

Spring VOL 7, Issue 1
Family Violence Resource Network News

**A periodic newsletter sponsored by the *Walking Together* program
 Samaritan Counseling Center**



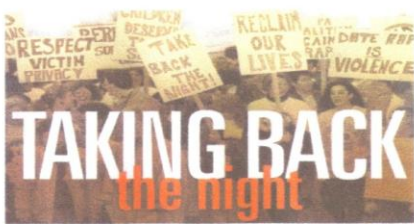
You're invited!

FVRN Meeting April 20, 2011
10 AM –11:45 AM, with refreshments @ 9:30 AM
YWCA (Lime St.) Lancaster

RSVP: LCrockett@scclanc.org or call 717 625 1722

Preventing Sexual Assault and Violence with our Children
**A DVD/Discussion hosted by YWCA Lancaster Sexual
 Assault Prevention & Counseling Center (SAPCC) staff**

**April is
 Sexual Assault Awareness Month**



**TAKING BACK
 the night**

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we invite you to:

- **Take Back the Night at the YWCA** •
 Wednesday April 20, 6 - 7:30 pm
 an open forum for survivors and friends to share their stories and speak out against sexual violence
- **Family Violence Resource Network meeting** •
 Wednesday April 20, 9:30 am - noon
 join us at the YWCA for a discussion on ways to get involved in preventing sexual assault and violence

YWCA Lancaster
Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling Center
 110 N. Lime St., Lancaster, PA 17602
 Call 717-393-1735 x260 for details
www.ywcalancaster.org

eliminating racism
 empowering women
ywca

About the 2011 campaign

The April 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign focuses on everyone speaking up to prevent sexual violence in our neighborhoods, communities, workplaces and schools. The 2011 national Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign explores common, everyday behaviors and offers individuals viable, responsible ways to intervene. This primary prevention approach helps to create environments where people are safe in their relationships, families, neighborhoods, schools, work places and communities.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Sexual abuse....takes a child who knows nothing and makes her into a child who believes nothing.” Maya Angelou

Children are the most vulnerable members of our faith communities. Statistics that tell us that one in four girls, and one in six boys, is sexually abused before the age of 18.

And although many of us are diligent in teaching our children about how to cross the street safely, learn how to swim, and not to accept rides from strangers, too often we neglect the most important safety lesson of all: teaching our children about how to protect themselves from sexual abuse when the offender is an adult within the child’s “safe world”. 90% of children are molested by someone they know and trust, such as a neighbor, teacher, coach, older child, relative, or member of the church.

As an important part of the community, churches can do much more to protect our children, who deserve to be safe both within our church and out in the world. Raising awareness without taking action will not protect them.

To schedule a workshop on protecting children or to learn more about our “safe church” program, call Linda Crockett @ 717 625 1722 or email LCrockett@scclanc.org.

This sanctuary is to be free of exploitation, intimidation, threat, verbal or physical violence, or any type of sexual abuse, misconduct or harassment.



What is a Safe Church?

A Safe Church environment is one that provides for the protection of the physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well being of each person. More than simply offering protection from danger, the Safe Church sees itself as a sanctuary, where one finds protection, security, support, guidance and the presence of God.

The **Safe Church** “Umbrella”



The Safe Church program at Samaritan helps you to create a set of policies, guidelines and training developed in alignment with your mission to create a sanctuary where all can gather in an atmosphere of trust and safety. We also provide congregational education on child sexual abuse and domestic violence; training for staff and volunteers on mandated reporting under PA CPSL; and guidance for offering hospitality to a known sexual offender in the congregation.

- Child & Youth Protection from Abuse
- Prohibition of Sexual Harassment (Title VII)
- Screening, hiring and responding to allegations of inappropriate conduct
- Church Response to Domestic Violence
- Emergency Response Plan: Fire, Bomb Threat, natural disaster, Disease Pandemic, Active shooter in the facility/Child Abduction
- A Crisis Communication Plan



Preparing Churches to Protect Children

April 9, 9 AM – 11: 00 AM
9 AM – 11:00 AM, Lancaster YWCA

Attend this free event sponsored by the Grace Abbot School of Social Work, Mennonite Central Committee, Samaritan Counseling Center, and the Lancaster YWCA

Jeanette Harder, CMSW, PhD. is author of the new book “Let the Children Come: Preparing Faith Communities to End Child Abuse and Neglect”.

