

Voices Against Sexual Assault



MONTHLY UPDATE

MAY 2011

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Recap

Sexual Assault Awareness Month has just wrapped up, there's no time better than now to look back on the events VOICES helped put together and recognize all of the community partners who made these events possible!

At the beginning of the month, VOICES and KVCC partnered to host a film screening of the documentary *Very Young Girls*. Following this successful event, which nearly sixty people attended, KVCC and VOICES partnered again to offer students and staff information about sexual assault.

The Sexual Assault Awareness Community Fair at Kalamazoo Community College brought untold students and staff to the Student Commons to receive information and resources about sexual assault. Of particular note was the continued expansion of the VOICES pledge banner, which received numerous fresh signatures.

To end the month, VOICES partnered with Kalamazoo College's to screen *Very Young Girls* once more. Both the screening and the discussion at this event were very successful, with nearly fifty participants staying for the entire event.

We would like to take a moment to thank, once again, all of the community businesses who donated gift certificates and provided support to make these events a success!

Finally, an additional thanks goes out to everyone who came to and participated in these events. It was our hope that this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month would bring the Kalamazoo community together to raise awareness about sexual assault - which it certainly did.

We are looking forward to what next April will bring!

Western Michigan University: Take Back the Night

Take Back The Night at Western Michigan University had a great turnout this year! In addition to the normal schedule of events, this year's event boasted a Resource Fair to begin the night and provide attendees with information and resources on sexual assault in our community.

To officially begin the night, Sherry Brockway from the YWCA gave an informative speech about sexual assault and what the YWCA in Kalamazoo can do to help those in need. She also spent time disproving many myths about sexual assault.



The keynote speaker, VOICES own David Artley, spoke about his own experiences as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. He gave a very moving testament, straight from the

heart, about the need to report sexual abuse and assault in an effort to heal and live your life to the fullest.

Shortly after the keynote speech, many choose to participate in a march across campus to Miller Auditorium where a speak out was held. Both somber memories of personal experiences and gratitude toward the message of the ideal of ending all sexual assault were shared.

Following the speak out, a silent march was held in memory of those who did not survive their experience with sexual assault. VOICES was grateful to be able to help organize and participate in this and all of these great SAAM events.



Next Meeting

Thursday, June 2nd @ 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!

