

SPEAK

Volume 3, Issue II

June 2008

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Crime- It's Real, It's Wrong
Speak out for Yourself or Someone else

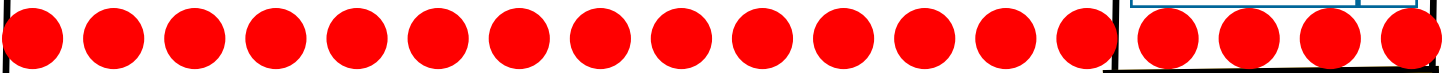
"Spring Forward Into Empowerment"

CEO Corner

In support of this year's "**Justice for Victims - Justice for All**", national theme, CAFY hosted their 4th annual "**Empowering Victims to be Effective Witnesses**" event. This event helped us and the clients we serve to spring forward to empowerment.
 Board Member, J. Patricia Wilson-Smoot, Prince

George's County's Deputy State's Attorney, mentioned during her message to crowd of over 100. "I am so proud tonight to be a part of CAFY, they have continued to grow and make a difference every year. I remember driving way to Baltimore for their first event but tonight we are here in the county at a sit-down dinner

and recognizing people who have made a difference in the community."
 Mr. Tommie Thompson, Director of Prince George's County Housing Department, spoke on the changes in the county and the pride felt as residents witness continuous improvement.
Continued on page 4



Defining 'Secondary Victim'

Whether it be caregivers coping with stress or individuals dealing with the trauma associated with the victimization of a loved one: increasingly, the medical field is uncovering the importance of treating individuals who receive residual effects of second-hand occurrences. While some domestic

violence survivors may have no family or associates, a far greater number have extensive support networks; these individuals, too, are negatively effected when they discover the trauma that a loved one is undergoing. In addition to the shock, anger and hurt experienced, many also must cope with the victim's resentment, withdrawal, and anger, The following provides some examples of how to proactively and reactively handle the fore mentioned emotions:

- Prepare the significant other(s) for the possible psychological and physiological responses the victim may experience as a result of the abuse
- Arm yourself with information: secondary victims often desire, as do primary victims, definite information: 'When will I feel better?' or "How can I help him or her?" Find available alternatives to help with the healing process
- Listen to their concerns and feelings and respect the victim's right to make decisions about safety, etc.

Mission Statement

To Educate, Empower, and 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

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

When looking up the word 'empowerment', one discovers that it can be utilized as both a verb and a noun; understandably, it has as many definitions as applications. However one defines empowerment, the central objective/theme should always be

to cultivate a sense of control. This quarter's newsletter was designed to let individuals know that we all have unique characteristics that can be cultivated to influence, order.



Powerlessness comes from the sense of being unable to affect a surrounding environment. We all have it within our power to alter our circumstances, but we must make the initial step.

CAFY's Banking on You

Every Time You Search—Our Cause Earns Money

What if CAFY earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any

search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with

GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Community Advocates for Family & Youth, Inc. (CAFY) as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

You SPEAK

It Takes a Village

What I love about CAFY is **OHANA!** Ohana means family: no one gets left behind (quote from Lilo & Stitch). We all understand that there is power in unity. When we work with our clients we display teamwork. The concept of 'working together' means winning together. You may ask the question how do we win? We win when someone stands up and declares "I refuse to be a victim". We win when a mother is comforted by other mothers in the support group. We win when TAVA spreads the word that love hurts when it comes from the fist. We win when a brother understands that NO means NO. The advocates don't just inspire their client's but the clients inspire the advocates. We all work together to break down barriers and build bridges that we may all walk across together.