She and a panel of local professionals, including Linda Crockett from Samaritan and Linda Gehman Peachy from Mennonite Central Committee, will speak at an event on Saturday, April 9 from 9 AM – 11:00 at the YWCA, 110 N. Lime St., Lancaster. A signed copy of Jeanette’s book may be purchased at the event.

Linda directs Samaritan’s “Safe Church” program, which helps congregations develop child protection policies and train staff and volunteers on recognizing and responding to sexual abuse. Linda Gehman Peachey directs MCC’s Women’s Advocacy program and has been instrumental in getting Jeanette’s new book distributed to local Mennonite pastors.

Jeanette is on faculty at the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska of Omaha, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses. She is a member of First Mennonite Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.

No charge for workshop.

RSVP by April 2 at www.DovesNest.net

April 10-16, 2011
National Crime Victim's Rights Week
Reshaping The Future • Honoring The Past

Each April communities throughout the country participate in this annual observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) by promoting victims’ rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

Monday - Wednesday
April 11 to 13
9:00am to 4:00 pm

Silent Witness - Survivors Quilt Display - Information Table
Lancaster County Courthouse Lobby
 Display of Silent Witness, the homicide victims memory quilt and Crime Victim Rights Week information table in the Courthouse Lobby.

The Silent Witness Exhibit is a traveling memorial honoring women, men and children from our area who were murdered through acts of domestic violence. The Exhibit is made up of life-sized red figures, each representing someone who once lived, worked, had friends and family in Lancaster county and whose life ended violently.

Monday – Thursday
April 11 to 14

Empty Place at the Table at the YWCA at 110 N. Lime St., Lancaster.
 An Empty Place at the Table - Each place setting around the table

9:00am to 4:00pm

represents someone whose life was ended because of domestic violence. The dishes, cups and silverware tell the story of a special person whose place at the table is forever empty.

Tuesday, April 12
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Information Tables - Penn Square, Lancaster
Victim service organization's information tables will be set up at Penn Square in Lancaster. The Clothesline Project will also be displayed. These individually created T-shirts bear witness to sexual and physical violence against women.

6:30pm

Thursday, April 14 Standing Together: The 23rd annual Candle Lighting Ceremony at the YWCA at 110 N. Lime St., Lancaster.
Our speaker is Linda Crockett. As a survivor of child abuse, Linda demonstrates the fact that you can survive and even thrive. It is our hope that she will enable others to believe that healing is possible. There will also be music, dance and a sharing time for survivors to share their own experience of hope and healing. We will gather on the steps of the YWCA for candle lighting. There will be a reception following the Vigil

Sponsored by: Victim Services Partnership: Victim/Witness Services (299-8048); YWCA Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center (393-1735); Domestic Violence Services (291-5826); and Lancaster Area Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program (397-2404).

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DOCUMENTARY DVD

**Who will love me?
Four stories of mother-daughter sexual abuse**

**A MAKING DAUGHTERS SAFE AGAIN PRODUCTION
DR. CHRISTINE HATCHARD, DIRECTOR/EDITOR**

That a woman would sexually abuse her own daughter is an unimaginable horror to most people. When it's your reality, it's infinitely worse. In this groundbreaking film, four courageous women who were sexually abused by their mothers in childhood share their compelling stories. With sensitive editing and

unflinching honesty, viewers will begin to understand the full range of devastating consequences of this form of sexual abuse and the survivors' hopeful search for healing.

ENDORSEMENTS (SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE!)

"Girls who are sexually abused by their mothers suffer what may be the deepest emotional wounding there is. By letting us hear women talk about their own experiences, "Making Daughters Safe Again" provides essential education for supporters of survivors, both personal and professional, and will help every daughter who has been abused by her mother know that she is not alone, not to blame, and that healing is possible. This deeply moving film is an extremely valuable contribution to the field of healing from child sexual abuse."

