



# NO NEWS

## From the Executive Director's Desk

Dear Friends of SASSMM:

As you will note within this newsletter, SASSMM continues to be creative in reaching our communities. Our project reports bring you up to date on all that is happening here, and highlights some of the amazing work of our staff, volunteers and Board of Directors.

Our 2009 agency statistics reflect a year filled with advocacy and support:

- 1,236 contacts were made to our support line
- Those 1,236 contacts represented 233 survivors
- Of the 233 survivors, 37 are males
- 84 of the assaults occurred in this calendar year
- 145 of the assaults occurred at age 18 or younger
- Of the 233 survivors, 75 filed reports with law enforcement
- And 48 of the 233 received medical services

SASSMM public education programs and participant attendance increased in 2009.

- Non-school based educational programs reached 5,486 individuals
- School-based educational programs reached 5,721 participants

The statistics indicate the ongoing need for our services and represent the essential community partnerships that contribute to SASSMM's successes. It is easy to disregard numbers and

explain away statistics. For those of us at SASSMM, we know all too well that the statistics represent real people who could be you or me.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For those impacted by sexual violence and for those of us at SASSMM, Sexual Assault Awareness happens daily throughout the year. We are appreciative of your energy, commitment and activism as we work together to confront sexual violence. Please continue to speak up; together we can create healthier, safer communities.

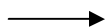
With Respect,  
Susan Hall Dreher

## A Letter From the Board Chair

Nonprofits, along with everyone else continue to face financial and other challenges in the struggling economy. However, unlike private industry, the demand for social services does not decrease in an economic downturn – it increases.

I was reading an annual report for Colonial Williamsburg and the president of the organization was outlining the budget cuts and layoffs that the organization was undergoing to balance its budget. A board member asked him how, given all of the cuts, the organization was doing fulfilling its mission. I thought this was a fair question which must be kept in mind for any nonprofit. The goal of the organization must not be just to survive, but to fulfill its mission.

So...in light of the struggling economy, is SASSMM still fulfilling its mission? I'm pleased



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- Susan Hall Dreher, Executive Director
- Hannah Stevens, Administrative Assistant
- Kayce Hunton, Client Services Manager
- Bethany Hunter, School Education Coordinator
- Andrea Nicoletta, Community Educator
- Jennifer Hemingway, Community Advocate
- Heidi Hanley, SART Advocate

**Mission Statement**

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine is an agency of professionals and trained volunteers dedicated to providing advocacy and support for survivors, families and concerned others affected by sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. SASSMM offers services to improve awareness and response by providing prevention, education and risk reduction programs throughout Eastern Cumberland, Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties.

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine  
P.O. Box 990  
Brunswick, ME 04011-0990  
Phone (207)725-2181  
Fax (207)798-6943  
24 Hour Support Line 1-800-822-5999  
Website: [www.sassmm.org](http://www.sassmm.org)

(continued from front page)

to report that it is. We are blessed to continue to have Sue Hall Dreher as our executive director and a wonderful staff. They continually find ways to provide the 24 hour hotline, services to survivors, educational programs and support groups even when the financial resources are challenged.

Finally, I know I say this each newsletter, but to those of you who contribute time and money to SASSMM, THANK YOU! SASSMM does a great job stretching resources, but we still need to have resources to stretch. I know finding time and money to give may be harder than it has been in the past, but you continue to do so and we are grateful. I guarantee that it is time and money well spent.

Sincerely,  
Mark M. Waltz  
SASSMM Board Chair

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## Education Corner

In the calendar year 2009, SASSMM educators provided peer- and sexual violence awareness and prevention programs to 5,350 students, faculty and staff in many of the elementary, middle and high schools in the Midcoast area.

In an ongoing effort to assess the efficacy of our school based educational programs, as well as to report program outcomes for federal, state and community funding sources, SASSMM asks each participant to complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of each presentation. Students and staff respond:

"I like it! It was fun! Can you come again?"

1<sup>st</sup> Grader, Boothbay Region Elementary School

"I liked it because it changed my feelings about someone...to help them when they are in need or want someone to play with. It also helped me forgive my friend!" 4<sup>th</sup> Grader,  
Williams-Cone Elementary School

"My students are talking more openly with each other in appropriate ways since the presentation." 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Coffin School

"It made me feel safer!" 5<sup>th</sup> Grader,  
Marcia Buker Elementary School

"SASSMM was helpful for facing fears that might or did happen." 5<sup>th</sup> Grader,  
Longfellow School

"In case something does happen I know what to do now." 6<sup>th</sup> Grader,  
Great Salt Bay Community School

"I'm going to delete my friends that I don't know on the computer." 6<sup>th</sup> Grader,  
Wiscasset Middle School

"As always, SASSMM presentations are well-presented, highly informative, and student-centered." Guidance Counselor,  
Boothbay Region Elementary School

"I liked how easily it relates to kids our age. It would give information and then it would keep in interesting by putting in things that kids would recognize."

