

# Voices Against Sexual Assault



MONTHLY UPDATE

APRIL 2011

## Recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Show Up!



April, as many of us already know, is sexual assault awareness month. It

is an opportunity for communities to come together, stand together and refuse to tolerate sexual assault in our communities.

As community organizations come together, host speakers, marches and demonstrations to protest sexual assault, many people may find themselves wondering: "What's the point?" Because, of course, sexual assault is wrong and shouldn't happen and we don't need to attend public events in order to demonstrate our belief in something so obvious.

It is easy to cite facts and statistics as an argument to bring people to events. It is easy simply to say *Did you know that someone is sexually assaulted in our country every 2 minutes?* or *Did you know that 1 in 4 college*

*women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape? But sexual assault awareness month is about more than facts and statistics.*

But attending events during sexual assault awareness month is about more than just protesting sexual assault—it's about supporting survivors and sending a message that our community will not allow the victimization of men and women to continue into the future. To do that, we must show up.

Of course sexual assault is wrong and horrible—something that should never happen to anyone. But it does. And it is up to us to show up and promote the change that we want to see in the world.

In the words of the great Jean Kilbourne, we must do this "because what's at stake for all of us, men and women, boys and girls, is our ability to have authentic and freely chosen lives, nothing less" (*Killing Us Softly 4*).

## SAAM: Official Events Calendar

VOICES is proud to partner with Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College and Kalamazoo Valley Community College this year to bring you the following free, community events in April:

- KVCC Screening and Discussion of *Very Young Girls*: Wednesday, April 6th 11:00—1:00 at the Texas Township Campus (Commons Theater Room 4240)
- KVCC Sexual Assault Awareness Month Information and Resource Fair: Monday, April 11th 11:00—1:00 at the Texas Township Campus (Student Commons)
- Western Michigan University's Take Back the Night: Thursday, April 14th 5:00—8:30 at the WMU Bernhard Center (Rooms 208-209)
- Kalamazoo College Screening and Discussion of *Very Young Girls*: Wednesday, April 20th 6:00—8:00 at the Old Upton Building (Room 103)

## Next Meeting

Thursday, May 5th @ 2:00  
YWCA Kalamazoo

VOICES meets regularly at the YWCA of Kalamazoo on the FIRST Thursday of the month at 2PM. Please RSVP to [info@voicesasa.org](mailto:info@voicesasa.org) to join us!

## A Special Thanks!

This April, VOICES is proud to thank the organizations who have provided the support necessary to bring together the events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month including:

- Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative, W.E. Upjohn, the Michigan Department of Corrections, the YWCA of Kalamazoo, the BARJ Network, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, KVCC, the Diocese of Kalamazoo, the Elizabeth Upjohn Healing Center, Healthy Babies Healthy Start, and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

We also want to take a moment to thank the many local businesses who provided donations to giveaway at each of the month's events:

- Confection Bakery, University Roadhouse, Sticks and Stones, Retro, London Grill, Gull Road Cinema 5, Olde Peninsula Brew Pub and Rave Motion Pictures.

