

Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse, INC. (CASDA), 318 21st Ave E., Superior, WI 54880
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April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

By: Alexa Connolly

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our communities.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is any mistreatment of a child that results in harm or injury and that has no "reasonable" explanation. Child abuse is generally divided into several categories including physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect.

To kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month, CASDA has

Teen Survey Reveals Need for Conversation

By: Amber Popplewell

The Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse, Inc., (CASDA) has been busy combing through surveys given to 184 Superior area high school students, ranging in age from 11-18, regarding teen dating violence.

In our efforts to better understand the impact of violence in our community, we deemed it crucial to open up dialogue with teens about their experiences with dating today. Anonymity was stressed when our Children's Program Coordinator, Alexa, passed out the surveys to students. They were asked to answer 20 yes or no questions and then record their age and gender. The survey varied from questions pertaining to social media to "has a current or past boyfriend/girlfriend ever forced you to have sex?" If reading the last question makes you uneasy, imagine how a teen may feel trying to work out how he or she could approach someone to talk about it. Who could they talk to?

Inside This Issue

Child Abuse Prevention Month	1
Need for Conversation	1
Community Helping Hand Award	2
Speak Out Superior	3
Gun Violence and Homicide	4
Moving Day	6
Upcoming Events	7

gathered a list of suggestions from Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin and will share them with you here. In addition, CASDA will be selling "Helping Hands to End Child Abuse" throughout the month of April at the following locations: Superior Choice Credit Union (All five locations), Hair Tactics, the WITC Book Store, and WITC's Life's a Picnic Café. More business locations will be announced soon. The proceeds will be utilized to help CASDA purchase a teen dating abuse prevention curriculum to combat high levels of teen dating violence in our local school districts.

See page 2 for eight ways to help prevent child abuse

Where could they go for help? 62 percent of the students said they did not feel they could talk to an adult at school.

As defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) teen dating violence is any physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence within a dating relationship, as well as stalking. This pattern of behavior is devastating in any form. Of those surveyed, 34 percent had been verbally abused by a current or previous partner. These destructive behaviors can also present themselves as pressure to engage in unwanted sexual activity. Of the students that reported feeling pressure to give oral sex or have sexual intercourse, 39 percent gave in. 18 percent of both male and female age groups reported being hit, slapped, pushed, kicked, or hurt physically by a partner in some way.

8 Ways to Help Prevent Child Abuse

1. Be a nurturing parent

Children need to know that they are special, loved and capable of following their dreams.

2. Help a friend, neighbor or relative

Being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand, take care of the children so that the parent(s) can rest or spend time together.

3. Help yourself

When the big and little problems of your everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed and out of control, take time out. Don't take it out on your kid.

4. If your baby cries...

It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry. Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying. Never shake a baby. Shaking a child may result in severe injury or death.

5. Get involved

Ask your community leaders, clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of healthy children and families.

6. Help to develop parenting resources at your local library

Whether it be donations of parenting books, movies, or magazine subscriptions, it is important to make sure that parenting resources are available to the community.

7. Report suspected abuse or neglect

If you have reason to believe a child has been or may be harmed, report suspected abuse immediately. No child deserves to be abused or neglected.

8. Monitor your child's television and video viewing

Watching violent films and television programs can harm young children.

Lear Honored as The 2nd Annual Recipient of CASDA'S Community Helping Hand Award

By: Erica Ellenwood

Michelle Lear is this year's recipient of CASDA's Community Helping Hand Award. As a Detective with the Superior Police Department she serves as the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Investigator. Detective Lear was selected for this award due to her tireless work to help victims of domestic and sexual violence in our community.

Every year the Community Helping Hand Award is awarded to an individual in our community who exemplifies a commitment to helping victims of domestic and sexual violence. Last year's inaugural winner was Liz Schmidt.

Having grown up with a father in law enforcement, and having over 10 years of experience herself, Michelle is well versed in the issues of domestic violence. "I have seen how domestic violence used to be an issue people were afraid to talk about," said Lear. "They didn't want to 'air their dirty laundry.' "Now we live in a community where we work hard to make the dynamics of domestic violence known. "We still have a long way to go in educating the public and victims in what their rights are and what steps they can take to keep themselves safe."

