

Luminary Celebration

Last year, we inaugurated a luminary event in both Northfield and Faribault that we intended as a visually powerful and inspiring statement about the strength of individual survivors and the power of community. With hundreds of blue and purple luminaries lighting up the evening, and the music of Barb Ryman inspiring us all, it was a lovely event. Unfortunately, there were not many people there to share it with us.

But we are not giving up! We will be holding the 2nd Annual Luminary Celebration on the evening of May 17th, at Bridge Square in Northfield. This is your opportunity to help us grow the event and bring the light of hope to more people. Please put the date on your calendars and help us spread the word. Invite everyone you know! We can all:

give voice to an issue characterized by silence

make a visual statement for nonviolence

honor the courage of survivors

believe that unity brings hope to our community

contribute financially to HOPE Center



Northfield Middle School Students last year on "Wear Blue Day" for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Newsletter April 2007 Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Hope Center
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STAFF

Deb Lustig, *Criminal Justice Intervention Program*, Kari Dube, *Domestic Abuse Program*, Melia Garza, *Sexual Assault Program / Volunteer Program*, Tracy Goodwin, *Financial Coordinator*, Joan Kindem, *Child Resiliency Project* Leah Lutz, *Executive Director*, Melanie Matson, *Special Projects*, Linda Rhode, *Receptionist*

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The mission of HOPE Center is to create zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through **healing**, **outreach**, **prevention** and **education**. Through innovative programming, we offer direct support to victims of violence in Rice County, collaborative support to other organizations that serve victims, and educational support to the entire community.

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HEROES OF HOPE

We would like to highlight the following individuals and groups for their noteworthy actions and accomplishments:

Survivors, for having the courage to thrive.

Members of the Rice County SMART, for countless hours devoted to creating victim-centered sexual assault protocols, and for inspiring us to believe that system and societal change is indeed possible.

Volunteer Advocates, for ensuring that advocacy services are available 24-hours a day, and for the commitment and enthusiasm of the 30 new advocates participating in our spring training session.

Training Presenters, Paul Beaumaster (Rice County Attorney), Kurt Fischer (Faribault City Attorney), John DeFrancisco (child psychologist), Peggy Hanson (psychologist), Mary Carlsen (St. Olaf professor), Jenny Goodwin (Rice County Social Services), Neal Pederson (Faribault PD), Monte Nelson (Northfield PD), Rebecca Waggoner-Kloek (OutFront Minnesota), Cassandra Moore (SAFE Nurse), Scott Halvorson (Rice County Corrections) Glenn Holman (psychologist), for adding to the quality of our volunteer training.

Marathon Multimedia, Sertoma of Faribault, Northfield Rotary, South Central Technical College, 1st United Bank, and St. Olaf College Women's Studies Class, for inviting HOPE Center to share our mission and work.

HOPE Center Board of Directors, for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our mission.

St. Olaf and Carleton College Students, for donating proceeds of the Vagina Monologues, held in February, to HOPE Center.



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