Middle School Student, Boothbay Region Elementary School

"Everyone always looks forward to SASSMM." 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Brunswick Junior High School

"Great presentation, [I] like that [the Peer Educators] were close to our age and could relate." Student, Hyde School

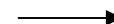
"You guys have a very important job and are helpful to the community... Thank you for doing what you do." 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader,  
Medomak Valley High School

For more information about SASSMM's "important" school education programs, or to schedule a presentation for your class or school, please contact Bethany Hunter, School Education Coordinator, at 725-2181 or [education@sassmm.org](mailto:education@sassmm.org)

Bethany Hunter  
School Education Coordinator

## Sexual Assault Response Team Update

Hello to Midcoast Maine from a recently hired SASSMM staff member! I have been traveling throughout the region familiarizing and introducing myself to the Sexual Assault Response Team since I began in October 2009, and would like to give a small history of myself for those whom I have not yet met. I am a Maine native, a graduate of the College of the Atlantic, and my list of volunteer projects is nearly more extensive than my job history...including researching human trafficking in India, working



with a women's group against domestic violence in Belize, and volunteering on a sexual assault support line out of Ellsworth, Maine. By following an interest and instinct I sought out these experiences and they fortified a genuine calling in me. I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside so many upstanding individuals with similar goals and ideals and want to thank all who are part of the Midcoast SART sincerely for your invaluable work, your dedication to ending sexual violence, and your warm welcome.

In December I had the benefit of arranging an annual Law Enforcement Workgroup—a unique opportunity for members of the Midcoast SART to network, discuss coordinating services, and learn about a sexual assault related topic. SASSMM arranges quarterly meetings for law enforcement and advocates; however, the annual meeting is held for all the members of the SART—including sexual assault forensic examiners/nurses, victim witness advocates, and representatives from other legal and social service agencies. The next quarterly meeting will be held in April, and Laura Brookham, SASSMM SART Advocate from 2001 – 2005 and fourth year doctoral candidate in the Clinical Psychology Program at Argosy University in Phoenix, Arizona, will be giving a presentation on *Forensic Psychology and Risk Assessment*.

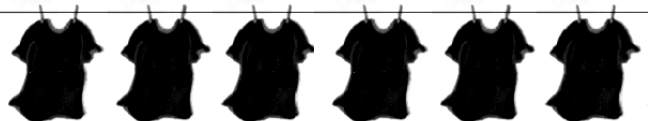
For more information about the Law Enforcement Workgroup, the SART, or for survivor support for any type of sexual violence throughout the criminal or civil court process, please contact Heidi at 725-2181 or email [sart@sassmm.org](mailto:sart@sassmm.org).

Heidi Hanley  
SART Advocate

## April Workshop

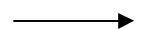
April 8<sup>th</sup> SASSMM will present Community Response to Sexual Violence against individuals with disabilities and elders. This workshop will focus on criminal and civil responses and system resources. The past workshops have built on the previous ones for ongoing response and education. This workshop will focus on the community response and creating multidisciplinary teams that will support survivors through all aspects of healing. The training will cover undue influence, case studies, stalking, creating networks, and reporting, barriers to reporting and how to overcome barriers. For more information or to register for the workshop please contact Jenn Hemingway Community Advocate at [projectadv@sassmm.org](mailto:projectadv@sassmm.org)

Jenn Hemmingway  
Community Advocate



## The Maine Campus Clothesline Project

There has been a lot of media attention recently about sexual assault on college campuses in this country. Research funded by the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 1 in 5 college women will experience sexual assault during her college years. The vast majority of these students will know the



perpetrator - often well. The Center for Public Integrity has been studying sexual assault on campus and the responses of schools nationwide.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. In recognition of this year's national campaign from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, "Prevent Sexual Assault on our Campuses," the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MeCASA) has organized across campuses statewide to create the Maine Campus Clothesline Project. Students at campuses across Maine are decorating T-shirts to show the impact of sexual violence on their lives and on their campuses. These T-shirts will be displayed April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am at the Hall of Flags in Augusta in an event that acknowledges sexual violence on campus. SASSMM is working with Bowdoin College in Brunswick. Students on campus will be participating in this year's event by making T-shirts on campus in March. Speaking out about sexual violence and recognizing its prevalence can help survivors and concerned others break their silence and be a part of the healing process.

For more information about this event, please contact Andrea Nicoletta, Community Educator, at 725-2181 or [communityed@sassmm.org](mailto:communityed@sassmm.org).

Andrea Nicoletta  
Community Advocate



## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

### Here's what we have planned for the month of April:

**Maine Street Window Display-** SASSMM will have a window display for the month of April at the front of Senter place, Maine Street. Please stop by Senter Place and take a look!

**3rd Annual Sweat Suit Sunday-** We are asking area churches to choose a Sunday in April when parishioners can bring in new, clean sweat suits to donate to our sweat suit project. SASSMM provides new sweat suits to the four area hospital emergency departments for victims of sex crimes. For many victims, their clothing is destroyed or taken as evidence following a sexual assault. Our sweat suit project provides warm, comfortable clothing so that survivors can leave the hospital in something other than a hospital gown. Please contact Andrea Nicoletta at [communityed@sassmm.org](mailto:communityed@sassmm.org) or 725-2181 for more information.