Michelle Lear is in a unique position at the Superior Police Department working as a VAWA Investigator. "My position was funded through a grant that the Superior Police Department worked hard to get. This position allows me the opportunity to work directly with victims and allow their cases to get the attention they deserve."

Working with victims of domestic and sexual violence is incredibly difficult work. Michelle engages the system tirelessly to ensure that all victims are treated fairly and that their abusers are prosecuted. "I love the investigative process and putting the puzzle together," said Lear. "It's incredibly rewarding to see victims come through their abuse and become a success story. I hope to see a change of perception of victims within the community and for more resources to be allocated to victims of domestic and sexual violence."

CASDA is honored to collaborate with Detective Michelle Lear and thanks her for the professionalism and passion in her work with victims.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see victims come through their abuse and become a success story."

Lear



Speak Out Superior 4th Annual

Thursday, April 25th

4:30 - Gather for march UW-Superior Lot 2 (in front of Pilgrim Lutheran Church)

5:00 - Community March to Courthouse

5:30 - Speak Out and Rally at Douglas County Courthouse
Mayoral Proclamation

Join us as we **SPEAK OUT** against violence in our community. The March and rally will consist of speakers, including local representatives and community members, music, and refreshments.

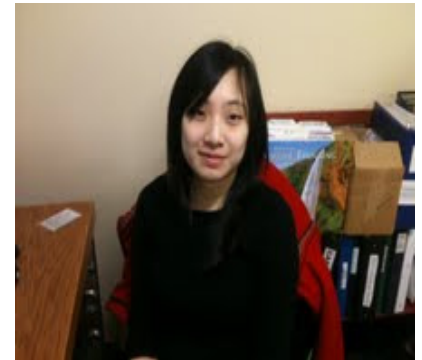


Photos from Speak Out Superior 2012

CASDA Volunteers Boast Diverse Skills

By: Jill Hinnners

When imagining a volunteer at CASDA, do you picture a person sitting at our front desk, greeting clients and answering our 24-hour crisis line? Or, do you think of a volunteer advocate meeting with a CASDA client at a local hospital, where the volunteer can assist with both the emotional trauma and practical considerations following a sexual assault? True, these two scenarios do accurately depict vital roles that CASDA volunteers play. However, they only scratch the surface of how our volunteers do – and can – contribute their time and talents to our clients, staff and mission. Take Melody, for example: a piano performance major at UWS. Drawing on her years of experience as a piano teacher, she has provided top quality childcare in our emergency shelter. She will also enliven April's "Speak out Superior" event by playing piano at the Douglas County Courthouse to complement a powerful line-up of guest speakers.



Gatien Karina Siu Siu
"Karina"

Then, there's Karina: a computer buff who has quietly supported CASDA's efforts by logging in to create everything from eye-catching publicity flyers to functional spreadsheets. She can speak three languages, too, not to mention fold a mean paper airplane when a child needs a diversion.

If you have some time on your hands that you are trying to fill, we encourage you to come talk to us about your interests.

To learn more about volunteer or internship opportunities at CASDA, contact Volunteer Coordinator Jill Hinnners, jill@casda.org, or: 715-392-3136.



We Are Still Talking About It

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By: Leanne Grbavcich

Sexual violence includes an array of violations—harassment, stalking, rape, trafficking, and unwanted contact—which use sex or the threat of sex as a weapon. It occurs when offenders believe that they are entitled to the power they exert over others. The reasons why some feel entitled and choose to act in a violent way are complex, and rooted in inequities and power differentials that may be historical but persist.

It is estimated that one in seven or 14% of Wisconsin women over the age of 18 has been raped at some point in her lifetime. Yet the number of sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in Wisconsin averages only about 5,046 annually.

The low number of reported assaults is attributed to many factors, including confidentiality, stigma, fear of being blamed, shame, and retribution. More women receive help after their assault than report the crime to law enforcement, but even that number is a fraction of the estimated incidents of sexual violence perpetrated on women in Wisconsin. (Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is a nationally recognized event during the month of April. This is a special time of the year to focus our efforts on sexual assault education, prevention, and awareness.

