

SATAIRO



Annual Report 2001

SEXUAL ASSAULT & TRAUMA RESOURCE CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND

Sexual Assault & Trauma

RESOURCE CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND

OUR MISSION:

To reduce the trauma and the prevalence of sexual abuse and violence.

OUR VISION:

To facilitate and provide leadership in a statewide service delivery system that is highly visible, accessible, effective and responsive to the needs of the community, through intervention, treatment, education and prevention.

“In many arenas, in the community, at the State House, at the local level and at the national level, **The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center is in the forefront of prevention, intervention and education of sexual assault, abuse and other forms of violence.**”

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from the executive director

As we go to press, the landmark, historic National Conference of Catholic Bishops' meeting in Dallas, Texas has just concluded. While the world's attention is focused on the bishops' response and future actions, my thoughts are with the countless survivors of sexual assault who have endured painful months of revelations about clergy abuse and indifference from Church officials.

Their powerful voices have helped bring us to this historic moment. We know from many victims who have reached out to our agency that they continue to struggle with the injustice and ignorance that goes hand in hand with sexual abuse.

Each of us — individuals and institutions — bears responsibility to stop sexual abuse and violence. Whether through education, prompt reporting, support of the criminal justice system, intervention or advocacy, we all play a part.

In 2001, the Center has stepped up its pace by introducing innovative programs such as the Sexual Assault Response Team, RIVINE, expanding others and improving delivery of services.

While advocacy continues to be our focus, expanding the depth and breadth of our services to meet the needs of victims and their families challenges us on a daily basis.

To meet these challenges and the rapidly changing needs of victims, we are constantly assessing and refining our services.

This was the year the Center expanded and added a strong policy component to more effectively work with public and private agencies who deal with sexual abuse, and to enhance our efforts to be a catalyst for change.

As the nation reels from the aftershocks of the allegations of clergy sexual assault in the Catholic Church, perhaps we can find a kernel of hope in this tragedy. At no time



PEG LANGHAMMER
Executive Director

in recent history has there been a greater awareness of and outrage against sexual abuse and violence. Our challenge is to harness this awareness and outrage to promote greater understanding of the victims of sexual abuse and violence and to build strong community systems for prevention, advocacy and intervention.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peg Langhammer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rhode Island Children's Advocacy Center



IN THE YEAR 2001...

273 clients were provided service

143 professionals attended training provided by CAC staff

190 forensic interviews were conducted with child victims

12 forensic interviews were conducted with adult victims with developmental disabilities

120 cases were recommended for prosecution

336 cases were tracked through the court system

The Rhode Island Children's Advocacy Center provides the children of sexual abuse and other acts of violence with interview, evaluation and treatment services in a comfortable environment to prevent further trauma to the child.

Our multidisciplinary team — essential to our program's success — comprises prosecutors, police, medical personnel, mental health professionals and human service providers. Over the years, we have expanded our services to meet the needs of children suffering from many kinds of abuse.

During 2001, we continued to reach out to children and non-offending parents and expanded our services to include adults with developmental disabilities.

Last year also saw CAC become part of a groundbreaking program designed to find methods of reducing Internet crimes against children.

● RESPONDING TO ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Historically, service providers including courts, police and prosecutors, have found it difficult to work with adults with developmental disabilities. Most don't have an understanding of their language, intellectual capacity or the ability to communicate with this diversely disabled population.

Through our multidisciplinary team approach and in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH), we have developed a program that

“The CAC helped me to understand the court system and provided good support for me, my daughter and my family.”

● PARENT OF A CHILD WHO HAD BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

“Over the years, we have expanded our services to meet the needs of children suffering from many kinds of abuse.”

reaches out to this population using the same model that has made the Children’s Advocacy Center a success throughout Rhode Island. Victim advocates work with these adults helping them access the services they need and providing support throughout the investigation and court system.

● **INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE** Organized by the Westerly Police Department and funded by a federal grant, the CAC is the only non-law enforcement agency represented on this important task force. Alarmed by the recent spate of Internet crimes against children, including child pornography and pedophiles luring children from their homes through e-mail and chat rooms, law enforcers from all over the country are seeking methods to educate their communities and increase their investigations, arrests and prosecutions.

The task force comprises representation from all police departments in Washington County, the Attorney General’s office, the US Attorney’s office, Rhode Island State Crime Lab, Secret Service, FBI and the CAC director.

● **NON-OFFENDING PARENTING GROUP** Facilitated by the CAC child abuse intervention specialist, this new program offers families support, education and resources about the justice system, the impact that sexual assault has on the victim and the non-offending parent, as well as an opportunity to share their stories with others with similar experiences.



Clinical Program



IN THE YEAR 2001...

780 individuals received clinical program services

418 received in-house services including individual, group and, or intake services

55 participated in the Homicide Bereavement Program

262 participated in the prison program, which serves incarcerated victims of sexual assault/childhood sexual abuse and sexual harassment

UNDER THE OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES...

129 individuals were served

27 agencies were provided information relating to victim services

Sometimes it's a hand to hold onto to. Sometimes it's a voice for the voiceless. Sometimes it's an ear to listen. Always it's a safe harbor and support system for victims — and their families, friends and significant others — who have been sexually abused, assaulted, harassed or survived violence of all kinds.

From the youngest of us to the oldest, victims of crime suffer far beyond the initial act of violence. Individuals affected by violence, whether it be childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes and other acts of violence, face a multitude of issues throughout their lifetimes. These issues often lead to difficulties in school or other social situations; relationships and various mental illnesses, including depression, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

SATRC's clinical services provide the support and the tools victims may need to evolve from victim to survivor. During the past year the Clinical Program introduced a new service to victims affected by some form of violence in their lives.