This year we started a new program called "The Alternative Suspension Program". I have been blessed to be one of the facilitator's for this program. This program

allows children to come to the program instead of being home or out on the street getting in more trouble. The program allows children to learn and reflect on their behavior. I have a motto that I tell the young people **"ABC"** (**A**ttitude, **B**ehavior, **C**onsequences) meaning if you have a bad attitude you are going to display bad behavior and the consequences will also be bad. However a good attitude equals good behavior and the end result is a good consequence. We encourage the children to do self examination. Many of these children have forgotten how to dream; others have allowed their present condition to put them in bondage. We encourage our youth to understand that we are products of our past but we don't have to be prisoner's to it. We believe that no dream will be deferred and if they work hard they can be whatever they want to be. In fact we tell them to take certain words out of their vocabulary such as "I can't, I don't know, I can't do it" and "It doesn't matter". These words kill dreams and they all should be dreamers.

We want the young women to know that they are more than just around the way girls but they have purpose. We encourage

our young men to be proud to succeed. We let the young women and men know they are visionaries. They all have power, confidence and the ability to effect change not just in their environment but in the world.

The biggest lesson I have learned from working with people is change. The only thing worse than change is remaining the same when you know you need to change. Change can be a scary thing for some people but it can also be a very rewarding experience. Change starts in the mind and then it moves to the heart. Change is not something that happens over night but it is a process. When going through the process of change it's important to have people in your inner circle that are not going to judge you but encourage you until you get to the next level. **I want to encourage everyone who is reading this article to change. To those that say one person can't change the world my reply to that is one person may not be able to change the world but to that one person you are helping, you become the world.**

Faith without work is dead!

Vondale, CAFY Volunteer

Teens SPEAK

Teen Hotlines

RAINN

Rape, Abuse and Incest Network

800.656.HOPE

24 hr Hotline

Youth Crisis Hotline

800.448.4663

800.227.8922

TAVA SPEAKS OUT AT LAW DAY

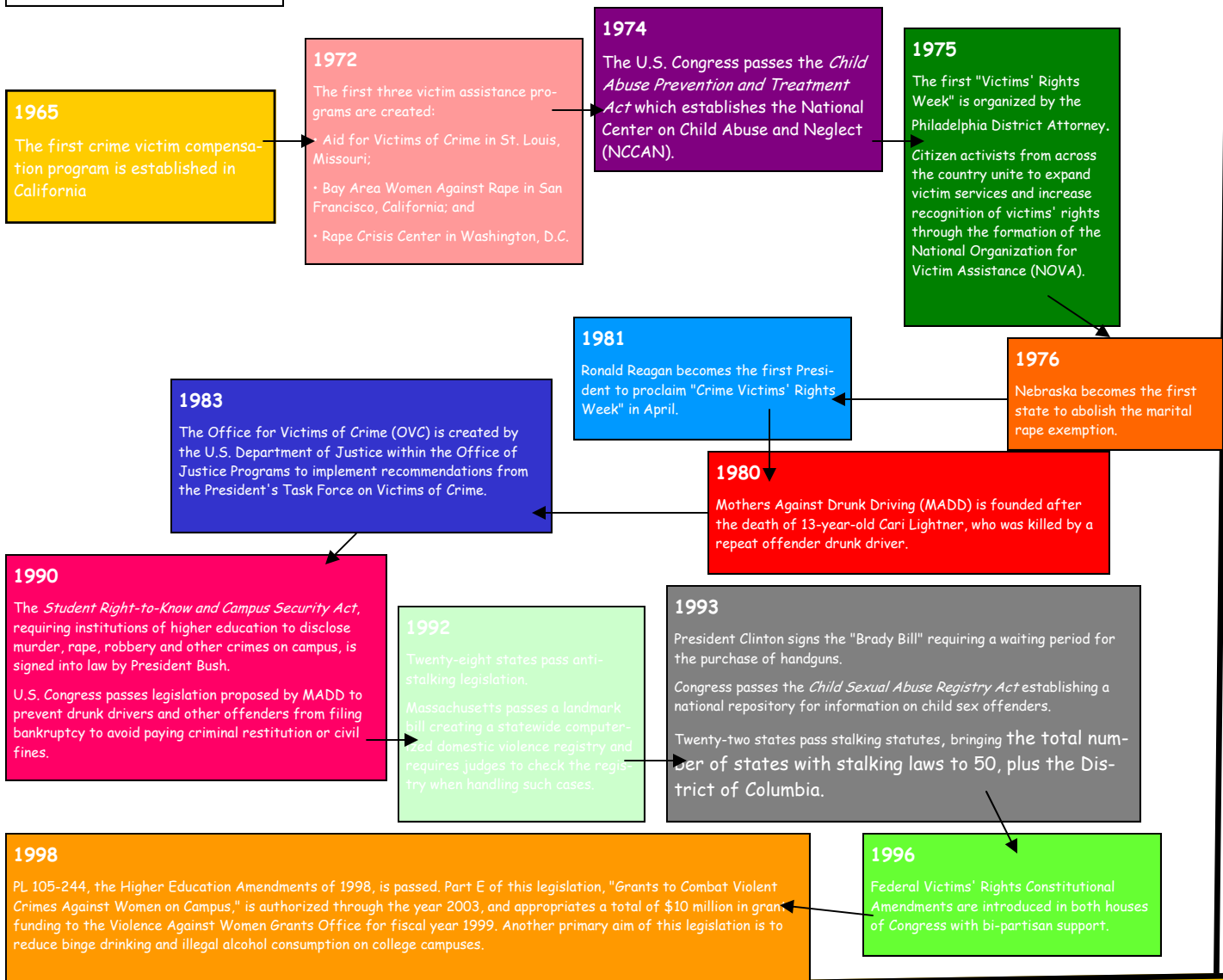
(excerpt from *Gazette.com*). Law Day, sponsored annually by the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, brings about 75 high school students together with lawyers to discuss legal issues that may affect them. Students also get information on how they can pursue a career in law. Teens spoke about some of the problems they face in schools after they saw the fake fight "At my school, it happens a lot," said Fairmont Heights High School sophomore Tishanda McCown. "People rush to see it, but they don't do anything about it. You should go to a principal or a guidance counselor and tell someone."