“50 For the Future”

Guns, Background Checks, and Domestic Violence

By: Laura Gapske

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) began a campaign called ‘50 for the Future’ this year. ‘50 for the Future’ urges members of Congress to support President Obama’s gun safety plan, especially to require background checks to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous domestic abusers. The WCADV website lists the tragic stories of 50 Wisconsinites who were killed in a domestic violence homicide with a firearm since 2000.

Many of these victims had a restraining order granted and were in the process of leaving or had left the abusive relationship. This is often the most dangerous time for a victim’s safety and when the violence may escalate to its highest level. According to the 2011 Domestic Violence Homicide Summary, domestic violence claimed 40 lives in Wisconsin, of those 17 involved firearms.

**STOPGUN
VIOLENCE**

Under the Federal Gun Control Act, **18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (g) (8)**, when a person is subject to a final Domestic Abuse Restraining Order they are prohibited from purchasing, receiving, or possessing any firearms for the duration of the order (up to four years).

There are also Wisconsin Statute Laws under **Sec. 813.12 (4m) (a)** which require automatic surrender of any firearms they own or have possession of if the injunction is granted.

These laws to protect victims are useless if we do not have criminal consequences for those who disobey the law and fail to do background checks on guns sold online or on the black market. Please contact your representative to let them know you support measures to enhance victim’s safety from gun violence.

Interns Gain Skills at CASDA

By: Dara Fillmore

During the past year, CASDA has been a second campus for two Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College students completing required internships for their Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Human Services. Both Amber Popplewell and Joanne Sanders had been volunteering at CASDA for several months, and after a screening process including an application and interview, both women were accepted as interns. Popplewell is the Sexual Assault Program Intern, working with Sexual Assault Program Coordinator Leanne Grbavcich, and Sanders is interning with Alexa Connolly, the Children's Program Coordinator, as well as working as a Shelter Advocate for CASDA.

Sanders holds varied responsibilities as the Children's Program intern. "I work with children who have been affected by some sort of abuse-either to them or in front of them," said Sanders. She also spends some of her time going to local schools and training youth about healthy relationships and good versus bad touch. Fundraising is another part of her job as she raises money and local awareness for the Children's Program through an initiative called "Helping Hands."

During Popplewell's shifts at CASDA, she answers crisis line phone calls from individuals who are struggling or don't think they have the power to get out of dangerous domestic abuse situations. She also works with support groups and helps educate women so they are better prepared for life after an abusive relationship.



From Left: Alexa Connolly, Joanne Sanders, Leanne Grbavcich, Amber Popplewell



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

"Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve Campaign"

Photo from Solon Springs High School



Executive Director Kelly Burger and Assistant Director Erika Leif accepted a \$3,500 grant from the Green Bay Packer Foundation. The money will be used to help purchase shelter furnishings for the Emergency Shelter Program.

Sanders and Popplewell, both of whom will graduate in May, have no specific plans for their next steps toward a human service career, but both are hoping to spend some time at CASDA even when their internship hours are fulfilled.

"I see us doing something big," said Sanders. "I will keep working at the shelter, but I want to work with children especially. I've enjoyed working with Alexa Connolly in the Children's Program." Popplewell said that both she and Sanders love their work with CASDA. "We both have a history that makes us passionate about this. That's why we want to make a difference."

Dara Fillmore volunteers at CASDA while pursuing a journalism minor at UWS

CASDA Announces Grand Opening

After 18 months of fundraising, the Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse, Inc., (CASDA) is opening the doors to its newly renovated facility. A press conference and grand opening will take place on April 9 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 318 21st Ave. East in Superior.



