



Community Advocates for Family & Youth, Inc.

SPEAK

*Crime - It's Real, It's Wrong
Speak Out for Yourself or Someone Else*

Educate, Empower & Embrace "Every Victim, Every Time"

EVERY VICTIM EVERY TIME

Since 2003, Community Advocates for Family & Youth, (CAFY) has been solely supported by volunteers from Prince George's county communities and local col-

leges. The people in our neighborhoods have continued to help us achieve our mission to "educate, empower and embrace victims of crime on their journey to justice".

Last year, CAFY engaged the most overlooked resource of all, our youth. The creation of **TAVA** (*Teens against Assault, Violence & Abuse*) has demonstrated that in order to serve "Every Victim, Every Time" we need a collaboration of generations, particularly youth, given they are the highest victimized population. Involving youth as equal partners is a different approach than encouraging participation from youth where the adults set the agenda

and expect youth to follow. Much is said about our youth today, but CAFY's teen advocate group has shown it is a mistake to think that forging a better neighborhood or speaking out against crime is strictly an adult concern, or even that it is best left up to adults.

Youth in general, have unbounded under-tapped energy and enthusiasm, and are often idealistic. They are eager to make a difference and this can be done in one of two ways:

- ⇒ **Negatively** - e.g. physical violence, vandalism, rape, graffiti, even murder.
- ⇒ **Positively** - e.g. speaking out against crime, teen dating violence, bullying, sexual abuse, helping others, taking a stand against community issues, learning to be young entrepreneurs

Obviously, it is much easier to "make a difference" destructively, than creatively. Creating

an equal partnership and youth leaders through TAVA has helped us to better serve "every victim, every time" and we will highlight that during CAFY's 2007 *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* campaign when our teens take the lead role in this ceremony.

Our third annual "Empower & Embrace Youth Victims of Crime 2007" event has brought together the energies and skills of many generations to raise awareness about victimization. Join us at our *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* event, "**Got Five**" on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 12:00, Noon at the Bowie Gymnasium, as we raise community awareness regarding child victimization every five minutes.

I salute and thank each volunteer who help us serve "Every Victim, Every Time", each year.

Arleen B. Joell, CEO

Educate & Empower Youth Victims of Crime 2007

"Got Five"

April 28, 2007 - 12:00 NOON

Bowie Gymnasium - 4100 North view Drive Bowie, MD 20716

Join CAFY in its 3rd annual event to recognize youth who have held offenders accountable. CAFY and TAVA, in partnership with the City of Bowie, will host a Basketball & Madden Tournament, and an day of sports, music and information as we educate and recognize youth who have stepped up and spoke out against crime.

Donations: \$5 per player; \$5 Madden, \$3 Spectators

AGE DIVISIONS: 12-15 & 16-18 (boys & girls)

Register EARLY!

To Register: Call or email CAFY @ 301-390-4092 ; admin@communityadvocates.info
TAVA@communityadvocates.info.

April is Crime Victim Awareness Month - Make a Difference Attend an Event.

Mission Statement

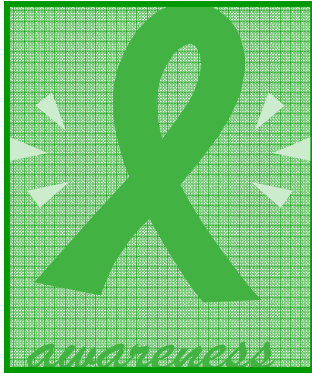
To Educate, Empower & Embrace victims as they speak the truth on their journey to justice.

CAFY's Vision

To help victims become confident and empowered survivors by holding offenders accountable. To have a shared sense of responsibility and community awareness through continuous education and an advocacy-minded judicial system

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Teen Bill of Rights & Responsibilities

I Have the Right to...

- Be treated with respect
- Trust my instincts
- Say “no” and be heard
- Have my privacy respected.
- Ask for help if I need it.
- Have loved ones support me.
- Have private time and my own space.
- Live a violence-free life.
- Be good to myself .

