

Voices Against Sexual Assault



MONTHLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2011

About the 2011 SAAM National Campaign

(NSVRC) The April 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign focuses on everyone speaking up to prevent sexual violence in our neighborhoods, communities, workplaces and schools.

The 2011 national Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign explores common, everyday behaviors and offers individuals viable, responsible ways to intervene.

This primary prevention approach helps to create environments where people are safe in their relationships, families, neighborhoods, schools, work places and communities.

This year's SAAM brings together resources and information, thus offering everyone the opportunity to

address behaviors before sexual violence occurs.

This year's campaign, "It's time ... to get involved," incorporates a bystander approach to sexual violence prevention. A bystander, or witness, is anyone who sees a situation but may or may not know what to do, may think others will act or may be afraid to do something.

Research shows that engaging bystanders is a promising way to help prevent the widespread problem of sexual violence in communities.

[Information taken directly from 2011 SAAM Campaign online at <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/current-campaign>]

Watch our upcoming newsletters for more information on bystander approaches to help prevent sexual assault!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2011: Updates

In the last thirty days, VOICES volunteers and our community partners have made some amazing progress on the planning of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April! In partnership with our local colleges, the YWCA of Kalamazoo and VOICES have begun the planning process for the following SAAM events:

Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC)
VOICES, the YWCA and KVCC are partnering in April to host two great community events to raise awareness about sexual assault in our community! The events are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Screening and Discussion of the documentary *Very Young Girls*: Wednesday, April 6th from 11:00am—1:00pm at the Texas Township Campus
- Sexual Assault Awareness Community Fair: Monday, April 11th from 11:00am—1:00pm at the Texas Township Campus

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 3rd @ 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 to join us!

Western Michigan University (WMU)

VOICES, the YWCA and Western Michigan University are partnering this year to involve the entire community in Take Back the Night! Join us on WMU's campus for this great event on Thursday, April 14th!

Kalamazoo College

VOICES, the YWCA and Kalamazoo College will be partnering for an additional community Screening and Discussion of the film *Very Young Girls* on April 20th from 6:00PM—8:00PM.

Please note that all events, unless otherwise specified, are open to the public. More information on all events will be included on our website and in future newsletters.

This year, it is our hope that the entire Kalamazoo community will come together to raise awareness about sexual assault! We look forward to working with all of our community partners to make these events successful!

