

The Insight

in sight ~ (n) an instance of

apprehending the true nature of a thing, esp. through intuitive understanding

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities A Success

by **Melissa Mertz**
Community Educator

“Tie One On”

College students at three different campuses in the Hope Crisis Center service area looked at the bare tree that suddenly appeared in their campus centers in confusion. What was that doing there? That was exactly the question staff of Hope Crisis Center were waiting for. Staff members spent time on the campuses of Concordia University in Seward, Doane College in Crete and Southeast Community College in Beatrice promoting awareness of sexual assault by having students and faculty “Tie One On.” An overwhelming number of students tied a teal ribbon, the nationally recognized color for sexual assault awareness, on the trees that slowly became less bare as they showed their support and increased their awareness of a crime that affects 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men, according to the National Institute of Justice.



“Put Your Foot Down Against Sexual Assault”

April 26th, 2008 may have been cool and windy, but that didn’t deter the 75 participants and 7 staff members from showing their support for Hope Crisis Center and sexual assault awareness in the 4th Annual “Put Your Foot Down Against Sexual Assault” 10K Run/2 mile Run/Walk event held in Fairbury, Nebraska. The age of participants ranged from 1 year to 72 years old.

The event began with a few words from Executive Director Carmen Hinman and Community Educator Trudy Spicer. A moment of silence was observed to honor



the victims and survivors of sexual assault, followed by a balloon release. Pastor Don Canady of First United Presbyterian Church, Fairbury, shared a word of prayer with the crowd before the participants lined up at the starting point.

At the conclusion of the event, the generosity of several local businesses provided door prizes for the majority of participants.

SUMMER IS NEAR!

Summer brings vacations. However, it is important **not** to take a vacation from your vigilance to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. Victims do not get a vacation from abuse.

So, enjoy the sun. Put on your SPF 30 lotion and continue to support your local domestic violence/sexual assault program, Hope Crisis Center.

To find out how you can help, call 402-729-2570.

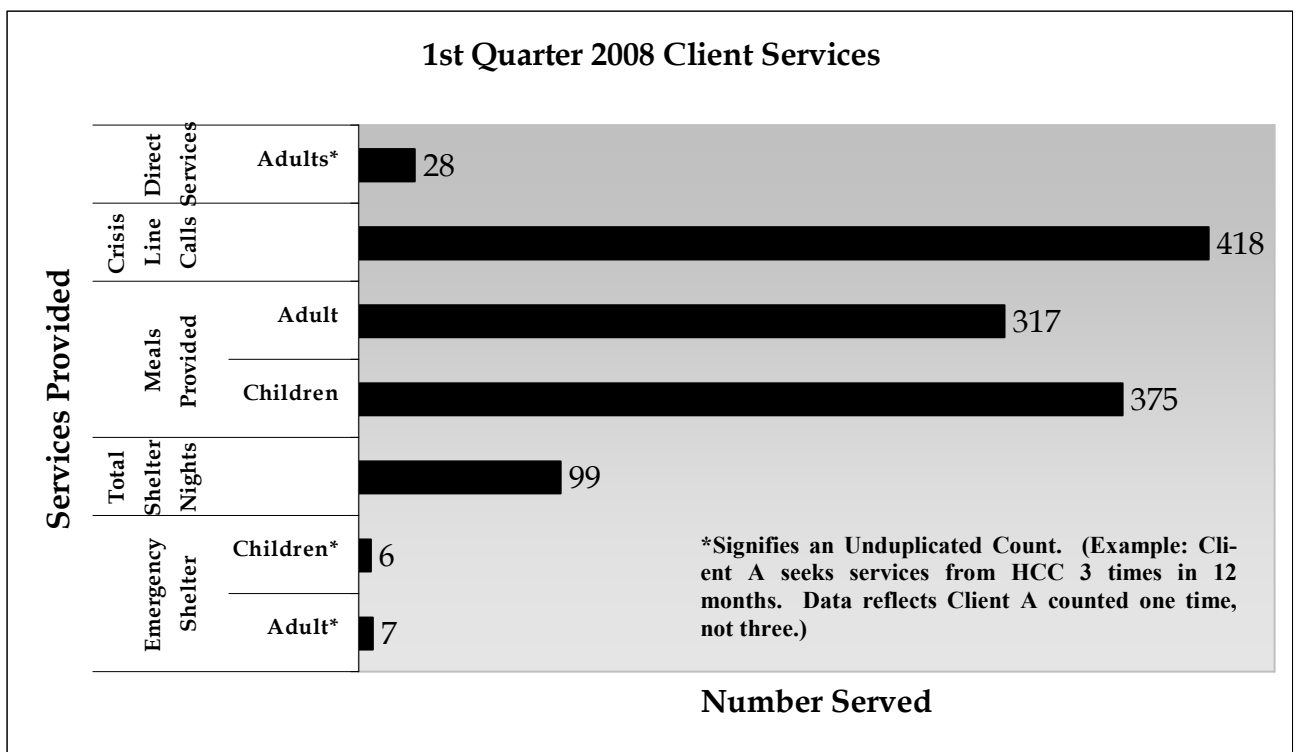
4th Annual “Put Your Foot Down Against Sexual Assault” Donors