- **1-877-RI-VINE** Called RI-VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday System), this unique service is provided by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections in collaboration with SATRC. A free, anonymous computer-assisted service, RI-VINE provides victims with crime information about the offender and notification when an offender's status changes.

Since the service was introduced, the automated system has received more than 6,000 telephone calls.

- **COMMON THREADS/HOMICIDE BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM** Healing the wound caused by the loss of a loved one to homicide is a long and painful process. For children, the loss is even more devastating. The grieving child may experience guilt, fear, abandonment and a sense of loss of control over his/her life.

SATRC'S CLINICAL PROGRAM OFFERS:

Individual/family assessments

Individual/group therapy for children, adolescents and adult survivors

Individual/group therapy for non-offending family members or significant others

Sexual abuse evaluations

Homicide Bereavement program

Consultation

Professional training

Pyschoeducational groups for incarcerated adult survivors

Office of Victim Services

Our Common Threads/Homicide Bereavement Program brings adult and child homicide survivors together in a safe and nurturing environment where they can share their experiences in group and individual therapy. Navigating the many systems individuals encounter when a loved one is lost to homicide is often overwhelming and frustrating. Our therapists ease the burden by providing support, resources and education during the sometimes long grief process.



Prevention and Education



“Having a community respond to children who have been sexually abused and to be educated about sexual abuse is to begin the process of preventing sexual abuse.”

The Prevention Education and Professional Training program focuses on reaching children, adolescents and young adults — from pre-school through college — adults, professionals and community agencies with cutting edge information and proven techniques aimed at preventing and reducing the incidents of sexual abuse and other forms of violence against children.

One of our most popular and effective programs — Keeping Kids Safe — teaches children to recognize and disclose incidents of abuse.

Most recently, we have turned our attention to an alarming rise in the incidence of student bullying and sexual harass-

ment. Recent statistics bear out the fact that our school children are either victimizing or being the victims of violence in the classroom every day.

Children must be taught to recognize and report incidents of sexual assault and other acts of violence. It sometimes begins with bullying and harassment, but can escalate into acts of much darker and dangerous violence.

In response to many requests, and because we believe that protecting our children is the job of the larger community, our Prevention Education and Professional Training program introduced, in 2001, Capacity Building.

Capacity Building

For the past 17 years, SATRC has focused on presenting prevention education to children in grades kindergarten–college.

Recognizing that sexual abuse prevention cannot take place without education and cooperation from community agencies, parents, teachers, educators, youth group leaders and other community members, we are creating community networks to effectively respond to and deal with child sexual abuse and violence.

We are conducting community meetings, providing support staff training, follow-up classroom activities and increasing our outreach programs to parents, teachers and community agencies. In addition, we are assisting in the development of policies and procedures and providing ongoing consultations with schools and community agencies.

“Victims and the community at large benefit from our services because **we are talking about programs that span prevention and education.** We are constantly talking about sexual abuse and hope **to reduce the incidents of all kinds of crimes of violence.**”



IN THE YEAR 2001...

4,326 individuals participated in SATRC education and training programs

OF THIS NUMBER...

3,508 were children, adolescents and young adults between the ages of 3 and 21

931 were adults who participated in training workshops

Advocacy Services: a voice for the victims



IN THE YEAR 2001...

1,589 individuals accessed services including legal advocacy, training and accompaniment to hospitals and police departments

2,659 individuals called the Helpline

1,297 police and hospital personnel received training in dealing with victims of crime

65 volunteers contributed **8,744** hours of service through the Helpline

The Adult Advocacy Program provides services to victims — and their families, friends and significant others — of sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, hate crimes and other forms of violence.

Trained advocates are available around the clock to provide information, emotional support and referrals. The Adult Advocacy Program works to provide effective advocacy services to victims, which include accompanying them to hospital emergency rooms, police departments and courts, as well as addressing the myriad of issues that victims of sexual abuse and violent crimes must face.

● **SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM** The newest program among our full range of services is the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). A lifeline for victims and a critical link to a court system that often seems to protect the rights of the offender rather than the victim,

the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) provides victims of sexual abuse with interview, evaluation and treatment services in a safe and comfortable environment.

Patterned after the highly successful Children's Advocacy Center, prosecutors, human service providers, and police departments in Providence, Pawtucket, Cranston, Woonsocket, Warwick and Burrillville are working closely with SATRC to ensure that victims receive the support and compassion they need to help bring offenders to justice.

"We started as an advocacy group and we continue to be strong advocates for victims."

Our sincerest gratitude to the individuals, corporations, foundations and associations who support our mission to be advocates, to educate and to prevent sexual abuse and violence. It is only through their support that we can continue to be a voice for victims.

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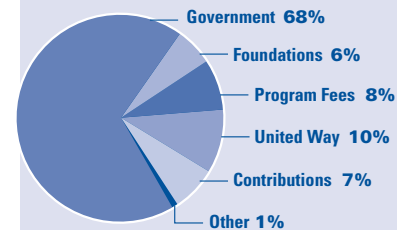
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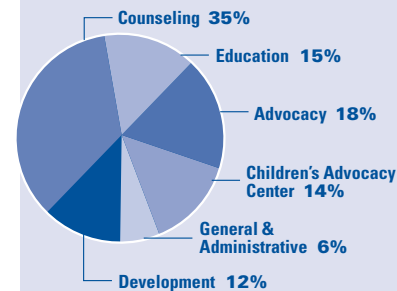
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Sexual Assault & Trauma

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