



SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12: DECEMBER 2003

WE BID FAREWELL & GOOD LUCK TO IVONNE ZARATE – WE WILL MISS YOU!

Ivonne Zarate, SBRCC's Community Education Coordinator, will be departing Santa Barbara this month for a move to Morelia, Mexico with her partner Horacio and son Emilio. After 12 years with SBRCC, Ivonne leaves behind a strong legacy of commitment to Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center and to ending sexual violence in our community.

Ivonne started with SBRCC in 1991 as Latino Services Coordinator. In this position, she provided some community education services, as well as crisis intervention services to Spanish-speaking clients. Throughout her tenure at SBRCC, Ivonne has worked diligently to make our services accessible to Spanish-speaking clients. She has "kept her ear to the ground" within the Latino community to ensure that our services have always been responsive and appropriate. Over time, Ivonne eventually became SBRCC's Community Education Coordinator. In this position, she has educated thousands of Santa Barbara community residents about the realities of sexual assault. One of the key things Ivonne has done in this position is to participate in coalitions with other community groups, such as the Pro Choice Coalition, the Pro Youth Coalition, SHARe the Word, Coalition Against Gun Violence, Building Bridges, and others. Through her work at the coalition level, Ivonne has introduced the issue of sexual assault to other community groups and has helped them to see how their work fits in with our work.

Those of us who have had the honor of working with Ivonne can say that she has been a dynamic colleague, an inspiring activist, and a wonderful person to be around. Last year, we celebrated the birth of her son Emilio, who has been a delightful presence at SBRCC. It is comforting to realize that wherever Ivonne may go, she will always bring the spirit of activism to overcome oppression and end all forms of violence. Mexico will be lucky to have her warm and uplifting personality. Ivonne will be greatly missed, and her time here at SBRCC will always be regarded as a blessing. Watch for "Ivonne sightings" in the future as Ivonne promises to return to visit Santa Barbara.

Good luck, Ivonne. We will miss you!

ALENA DONOVAN IS THE NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION COORDINATOR – WELCOME!

With great enthusiasm, SBRCC has hired Alena Donovan as Community Education Coordinator. Alena brings experience working with domestic violence survivors in Santiago, Chile. While in Chile, she worked with a feminist organization through UNICEF to pilot a project to design a secondary intervention program for survivors of domestic violence. Alena was a Women's Studies Major at UCSB and has worked with women who have experienced postpartum depression. She also has a strong community organizing background and a deep concern for social justice and oppression issues. She has participated in UCSB's *Student Coalition for Peace*, *Not in Our Name Santa Barbara*, *Una Noche en la Calle*, *Un Techo Para Chile* and *UCSB Students for Choice*. Alena began work at SBRCC on Monday, December 1st. We are happy to have her join us at SBRCC!



MESSAGE FROM ALENA

Hi! My name is Alena Donovan and I am SBRCC's new Community Education Coordinator. It is my pleasure to join the efforts of SBRCC staff and volunteers to eliminate sexual violence from our communities. I am a UCSB graduate in Women's Studies and Latin American Studies. I have a background in work with domestic violence survivors, as well as community activism to promote women's empowerment, peace, and social justice. I am passionate about feminist antiviolence work, and I believe that education is the key to fundamentally altering the myths and beliefs that perpetuate sexual violence. I am excited to collaborate with our Speaker's Bureau members to share rape prevention education with our community. I look forward to meeting and working with all SBRCC volunteers and supporters! To reach me, call 963-6832 ext. 29, or email alena@sbrcc.net

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE NEWS

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE MILITARY: REPORT RELEASED THIS FALL

In late September, a report was released by the Congress-appointed Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy, harshly criticizing Air Force leadership for its failure to stop a decade of sexual assaults against female cadets at the Air Force Academy. The seven-member group said allegations of 142 sexual assaults against women had been made at the Colorado school over the past 10 years, and in annual surveys dozens more said they were victims of assault. A survey of cadets recently made public found that nearly one in five female cadets said they had been sexually assaulted since coming to the Air Force Academy. Just 19 percent reported the attacks, fearing punishment or ostracism. About 398 of the 660 women enrolled at the academy told the Pentagon that they had been subjected to sexual harassment in one form or another. "Academy and Air Force leaders should have known that this data was an unmistakable warning sign and quite possibly signaled an even larger crisis" the report said. "Clearly the academy's gender climate has changed little in the past 10 years," as the academy's own survey data showed that one in five responding male cadets did not believe that women belonged at the school. The panel recommended numerous steps to change the culture at the academy, from creating a website to educate cadets about sexual assault to giving top Air Force leaders direct oversight over the academy's deterrence of sexual assault and harassment. The panel rejected Air Force Secretary James Roche's recommendation that would end confidentiality in reporting of sexual assaults by female cadets, saying that would discourage such reports and protect guilty parties. To download a copy of the report, go to: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2003/d20030922usafareport.pdf>