The skit was put on by members of Teens Against Assault, Violence and Abuse, an organization started two years ago at Bowie High School by senior Laura Joell and other students.

**TO REGISTER CALL
301-390-4092**

Crime Right's in America:

An historical timeline



CEO Corner, conti.....

He commended the awardees and recognized CAFY with a plaque from the Department of Housing for their work on issues like teen domestic violence and victimization, sexual assault and abuse. Highlights included the recognition of five people who have offered excellence in their service to victim services.

The first award **“Service Excellence”** - defined as someone who takes action, meets a need before it is even defined as a need, does it and does it with a high level of excellence. Two were given - **Bill Walton**, retired military, CAFY Outreach Volunteer and recent Board Member, was recognized for his work in obtaining CAFY’s office space, creating county exposure for CAFY and his contribution in CAFY’s increased self-referral growth were tied to the opportunities Bill created. And, **Konan** of Baltimore’s 92Q has worked for the past 3 years with CAFY’s teen advocate group helping to facilitate Choose Respect, Accountability and Male Victimization issues for TAVA’s outreach efforts and during their “Teaming Up against Victimization”. Konan was recognized for his ability to step in where he saw a need, his love of youth, his willingness to speak candidly and offer support to encourage teen involvement and stand

against youth violence and victimization.

“Presidential Volunteer Gold Award”. This award started by President Carter recognizes people in the community who go above and beyond to make a difference in their community and neighborhood. Georgianna Carrington, Victim Advocate Volunteer for two years has been instrumental in the smooth transition of CAFY’s victim services support at the PGPD’s Special Crimes Section. She has built strong relationships with the detectives, acts as CAFY’s crisis intervention advocate and facilitates the Parent’s Court Education portion. She has devoted well over 300 hours and has demonstrated she is valuable resource to her team and the clients she serves.