The following businesses donated items for Hope Crisis Center to use as prizes at the 10k Run/2mile Run/Walk event:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Beatrice Community Hospital – Phys. Therapy | Lily’s Floral, Fairbury |
| Blistex | M & D Auto, Fairbury |
| Bob & Wauneta Burkley Wellness Center, Fairbury | Pepsi, Lincoln |
| Brown’s Shoe Store, Beatrice | Radio Shack, Fairbury |
| Casey’s, Beatrice | Risky’s Sports Bar, Beatrice |
| Casey’s, Fairbury | Runza, Fairbury |
| Chances R, York | Runza, York |
| Curves, Beatrice | Salt Spring Island Bandana Co. |
| East Side Dairy Queen, Beatrice | Subway, Fairbury |
| Enhancements Tanning, Fairbury | Sugar Shack, Edgar |
| Fairbury Journal, Fairbury | Trailblazers, Fairbury |
| Fairbury Steaks, Inc., Fairbury | Union Bank, Fairbury |
| Farmland Foods, Crete | Wal-Mart, Fairbury |
| Food Mart, Crete | |



Client numbers– 1st Quarter 2008 (January, February, March)



HOPE
HOPE CRISIS CENTER

And



Present

**ROCK
AGAINST
RAPE**

Friday, May 30th, 2008 at Risky's in Beatrice

5pm - closing (Happy Hour 5-7)

6 Bands and more/\$5 Cover charge

Escape, Price of Progress, Mother Tung,

WHISKER BIZKET

Third World War, 12 Years Coming...

For more information - Contact Hope Crisis Center At 402-729-2570.

A Valuable Safety Planning Tool: VINE

by Melissa Mertz
Community Educator

Have you heard of VINE? No, I don't mean a plant with a stem that trails, creeps or climbs. I'm talking about Victim Information & Notification Everyday. The valuable tool that victims of crimes can use as part of safety planning to keep informed of the offender's status. VINE is an anonymous, easy to use, free, 24-hour a day, 365 day-per-year hotline number available in the United States in forty-two states. Even in our neck of the woods.

Yes, VINE will tell you if an offender is in custody of the Nebraska Department of Corrections or in most county jails in Nebraska. An offender may be located using the offender ID or by name. Support is available via the hotline 24-hours a day.

How do I use VINE?

