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PITTSBURGH ACTION AGAINST RAPE

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July 2009



Issue:7

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Fall Volunteer class gearing up!



Recent local media reports yield the same old questions.....

Far too often the common reaction to hearing about a reported sexual assault in the community is to ask what risk reduction strategies the victim could have taken and what could she have done to prevent the sexual assault.

We all need to stop asking those questions and change the focus.

For over thirty years part of rape crisis work has been teaching risk reduction strategies to victims; be aware of your surroundings, walk with your keys in your hand, and take self defense courses.

Risk reduction strategies are valuable and important. However, risk reduction strategies have not stopped sexual violence. Sexual violence continues.

We need to start asking how the perpetrator could have prevented the sexual assault. We need to focus on why the perpetrator believes forcing sexual activity is acceptable behavior.

We need to take action and ask these questions instead: What red flags did we miss, for example, other sexual offenses not caught or prosecuted? Were there other delinquent or criminal behaviors in the perpetrator that might have indicated escalation to rape and

With caring support and expertise, PAAR's volunteers remain at the foundation of our agency. At PAAR, volunteers staff our 24 hour/day crisis hotline, or can have opportunities to get involved with other projects! If you would like to be a part of an exciting team of volunteers, that helps hundreds of people every year, please call us. Volunteers are required to take a 40 hour training to become certified as a sexual assault counselor in Pennsylvania. The next training begins in

sexual assault? What community safety programs do or do not exist in neighborhoods? Do neighbors report suspicious activity?

We need to take the focus off of the victim and focus on the perpetrator and ourselves as members of a community in which sexual violence continues. We need to take action and become part of the solution.

September. Call today to get started! Contact Kathi Leddy at 412-431-5665, or email at kathil@paar.net.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

New Fall Groups

Start thinking about them!

Rape group: every Tuesday night at 6:00pm, going on now!

Women's Childhood Sexual Abuse group: Starts 9/01/09, Tuesdays 1-3pm, and runs for 16 weeks.

Men's Childhood Sexual Abuse group: Starts 9/14/09, Monday evenings 7-8:30pm, and runs for 14 weeks.

Journaling group: Starts 9/9/09, Wednesdays 1-3pm, and runs for 10 weeks.

Information and Support Lecture Series: Starts 9/9/09, Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm, and runs for 8 weeks.

Please call for more information about any of these groups. PAAR's office number is 412-431-5665

Self defense training

PAAR is offering a self defense training session that will provide certified instruction in basic self defense for women. The class will be held on Thursday August 6th, 2009 from 6:30-8:00pm. The registration fee is \$20. For more information, or to register, please contact Lisa Kadlecik at 412-431-5665 or lisak@paar.net.

Tailgating with PAAR

When: Saturday September 12, 2009
Where: North Park, Roosevelt Pavillion
Time: 1:00pm-6:00pm

Come nosh on hotdogs, wings, sauerkraut, kielbasa and other flavors of Pittsburgh. There will be live music, games, face painting and more. Wear your black and gold!!

Tickets: \$25 per adult, or \$40 per couple. Children under 8 free. Proceeds benefit PAAR. Please call 412-431-5665 for more information. Further information to follow.

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape

TAKE ACTION

Thanks to all who participated in last month's Take Action Test yourself.

Active bystanders choose to recognize instances of sexual violence and act. Active bystanders correct verbal rape myths, stop sexist jokes and comments, stop sexually harassing behaviors in schools and the workplace and promote respect and relationship equality.

The correct answer to the quiz was c) stopping a sexist comment or joke

July Test Yourself

True or false???

Sexual assault in Pennsylvania must involve physical force.

Email your answers to PAAR's Education & Training Program Director, Julie Evans at juliee@paar.net. Be the 5th individual to answer correctly and receive the Bystander Action prize pack: free book, Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention, stadium cup, bystander handout, magnet and chip clip. When answering please remember to include your address so we can send your prize!

Accept the challenge...Take Action and intervene when you witness acts of sexual violence.

This Affects Everyone. What will U do about it? www.paar.net

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