--Ellen Bass, co-author of *The Courage to Heal*

"The women that courageously shared their experiences of maternal incest in the documentary represent countless others whose voices will never be heard because they have been silenced by fear, shame, descent into severe mental illness, addiction, and in some cases, death. While what they experienced was horrifying, these women also represent the amazing strength and resilience of those who have somehow managed to not only survive this devastating form of abuse but tenaciously and with great effort, heal their wounds and become beacons of hope for others. This documentary leaves no doubt that maternal incest is uniquely distinct from other forms of sexual abuse in how it manifests, and in how it impacts the lives of those who have experienced it. To characterize this violation as rape of one's soul or spirit is not an overstatement; many of us who have also been sexually abused by men will agree that even though these violations were terrible, they do not rise to the level of destructiveness that is characterized by mother-daughter sexual abuse. The world needs to hear these stories.

- Linda Crockett, author of *The Deepest Wound: How a Journey to El Salvador Led to Healing from Mother-Daughter Incest*, Director of Education and Consultation, Samaritan Counseling Center, Lancaster PA

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO <http://mdsafilm.org>

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1 in 4 Hotline Callers Report Birth Control Sabotage, Pregnancy Coercion

- "I better be pregnant, or I'm in trouble with him."
- "He refuses to use a condom. I've bought them and he throws them out."
- "He has tried to talk me into having a child. He told me he wanted to keep me from leaving him."
- "He admitted to me and the psychologist that he intentionally got me pregnant to trap me."

What may be the first national survey to determine the extent of "reproductive coercion" was released on February 15 by the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) and the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF). The

survey found that 25 percent of 3,000 callers to the National Domestic Violence Hotline surveyed in August – September 2010 reported that they had experienced this form of domestic and dating violence.

Reproductive coercion is defined as threats or acts of violence against a partner’s reproductive health or reproductive decision-making. It includes forced sex, a male partner pressuring a woman to become pregnant against her will and interference with the use of birth control. **The women who reported this form of abuse said that their male partners either would not allow them to use birth control or sabotaged their birth control method (such as poking holes in condoms or flushing pills down the toilet). Some of the women said they had to hide their birth control.**

“Survivors of domestic violence don’t always recognize reproductive coercion as part of the power and control their partner is exerting over them in their relationship,” said National Domestic Violence Hotline Operations Manager Mikisha Hooper. “This form of abuse can be shrouded in secrecy and may be uncomfortable for people to talk about it. By asking the right questions, we help victims identify and understand the abuse – and provide the support and resources they need.”

The survey questions and response rates were as follows:

1. *Has your partner or ex-partner ever told you not to use any birth control (like the pill, shot, ring, etc.)?* - Of the 3169 callers who responded, 25 percent said yes.
2. *Has your partner or ex-partner ever tried to force or pressure you to become pregnant?* - Of the 3166 callers who answered this question, 25 percent said yes.
3. *Has your partner or ex-partner ever taken off the condom during sex so that you would become pregnant?* - Of the 3103 callers who responded, 16 percent said yes.
4. *Has your partner or ex-partner ever made you have sex without a condom so that you would become pregnant?* - Of the 3130 callers who responded, 24 percent said yes.

Source: Family Violence Prevention Fund <http://www.endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1674>

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ABOUT THE FAMILY VIOLENCE RESOURCE NETWORK

The FVRN meets 4 times a year, the 3rd Wednesday of January, April, July and October, at 9:30 AM.

Meeting Schedule 2011

| Date | Location | Sponsor |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01/19/11 | First United Methodist | Samaritan Counseling Center |

04/20/11 YWCA (Lime St) YWCA of Lancaster Sexual Assault
Prevention &
Counseling Center

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT & CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

07/20/11 First United Methodist Samaritan Counseling Center

10/19/11 Lancaster Theological Seminary Domestic Violence Services of
Lancaster County

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

REFRESHMENTS: 9:30 AM

MEETING: 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

First United Methodist Church is located at 29 E. Walnut St., Lancaster

You can access the parking lot from Lemon St (and several other streets). Please park

Only in the spaces marked FIRST; do not park in spaces for tenants or physicians.

If you are interested in connecting with others who are concerned with family violence in Lancaster County, plan to attend these meetings! Great opportunities for learning, networking, and discussing prevention and assistance strategies in a cross-disciplinary forum that includes religious, medical, agency, mental health, survivor, advocate and community volunteer perspectives.

To be removed from this mailing list, email LCrockett@scclanc.org