

Subject: The Women's Center launches "Your Voice Has Power" campaign during Sexual Assault Awareness Month



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Women's Center Leads Efforts to Raise Awareness During Sexual Assault Awareness Month

"Your Voice Has Power" campaign provides opportunity for community to change the way we think and talk about sexual violence.

WAUKESHA, Wis. – The Women's Center encourages the community to take action this month in preventing sexual violence and to embrace the power their voice has to promote safety, respect and equality.

Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 67 men in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives. Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), held every April, gives us a chance to reiterate that sexual violence should never be accepted or tolerated.

The Women's Center Executive Director Angela Mancuso stated, "Sexual Assault Awareness Month takes place this year at what is a watershed moment in our history. With the country focused on this very important issue, we have an unprecedented opportunity to improve understanding and change behaviors."

The Women's Center has coordinated opportunities for community members to:

- Display SAAM awareness ribbon pins, bracelets, "Denim Day" stickers, and informational materials to support their engagement efforts. Contact The Women's Center at 262-522-3813 to request materials. A SAAM Toolkit is provided online at <http://twcwaukesha.org/event/saam/>.
- Attend *Your Voice Has Power: A Conversation with Aly Raisman* at this year's anniversary luncheon on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino. Raisman, one of the most accomplished gymnasts of all time, has seen her path evolve from athlete to advocate and activist for sexual abuse survivors. She delivered a powerful

impact statement along with more than 150 others in the “Army of Survivors” during the Larry Nassar trial and continues to remain in headlines today, pushing for change and demanding accountability.

- Visit “The Clothesline Project,” on display now throughout April at the Waukesha Public Library. This project allows survivors of sexual violence to express themselves by writing and decorating powerful messages on shirts.

As the only agency in Waukesha County providing supportive services to those affected by sexual assault and abuse, including trafficking, The Women’s Center is proud to be a community leader in advocating for survivors and invites the public to join the conversation.

“We want everyone to know that help is always available through our 24-Hour Hotline at 262-542-3828. When a survivor makes the difficult decision to reach out for support, they will be believed, welcomed, and respected at The Women’s Center,” stated Mancuso.

Beyond SAAM activities, The Women’s Center leads a wide range of initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual assault. These include violence prevention and community education programming, which can be tailored to school groups, businesses, and civic or religious organizations; counseling for adult and child survivors of sexual violence; and rape crisis response for sexual assault survivors at Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Waukesha Community Hospital, and Moorland Reserve Health Center.

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About The Women’s Center

Founded in 1977, The Women’s Center serves adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and trafficking. The Women’s Center offers free and comprehensive programming including: emergency shelter & 24-Hour Hotline; legal advocacy; family counseling; domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse counseling; substance abuse and mental health support; transitional living; community education and violence prevention; and employment counseling and life-skills development.

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