“Inspired to be Empowered”. This award was given to a parent and child, (names not disclosed to protect their privacy) two people who have maneuvered the criminal justice system and came out even stronger than they were before they went in. They have turned their tragedy into a victory that has strengthened their mother daughter bond. Now they both work with CAFY to share their testimony with others to help empower others.

The **“Award of Distinction”** given to Major Gary E. Cunningham. He was recognized for giving CAFY an opportunity but more importantly for his work as a Commander that does not often say what can’t be done, but rather focuses on solutions and getting things done. His ability not to be limited because of resources, funding, and boundaries but rather working outside the box to seek ways to get things done and because he walks in that belief, Major Cunningham received CAFY’s 1st **“Award of Distinction”**.

We are proud of the people recognized this year and very excited about our growth and impact in the community. I am proud of the CAFY team who are committed to servant hood and excellence. Thanks to **“Event Plan-It”**, Carolyn Wood, who volunteered her time and created a wonderful community event.

I am a better person with a focused mission because each person has crossed my path. Whatever your role and participation, for that evening, thank you for being a part of CAFY’s **“Empowering Victims to be Effective Witness - 2008”**.

Arleen B. Joell, CEO



Cool, Collected and telling their story in the Courtroom
Whether it is Youth or Adult Court Education CAFY is helping to create
“Effective Witnesses”

There is nothing more scary then facing the unknown . For most, the courtroom can be an unknown and uncertain place. CAFY’s Court Education program is devised to take away the mystery. Survivors of Crime come in all ages and so does CAFY’s Court Education. It is tailored to work with survivors of all ages.

Youth Court Education-Survivors ages 5-18 and their non-offending Parent/Legal Guardian
Adult Court Education-Adults 19 and over and their supporter’s.



Save the Dates for the Following :

**Victim Services Training & Retreat
Friday, June 27, 2008
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Anne Arundel Community College**

To reserve your spot, please email :
rwoolford@dpscs.state.md.us

**TAVA
(TEENS AGAINST ASSAULT VIOLENCE &
ABUSE)**

REGISTER NOW FOR TAVA'S 2008-09 GROUP.
CALL 3-01-390-4092

A GOOD WAY FOR TEENS TO MAKE A DIFFER-
ENCE & EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

MCASA's - Women of Color Conference
August 21, 2008

The East Meets West:

*Cross Cultural Perspectives towards Addressing
and Preventing Sexual Assault*

For further information please contact Kathy@mcasa.org
or call (410) 974-4507

Creating a Connection



Become CAFY's Volunteer Coordinator:

The Volunteer Coordinator (VC) position is an 11-month; 20-hour per week position with the Community Advocates for Family & Youth (CAFY) and will build on an existing volunteer program that focuses on providing services to victims of crime and their families. The VC service year will begin on September 17, 2008 and conclude on August 4, 2009 with the potential of another year. VC will focus on recruiting and managing volunteers that will serve as victim advocate volunteers.

These Volunteers can work in three areas - those who will work with victims to assess their needs and provide appropriate resources, those working in CAFY's Court Education Program, or volunteers helping in self-help support groups and mediations services. The VC will recruit ten new volunteers for these programs, focus on identifying bilingual support, and strengthen an already existing volunteer program by developing ways to measure the volunteer's impact.

To apply call 301-390-4092, email ajoell@communityadvocates.info for an application packet. The Volunteer Coordinator (VC) position is created in partnership with Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps.

**Sponsorship Spotlight
Thank you to our Spring Sponsors**



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Sponsorship Form

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Address _____

Community Advocates for Family and Youth

P.O. Box 4419
Capitol Heights, MD 20791
Phone: 301-390-4092
Fax: 301-249-1805E-mail: admin@communityadvocates.info
24 Hours a Day-
National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE(7233)
1-800-787-3224(TTY)
Support*Free*Anonymous*Confidential

CAFY Sponsorship



Special Sponsors

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