

Voices Against Sexual Assault



MONTHLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2010

Using Our Voice! Event Brings Community Members Together

On September 22nd, VOICES hosted its second annual community event: Using Our Voice! This event, which included a yearly VOICES update and a keynote presentation on human trafficking, was very well received by the more than fifty community members in attendance.

The event opened with a welcome by VOICES co-chair Sherry Brockway and a VOICES update presentation by VOICES co-chair Vicki Vanas. At the conclusion of the presentation, attendees were invited to take the VOICES pledge against sexual assault—which an overwhelming number of attendees chose to do!

Did you know that a sexual assault occurs in this country every 2 minutes?

The pledge (described below) is designed to bring awareness to sexual assault in our community, as it is the goal of VOICES to have a community in which

there are NO MORE VICTIMS!

It is that goal, and many other connecting beliefs, that brought VOICES together with International Alliance of Hope. Co-executive directors Samuel Sanders and Kristin Horstman were present at Using Our Voice! to discuss the reality of human trafficking throughout the world and right here in our community.

Did you know that Michigan ranks 13th in the nation for human trafficking?

The keynote presentation inspired a highly thought provoking dialogue among attendees, as IAH addressed the causes and prevalence of human trafficking in our country. To learn more or to schedule a training, please visit their website at <http://www.freedomisbeautiful.org>

On behalf of IAH and VOICES, thank you Kalamazoo for making this event such a success!

Be a VOICE: Take the Pledge!

On September 22nd, Voices Against Sexual Assault (VOICES) unveiled our 2010-2011 pledge against sexual assault at the Using Our Voice! event. Throughout the coming year, VOICES will invite community members to take the pledge against sexual assault. The pledge reads:

*I will be a VOICE against sexual assault.
I pledge to never condone, commit or remain silent about sexual assault in my community.*

Why a pledge? It is our hope that this pledge will create an awareness and a willingness to break the silence around sexual assault! Along with signing the pledge banner, pledge takers receive a pledge card to carry with them as a reminder of their commitment!

Want to take the pledge? Find VOICES at our next event!

Next Meeting

Friday, October 8th @ 2PM
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!



Pledge banner designed by Too Koi Designs. Photo by James