- I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY

I Have the Responsibility to...

- Communicate my thoughts, ideas, and feelings clearly
- Stick to my limits and boundaries.
- Respect the limits and boundaries of others.
- Treat others as my equal.

-Women & Families Center -
Connecticut

TAVA

Teens against Abuse, Violence & Assault (TAVA) TAVA’s *mission* is to “Educate and uplift teen spirits to promote a stronger self-evaluation after victimization.” A youth-focused program incorporating CAFY’s victimization mission., TAVA educates youth about victimization, its impacts, services and support. TAVA is open to teens in Prince George’s County to help youth who may be victims of crime. TAVA strives to raise awareness of youth victimization and the resources available to help teen victims of violence. By assuming the role of youth educators, TAVA discusses teen dating violence, assault, and abuse with other teens. The teens host and participate in bi-weekly support groups which allow teens to gather and express their thoughts and fears about victimization, peer pressure and being a teen in general. Perhaps one of the hardest jobs in the world today is being a teen. Teens are the most victimized segment of the population, yet we often label them as the problem in our communities. TAVA hopes to educate teens and parents on teen victimization and how to recover.

Teen Victimization

Victimization of youth ranges from child abuse, child sexual abuse, sexual assault and rape. Would your youth know if he/she is or has been victimized? Youth do not always know the act being perpetrated against them is a crime. For sexual activity to be okay, it must be consensual, which means that both people want it to happen. Sexual assault is when any person forces you to participate in a sexual act when you don’t want to. This can include touching or penetrating the vagina, mouth, or anus of the victim (often called rape); touching the penis of the victim; or forcing the victim to touch the attacker’s vagina, penis, or anus. Touching can mean with a hand, finger, mouth, penis, or just about anything else, including objects. It doesn’t always take physical force to sexually assault a victim. Attackers can use threats or intimidation to make a victim feel afraid or unable to refuse them. It is also sexual assault if the victim is drunk, drugged, unconscious, or too young (ages of consent differ from state to state) or mentally disabled to be legally able to agree to sexual contact.

-National Center For Victims of Crime

Friends Can Help

If you have a friend who has been the victim of sexual assault, you can help them.

- If your friend tells you that she/he has been assaulted, remember that it is not their fault. Help them get to a safe place. Listen patiently and without judging them. Offer them your support and encouragement in getting help.
- Talk to the person and try to get them to also talk to an adult and get medical attention. Offer to go with them. If your friend is badly injured, **call 911.**
- Encourage her/him to undergo a rape kit exam whether or not they intend to report the crime to police. They can always make the decision about whether or not to report the crime later.
- Report the assault to an adult you trust.

-National Center For Victims of Crime

Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is one thing that all teens have in common. You can't escape it -- it is everywhere. No matter how popular you are, how well liked you may be or how together you feel, sooner or later you will have to face peer pressure.

Whether it is pressure to conform to a group norm (like wearing certain types of clothes or taking part in specific activities and clubs) or pressure to act (like having sex, trying drugs or alcohol, or alienating another teen), peer pressure is something everybody has to deal with at some time in their life. How successfully you handle peer pressure depends a great deal on how you feel about yourself and your place in the world. There are certain "risk factors" for peer pressure, personality traits that make you more prone to give in to peer pressure.

How do you face Peer Pressure and Win?

- ⇒ Prepare yourself ahead of time for uncomfortable situations, mentally script out the reaction you WANT to have in a given situation (the reaction that goes AGAINST peer pressure) and play that script out in your head over and over again.
- ⇒ Know where you stand on key issues like sex, drugs and alcohol and do not allow anybody to make you deviate from your position.
- ⇒ Refuse to let yourself down! If you think of giving in to peer pressure as letting yourself down it becomes easier to combat and your confidence will earn you respect.

-teenadvice.about.com

TAVA Achievements

Since its inception in October 2006, TAVA has accomplished great success in the community.