**Teal Desserts-** Teal ribbons are a symbol for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and once again the Newcastle Publick House will be offering a "Teal Dessert" for the month of April. A portion of the proceeds from every sale of their delicious hot-fudge brownie sundae during the month will go to SASSMM. The Newcastle Publick house is located at 52 Main Street in Newcastle, Maine.

**Maine Campus Clothesline Project-** On display at the Hall of Flags in Augusta on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am.

## SASSMM Support Groups

### & Additional Advocacy Services

#### For Survivors, Parents and Concerned Others

#### Support Groups: A Piece of the Healing Process.

Survivors of sexual violence are often left with deep feelings of shame, guilt and embarrassment. Many feel they have no one to turn to for support and assistance.

SASSMM provides a casual and non-judgmental environment for individuals to connect with others who have been through similar life events. Participants share personal experiences, discuss information and exchange resources. Groups focus on healing and moving forward. A variety of survivor-centered groups are offered. Call 1-207-725-2181 to schedule a pre-group appointment.

#### SASSMM also offers the following services:

- One-To-One Support
  - For individuals waiting for a group to begin, or simply looking for information and support, SASSMM offers meetings on a scheduled basis.
- 24-Hour Crisis and Support Line
  - 1-800-822-5999,  
from a cell phone call 1-207-725-1500
  - TTY dial 1-888-458-5599
- Specific advocacy and assistance around law enforcement and legal proceedings.
- Informed advocacy services for people with disabilities and elders.

All of SASSMM's advocacy services are confidential\* and free of charge. Services are available to survivors of sexual violence and the people who care about survivors, no matter when the assault or abuse occurred. We look forward to speaking with you.

\*SASSMM advocates are mandated reporters and in some cases information shared may not be able to remain confidential.

Kayce Hunton  
Client Services Manager

## SASSMM's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Gala and Silent Auction

We are excited to be celebrating the arrival of spring with a new date for our Celebrity Gala and Silent Auction. By the time you receive this newsletter, our "Spring Thing," held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Bowdoin College will have already happened! We are grateful for the positive response that we've had from our sponsors, auction donors, celebrities, and attendees as we transition to holding our event in March instead of June.

We'd like to thank our corporate sponsors, **98.9 WCLZ, Bath Savings Institution, Mid Coast Medical Group/Women's Healthcare, Atlantic Regional Federal Credit Union, Wright Express, St. Andrew's Hospital & Healthcare, Flying Point Construction, and Casco Bay Ford.**

Thank you to **Day's Jewelers in Brunswick** who, once again, donated a beautiful ring, valued at \$2,000, for our raffle.

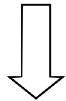
A special thanks to **Tony and Stephanie George-Roy** for their wonderful creativity with our invitations and poster.

With over 140 items in our auction, great food, music provided by **D.J. duo Rhythm and Blues**, dancing, and entertainment, the Gala is a fun and important part of SASSMM's yearly fundraising efforts. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. We hope to see you next year!

*Read more about our Gala in the fall newsletter which will include highlights and a list of our auction donors.*

Hannah Stevens  
Administrative Assistant

# It's Almost Tee Time!



## NINTH ANNUAL SASSMM LADIES' OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday, June 3, 2010 (Rain date, June 10)  
Hosted by BWGA at Brunswick Golf Club**

**8:30 Shotgun Start  
Scramble Format • Two Flights  
Entrance Fee - \$60 • Carts - \$15**

**For Tournament Details contact:  
Barbara Rondeau at 883-6161  
barb3@gwi.net  
or see the SMWGA Website**

**Much Fun • Great Prizes • Luncheon  
Hole-in-One Car From Lee's Auto!!**

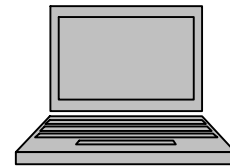
**Sponsors include  
Mid Coast Hospital • Wright Express • Anthem**

**Nearly one in five Mainers report being the  
victim of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime.**



**CELEBRATING SASSMM'S 27 YEARS  
IN THE COMMUNITY**

### Would you like to receive our next newsletter by email?



We will be sending out future newsletters by email to those who prefer it. Please send your request to [administration@sassmm.org](mailto:administration@sassmm.org)

YES, I will help prevent sexual violence in my community!

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation:

\$1,000\_\_ \$500\_\_ \$100\_\_ \$50\_\_

\$35\_\_ \$25\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous

# Thank you for your support!



24 Hour Support Line 1-800-822-5999

from a cell phone call 1-207-725-1500

TTY dial 1-888-458-5599

[www.sassmm.org](http://www.sassmm.org)

of Mid Coast Maine  
United Way



Department of Health  
and Human Services  
State, Health and Probation  
Services  
John E. Baldacci, Governor  
Bridget M. Fernald, Commissioner

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