BILL WOULD MANDATE RAPE-AWARENESS CLASSES AT STATE-FUNDED COLLEGE

Providing rape and sexual assault awareness training to incoming students would become mandatory for Pennsylvania colleges and universities under a proposal introduced in the state House of Representatives. Rep. Keith McCall introduced the measure at the suggestion of an intern who was assigned to his office during the last legislative session. He said the young woman told him that incoming students at her college did not receive any information about rape and sexual assault. "Sexual assault is the second-most common crime committed on campus today. The problem is there are so many myths and misconceptions that it is incumbent upon us to provide (students) some education," he said. The programs would be required for students at community colleges, state-related schools, independent colleges, and the 14 state-owned universities in the State System of Higher Education. Schools that did not comply would be unable to spend 1 percent of their state funding until they implemented a program.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following bills have become public law:

- **AB 506 (Maze) Sexual Assault Victims: Toxicology Testing:** This law provides, subject to the victim's refusal, that the victim's urine and blood sample be collected for toxicology purposes, to determine if drugs or alcohol were used in connection with the assault. The toxicology results obtained would be inadmissible in any criminal or civil action or proceeding against the victim and would be confidential except for purposes of prosecuting or defending the crime. This law requires that the victims be informed of specified information regarding this testing.
- **AB 898 (Chu) DNA Evidence: Sexual Assault Victims' DNA Bill of Rights:** This law establishes the "Sexual Assault Victims' DNA Bill of Rights." It authorizes a law enforcement agency investigating certain felony sex offenses to, upon the request of the victim, and subject to the commitment of resources, inform the victim whether or not a DNA profile was obtained from the testing of the rape kit evidence or other crime scene evidence from their case, whether that information had been entered into the Department of Justice databank of case evidence, and whether or not there is a match between the DNA profile developed from the evidence and a DNA profile in the databank. This law also provides that the victim would be given written notification by the law enforcement agency if the agency elects not to perform DNA testing of the evidence, or intends to destroy or dispose of the evidence prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

CONGRESS PASSES PRISONER RAPE BILL

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate unanimously passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. The vote marked the first time the federal government has ever passed legislation to address sexual assault and rape behind bars. The bill calls for the gathering of national statistics about the problem, the development of guidelines for states about how to address prisoner rape, the creation of a review panel to hold annual hearings, and the provision of grants to states to combat the problem. On September 4, 2003, President Bush signed this important bill into federal law. For more information about these legislative issues, visit Stop Prisoner Rape's Web site at www.spr.org.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TOOLKIT

Vital Voices—a global partnership supporting women's progress in building democracies, strong economies, and peace—released a package of resources addressing the issue of human trafficking in the United States. The Anti-Trafficking Awareness Toolkits were designed for distribution to professionals, such as law enforcement and social service providers who may encounter trafficking victims in the course of their work, and may be able to help them. The toolkits include a summary of the U.S. Trafficking Law, informational fliers, and information on how to report trafficking crimes. In addition, a Student Anti-Trafficking Toolkit is available especially for students on college and university campuses. You can download the entire Anti-Trafficking Toolkit at www.vitalvoices.org or contact CALCASA at info@calcasa.org to send you the Toolkits.

CONCERNS ABOUT VIRTUAL WOMAN SOFTWARE

With the logo "Your Girlfriend Just Got Some Competition," Cyber Punk Software has released Virtual Woman. The software creates virtual women based on users' specifications. The user competes against the virtual women. The user wins if they marry, sleep with, or disrobe the women. Virtual Woman is a decade old and has been downloaded over one million times. Available in 28 countries, one third of its consumers are women. CyberPunk sees themselves as an ally to survivors. Nancy says that Virtual Woman promotes relationships based on personal connection. Many in the movement view these games as problematic. Easy software distribution allows for games like Virtual Woman and Grand Theft Auto to be played by millions of children. It is said the harm extends from the scenes of violence against women to a gaming culture that

accepts violence and problematic gender roles. Technology impacts the movement to end sexual violence as well as all of society. As rape crisis centers become equipped technologically to help survivors, others will use technology for the harm of the movement. Problematic and controversial content will always exist, so it is important to analyze the technological aspects of games like virtual woman. For more information you can contact Arash at arash@calcasa.org or visit the following links:

Download the software at <http://virtualwoman.net> and download the screenshots of the software at http://www.botspot.com/Intelligent_Agent/Screenshots_613.html

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: YESENIA CUIEL

It is a great honor for us to acknowledge Yesenia Curiel for her valuable work as a Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center (SBRCC) volunteer. Yesenia has volunteered as a Rape Crisis Advocate since January 2002 and has also worked as a Hotline Assistant since November 2002. She continues to serve in both capacities and we are very lucky to have her on-going support.