On March 31, 2007, TAVA placed 2nd in The DC Rape Crisis Center's Teen Dating Conference, for developing a Public Service Announcement (PSA) addressing teen dating violence.

TAVAs March Fashion Show entitled "Tru Love Doesn't Hurt" focused on educating teens on the reality and prevention of teen dating violence. More than 100 parents and youth attended the event and 22 youth received over 48 hours each of community service helping to raise awareness regarding teen victimization.

Every 2nd & 4th Friday of each month ,TAVA reaches out to teens who have been or may become victims of crime. TAVA's bi-weekly support group focuses on making an Impact on Teen Victimization by allowing teens to express their feelings and fears to those who can truly understand-- other teens.

In April, TAVA will participate in CAFY's annual fundraiser to Educate & Empower Youth Victims of Crime 2007 by co-hosting a Basketball & Madden Tournament.

Congratulations to the young ladies and gentlemen of Teens against Abuse, Violence & Assault on your success.

Did You Know...?

Nearly 2 million teens become victims of violent crime each year.

Teens are:

- 14% of the general population
- 31% of victims of violent crime
- twice as likely as adults to become victims of crime.

-Callie Rennison, *Criminal Victimization 2002*, (Washington, DC: Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003).

Teen Hotlines

RAINN
Rape, Abuse and Incest Network
800.656.HOPE
24 hr Hotline

Youth Crisis Hotline
800.448.4663

Center for Disease Control National AIDS/STD Hotline
English & Spanish
800.227.8922

Gay/Lesbian Issues Hotline
800.246.PRIDE
800.246.7743

“CAFY's Teen Advocate Group - Teens Against Assault, Violence & Abuse (TAVA)”

Our youth focused, youth facilitated and youth governed team is taking a stand against crime and reaching out to teens who may be victims of crime

Join TAVA the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month to
“Make an Impact on Teen Victimization”

Bowie Gymnasium - 4100 North View Drive - Bowie, MD 2071 - Time: 6:30 - 8:00

For more information call 301-390-4092 or email tava@communityadvocates.info

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

WANTED!!! Teen Advocates

If you are a teen, 13-21 interested in making a difference in your community - become a CAFY Teen Advocate. Training consists of 20 hours of interactive classroom and role playing training. Participants receive community service hours while serving in the teen advocate role.

For more information, call 301.390.4092 or email tava@communityadvocates.info

Community Advocates for Family & Youth

Core Services

Victim Services: CAFY advocates act as a ‘Constant Link’ through the criminal justice process by offering case management, court companionship, court preparation, and victim impact statement assistance. CAFY is currently working on forming Victim Impact Panels.

Restoration Session: Through self-help group discussion and mediation session we facilitate restoration and reunification for families, youth and adults.

Outreach Education: For Youth and Families; We provide Community education such as:

- Youth Court Education and Parent Court Awareness
- Adult Courtroom Education Sessions
- Helping Youth Succeed in Court
- Identity Theft for Seniors
- Knowing Your Rights

Contact CAFY:

Phone: 301.390.4092

Victim Services Outreach 301-772-4273

E-mail: Admin@communityadvocates.info

www.communityadvocates.info

CAFY Notices & Events

Survivors Are Free & Empowered

SAFE support group meetings for Youth and Adult victims. Sessions are held every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Prince George’s Community College. Call CAFY to register and to receive the room number.

Court Education Program

CAFY’s court education program for victims of crime educates victims, witnesses and families to better deal with testifying in court. The next sessions will be held April 21, 2007 & May 19, 2007. Call or email CAFY to register participants.

CAFY Volunteers

If you are interested in giving back to your community - Volunteer with CAFY. Call or visit our website for volunteer information. We are preparing NOW for our 2007 fall Victim Advocate Volunteer Training. For information email ajoell@communityadvocates.info or call 301-390-4092.

WANT TO DONATE NOW?

**Send your tax deductible donation to C A F Y
P. O. Box 4419; Capitol Heights, MD 20791**