A brief press conference will be held to share information about the campaign and acknowledge its supporters. The community is invited to tour the facility and meet the staff that is providing life saving services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

CASDA Staff From Left: Laura Gapske, Joanne Sanders, Jill Hinners, Kym Young, Alexa Connolly, Erika Leif, Kelly Burger, Debbie Jonasen, Kim Marble-Follis, Leanne Grbavcich



Warning Signs of possible teen dating violence

- Declines in academic performance and extra-curricular activity.
- Isolation from friends and family.
- Belittling self, body, mind and opinion.
- Excessive communication with the partner via calls, text messages, emails, and social media.
- Making excuses for the partner's actions and emotions especially regarding anger and jealousy.
- Unexplained bruises, scratches, burns, bodily injuries or property damage.
- Coercion to use drugs, drink alcohol, or engage in other illegal or risky behaviors.
- Emotional changes, including depression, withdrawals, and outbursts.

Need for Conversation, cont.

According to the *2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey* conducted nationwide by the CDC, 9.4 percent of high school students reported being physically abused in some way. We must ask ourselves a tough question: Why is the number reflected by our survey twice that of the national average?

Question 19 in the survey asked "Do you think you or someone you know has been a victim of dating violence or sexual assault?" 46 percent of the girls answered yes. Like the CDC's campaign slogan says, "1 is 2 many." Of the 184 surveyed students, 68 percent were not being monitored by parents in regards to internet and cell phone use. 31 percent of the teens reported they did not feel they could talk to a parent. Conversation needs to start now and it can start with you.

The conversation is made possible by making yourself available. Ask about your teen's day, without the distractions of television and cell phones. Give them your attention and be genuinely in the moment with them if you are going to confront them about your concerns. Provide a safe environment. Remain calm. Listen. Be supportive. Don't judge.

Patterns of abuse will ultimately begin to throw up flags; familiarize yourself with the warning signs on the left. If any of these signs are present, do not delay your conversation.

Amber Popplewell is a WITC student and the Sexual Assault Program Intern at CASDA

Mark Your Calendars...

CASDA Tee Off to End Violence Golf Scramble



Golf Scramble Entry Fee

5 person Teams - \$200 which includes:

- Registration Packet
- Dinner
- Proximity Prizes
- Door Prizes
- Team Awards
- Team Picture

(green fees and cart are extra)



For registration, contact CASDA :
715-392-3136

Art of Surviving Walk In My Shoes Display

The "Walk in My Shoes" Art Display showcases stories from survivors and their journey through healing.

View the display at the following locations:

WITC - April 1-7

UWS YellowJacket Union - April 8-14

Superior Public Library- April 15-21

Government Center - April 22-29



"These shoes are made for walking"



Donation Drive

For Victims of
Sexual and Domestic Abuse

Location: Wal-Mart

3705 Tower Avenue

Date: April 25th, 26th & 27th

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm

DONATIONS:

Paper Towels/Toilet Paper

Trash Bags

Household Cleaners, Bleach, Disinfectant Spray

Dish Soap and Hand Soap

Detergent and Fabric Softener

Facial Tissue

Over the Counter Medications

Non Perishable Foods

Gift Cards

Other types of donations may be accepted -
For any questions call: 715 392 3136

center against sexual and domestic abuse

WALK+RUN

To End Abuse

Saturday, Sept 28th

Registration 8:00 a.m. Charter Fishing Dock

Parking Lot @ Barkers Island

Registration 8:00 a.m.

Runners Start 9:00 a.m.

Walkers Start 9:00 a.m.

Participate individually or form a team up to
5 members

Contact CASDA for more information

715-392-3136 or

Erika@casda.org

www.casda.org

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GO Green!

To be included on an

E-Newsletter, email:

leanne@casda.org



CASDA Staff

Kelly Burger - Executive Director
Erika Leif - Assistant Director
Erica Ellenwood - Attorney
Laura Gapske - Legal Advocate
Debbie Jonasen - Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator
Leanne Grbavcich - Sexual Assault Program Coordinator
Alexa Connolly - Children's Program Coordinator
Jill Hinners - Volunteer Coordinator
Kim Marble-Follis - Bayfield Co. Outreach Coordinator
Dana Doyle - Shelter Program Director
Jackie Ledin - Shelter Case Manager
Kym Young - Shelter House Manager

Our mission is to provide supportive services to individuals hurt by domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse as we advocate for a community effort to end violence.

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