HIGHLIGHTS ...

- Presenting in many different settings: from classrooms to workplaces and community groups.
- Facilitating the dating violence prevention curriculum **Safe Dates** with groups of young people throughout the Chippewa Valley as a member of the **Healthy Relationship Promotion Action Team**
- Offering workshops at the **Wisconsin LGBTQ Summit**, and WCASA's **2018 Training Institute**
- Informing the creation of **OKtobeYou.org**, a resource for youth, in conjunction with the city of Eau Claire's policy banning conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ minors
- Seeing the publication of (and appearing in!) the second print edition of **Safe Spaces Coalition of the Chippewa Valley's** LGBTQ+ friendly providers resource guide
- Continuing to provide capacity-building training throughout the state as co-chair of **WCASA and EndAbuse's LGBTQ Committee**

"So what do you do?"

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES

Counseling

Using supportive and reflective listening, safety planning, and skill-building, we help people who have experienced sexual violence navigate their recovery process. We are also available to answer questions for and offer support to family and friends.

Assistance with health services

If someone has been assaulted, they may require medical care. We can be a link to health services that are mindful of individual needs.

Assistance with the legal system

We cannot provide legal advice or representation, but we **can** help find answers to questions! We are available to accompany survivors during reporting and court proceedings.

Outreach and awareness

Please contact our office with requests for presentations, speaking engagements, workshops, or group facilitation.

Information and referrals

We partner with a network of agencies and service providers to connect those in need with resources.

SAPG: Making New Connections

In January, I was excited and honored to be accepted as an SAPG (State Action Planning Group) ambassador. The SAPG, part of the Wisconsin HIV Outreach Project, is an appointed advisory group to the Wisconsin Division of Public Health HIV Program. It assists in the develop-

ment, implementation, and prioritization of HIV prevention and care services in Wisconsin.

My involvement in HIV/AIDS work as a teen in the '90s sparked my interest in social and health justice work. In my role with SAPG, I am interested in fostering cross-movement awareness of the intersections of HIV and violence, as well as the importance of trauma-informed care for people living with HIV.

I appreciate all the connections I have already made in 2018, through SAPG, with outstanding individuals and organizations, and look forward to another three years!



Amanda (third from right) with other new 2018 members of the SAPG.