Yesenia grew up in South Los Angeles. She graduated from a Community College in Torrance, which was one of her proudest moments since she never envisioned herself attending college. She then transferred to UCSB where she graduated with a B.A. in sociology in 2003. In her free time, Yesenia enjoys making necklaces. She is fond of jewelry and likes crocheting, body piercing and hanging out with friends. She is currently working at the Isla Vista teen center as a case manager and volunteers with the Enlace y Advance program (a mentoring program for youth and their parents) at UCSB. It is evident that Yesenia has a passion in working with youth. She states, "I want to bring awareness to youth, give them options, built good relationships with them." She also mentioned that she is currently working with three wonderful teenage girls.

When Yesenia transferred to UCSB she knew she wanted to do something in her community. She wanted to "find a niche in my new community" and make a difference. She attended Volunteer Day at UCSB and met Ivonne. She decided to volunteer for SBRCC since she found a great need to help and empower women. She also realized the importance of reaching out to the Latino community around issues of sexual assault since it is something that is never talked about. Yesenia realized that she had the ability to reach out to that community since she is bilingual.

Volunteering at SBRCC has impacted Yesenia in many ways. Personally, she now has self-awareness around sexual assault issues that she can share with family, friends and youth. Professionally, she plans to incorporate issues of sexual assault into her studies. One of the things that Yesenia enjoys most about SBRCC is the opportunity to connect with clients and provide support to them. "I can listen to them and validate their feelings." She realizes that providing a safe space for clients and supporting them is essential to their healing process. Yesenia also enjoys working with the staff at SBRCC. She strongly believes that the community should get involved with SBRCC in any way that they can in order to see a decrease in sexual assault. "Sexual Assault happens, but now what are we going to do about it?"

Yesenia's inspiration in life is her parents. She values and appreciates all their struggles for their children. It is from them that she gets all the strength and support that she needs. We at SBRCC want to thank Yesenia for all she brings to the Center. She is a great asset to the Center and we are lucky to have her as part of our team.

SBRCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELL PHONE COLLECTION

Yes, we are collecting used cell phones. If you have any cell phones to donate, please call Ofelia at 963-6832 or just bring them by the Center. Thank you!

POSITION AVAILABLE AT SBRCC

Development Director (Part-time position, 30 hours per week): Responsible for donor development and solicitation. Responsible for grant writing and special event planning. Requires strong verbal and written communication skills. ***If you or anyone you know may be interested in this position, please submit a resume and three references as soon as possible to Elsa Granados.***

UPCOMING ADVOCATE MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6-8PM

January 13, 2004	July 13, 2004
February 10, 2004	August 10, 2004
March 9, 2004	September 4, 2004
April 13, 2004	October 12, 2004
May 11, 2004	November 9, 2004
June 8, 2004	December 14, 2004

UPCOMING SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP: SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2004 10AM – 2PM

Classes are \$30 per person. Please help to spread the word! Call SBRCC for more information. **A self-defense class can be a great present for someone you love. Gift certificates are available.**

NEW SPEAKERS BUREAU MEMBERS

Congratulations to the new members of the SBRCC Speaker's Bureau! Brandy Dettmer, Brenda Escoto, Suzie Hernandez, Christine Lee, Efrain Martinez, Stephanie Molen, Jenn Pietrek, and Nick Torok have joined our community education team. Welcome!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY CLOSURES

SBRCC's office will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th. Of course, the 24-hour hotline will still be operational throughout the winter holiday.

SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

- The next **Spanish Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **January 13th - March 2nd**.
Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. If you know individuals who may be interested, please have them call Maria at 963-6832 or send her an email at maria@sbrcc.net
- The next **English Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **April 6th – May 20th**.
Classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and one Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for a self-defense class. If you know individuals who may be interested, please have them call Laura at 963-6832 or send her an email at laura@sbrcc.net

WE ESPECIALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE SPANISH/ENGLISH BILINGUAL!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVAN MANEE ON DEC. 16TH
& VERONICA DAVALOS ON DEC. 18TH!

Help End Sexual Violence

A woman is forcibly raped every minute in the United States.
Her life is disrupted by this act of violence, and so are the lives of her family, friends and co-workers.
If you know more than 3 women, then you know a survivor of rape or sexual assault.
And you can make a difference.

BECOME A RAPE CRISIS ADVOCATE



WE GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

Through our intensive training program, you will –

- Gain an overview of the historical, psychological and socio-cultural roots of violence against women
- Develop crisis intervention and active listening skills
- Join a strong, supportive and dedicated community of volunteers
- Learn how to support survivors in regaining a sense of control and empowerment
- Become familiar with community, medical and legal options for survivors of sexual assault
- Become a state-certified sexual assault counselor

As a trained volunteer, you will handle a weekly shift during which you may –

- Respond to phone calls received on our 24-hour crisis line
- Provide short term, in-person crisis counseling
- Interact with other agencies and individuals on behalf of a survivor
- Make a huge difference in the life of someone affected by sexual assault

NEXT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

April 6, 2004 – May 20, 2004

Classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:00pm - 10:00pm).
& one Saturday (from 10am – 2 pm) for a self-defense class.
We especially need volunteers who are Spanish/English bilingual!

(805) 963-6832

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