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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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