1. In Nebraska, call 1-877-634-8463.
2. If the offender is in custody, leave your phone number to be called when the custody status changes. Enter the phone number where you want to be reached, followed by the pound (#) key.
3. When the VINE system/operator asks, make up a four-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) and enter it. Make sure it is a number that will be easy for you to remember. Write it down, in a safe place, as VINE will ask for the PIN number when it calls you for updates.
4. When VINE calls, listen to the message, and then enter your PIN as requested. Entering your PIN ensures that the VINE system knows **you** received the call, and will stop the service from calling you again. If they attempt to call you and there is no answer, they will repeat this procedure for up to 48 hours after the offender's custody status has changed.

VINE may also be accessed via the Internet. By visiting www.vinelink.com you can register for the same service and receive notification via telephone or e-mail. Through the website you can search for offender information, location, release date, etc.

VINE does not have information about Federal Inmates. However, the Bureau of Prisons' website hosts an "inmate locator" that will provide information on federal inmates. That website is www.bop.gov.

VINE Facts

- Registering with VINE is anonymous.
- VINE calls automatically when an offender's custody status changes. You may receive a call from the VINE system anytime during the day or at night.
- If you are not home, VINE will leave a message on your answering machine. If there is no answer, VINE will keep calling back until your PIN is entered or 48 hours have expired.
- Calls from VINE will display a "502" area code. If you try to call this number back, you will not be able to reach anyone. It is strictly a notification system.
- Do NOT depend solely on the VINE system for your safety. It is just one of the tools that can assist in your safety.
- To register you must have the offender's first and last name and state.

Community Education Offered

In addition to the innumerable services offered to clients of Hope Crisis Center and the community, education plays a significant role in disposing of the barrier of ignorance of services available. Many people are unaware that services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are also available in rural communities. To overcome this particular hurdle, Hope Crisis Center offers educational presentations to the public. During the first quarter of 2008, Hope Crisis Center provided **100** presentations and **3** public awareness activities to audiences totaling **2,427**. If you would like one of our Community Educators to speak with your agency, contact our Administrative Office at 402-729-2570.

Client Needs

It is not the sole responsibility of Hope Crisis Center to make the lives of victims safe. It is the responsibility of every community member to make victims' safety a goal. We have to work together to achieve a violence-free community.

In order to help us better serve victims and children of domestic violence and sexual violence, we have included a list of needed items below. Your support and contributions are desperately needed and appreciated more than words can *ever* express.

Hope Crisis Center's Wish List

Monetary donations	Pillows
Phone cards	Blankets
Trash Bags	Diapers/Pull-Ups
Paper plates	Deodorant
Gas cards (Casey's cards)	Kleenex
Shampoo/Conditioner	Toothpaste
Plastic silverware	Wal-Mart gift cards
Toilet tissue	Paper towels
Women's Underwear (NEW)	Sports Bras (NEW)
Women's Socks (NEW)	Flip Flops (All Sizes)
Children's Underwear, Socks (NEW)	

**If you or your organization would like to donate or volunteer,
please contact our Administrative Office at 402-729-2570.**

Hope Crisis Center Newsletter

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Fairbury, NE 68352

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Hope Crisis Center is a non-profit organization committed to empowering victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as our communities through advocacy, education, and confidential emergency services.

If you would like to receive this publication as an e-version only, please e-mail Melissa at communityed@hopecrisiscenter.org with your request.



Please Recycle-Share this Newsletter with others!

HOPE CRISIS CENTER

Administrative Office

PO Box 365
Fairbury NE 68352
(402) 729-2570

Beatrice Outreach Office

(402) 223-6635

Crete Outreach Office

(402) 826-5727

York Outreach Office

(402) 362-4724

Toll Free Confidential Crisis Line

1-877-388-HOPE (4673)

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Member

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Member

*If you would be interested in serving on Hope Crisis Center's Board of Directors, please contact Carmen at the Administrative Office (402) 729-2570.

Staff

Carmen – Executive Director

Stacey – Program Manager

Cari – Victim Advocate, Gage, Jefferson and Thayer Counties

Elvira – Bi-lingual Victim Advocate, Saline County

Laura – Victim Advocate, Fillmore, Seward and York Counties

Melissa – Community Educator

Trudy – Community Educator