Dear Friends,

SBRCC is proud to present our annual Outcry! newsletter. In these pages, you will find highlights of our engagement with the community over the past year. We are working hard to empower sexual assault survivors and to eliminate sexual violence in our society through community education, training, and activism.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of our generous donors and the dedication of our volunteers. Thank you for your commitment to inspiring change in our community.

Warm regards,
SBRCC staff

RAISE THE BAR
Creating a Safer Drinking Scene in Santa Barbara

This April, Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center launched a campaign to raise awareness of alcohol-facilitated sexual assault in our community. In the past fiscal year, 69% of sexual assaults reported in Santa Barbara County involved the use of alcohol, marking a 28% increase from the previous year. Our campaign sought to address the normalization of predatory behavior in the nightlife scene by educating staff and management at local establishments.

Partnering with the Santa Barbara Police Department’s Nightlife Enforcement Team, we implemented our Raise the Bar training to representatives from ten bars and nightclubs in the downtown area. Our training provided information about the realities of alcohol-facilitated sexual assault and gave participants the tools necessary to identify and intervene in potentially dangerous situations. Participants came away from the training with a better understanding of their responsibility for patron safety and felt empowered to create a safer drinking environment.

In order to reach bar patrons, SBRCC designed coasters displaying our campaign logo and listing practical intervention strategies. These, along with our promotional posters, were distributed to bars and liquor stores throughout Santa Barbara and Goleta.
On Valentine’s Day this year, SBRCC hosted Santa Barbara’s first-ever One Billion Rising event, bringing together community members and local service organizations to raise awareness of the global epidemic of violence against women and girls.

This campaign takes its name from the fact that **1 in 3 women** will experience sexual assault or domestic violence in her lifetime, totaling more than **1 billion women worldwide**.

This international mass-action, launched in 2013 by renowned feminist playwright Eve Ensler, uses the power of dance to advocate for justice and show solidarity with survivors.

Our event was held at Santa Barbara City College and featured live music, dancing, resource information, an art display, and speeches by elected officials and survivors alike. By bringing One Billion Rising to Santa Barbara, we hope to illustrate the pervasiveness of this issue and galvanize community activism on both personal and political fronts.

We are especially grateful to World Dance for Humanity for partnering with us to make this event a reality. World Dancers spent weeks learning the choreography and promoting the event through flashmobs in downtown Santa Barbara.

We hope you will join us for the 2nd annual event in **February 2016**!

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**SEXUAL ASSAULT EDUCATION IN ISLA VISTA**

We are honored to have been selected as the recipient of a multi-year grant awarded by The Fund for Santa Barbara. SBRCC will receive $10,000 per year for three years as part of a project to expand our services in the Isla Vista community, and ensure that the needs of both student and non-student residents are met.

As Isla Vista remains an unincorporated area in Santa Barbara County, funding for critical services can be difficult to come by. We are very enthusiastic about being able to provide services to a part of our community that has historically been underserved.

While SBRCC is dedicated to providing intervention and response services to all those in need, we consider prevention education as an essential component of our efforts in Isla Vista. The primary focus of our work in Isla Vista will be to address the root causes of sexual violence by increasing the visibility of this issue and engaging in meaningful dialogue with local residents. We see this project as a way of investing in the future of Isla Vista and helping to make the community safer for all residents.
In the past year we have seen more attention brought to sexual assault on college campuses than ever before. The unprecedented ease of collaboration created by online platforms has enabled student activists to share their stories and generate widespread outrage over the mishandling of sexual assault cases across the country.

It has become increasingly evident that universities have a vested interest in artificially deflating the number of violent crimes reported to occur on their campuses. While federal protections for students have been in place for decades, their enforcement has been lax at best. In recent years, countless student survivors have come forward sharing similar experiences of administrative apathy, victim-blaming, and overall incompetence. Despite the authority that universities have to impose disciplinary sanctions for this behavior, it is rare for students found guilty of committing sexual assault to face significant consequences.

We need to join students in their fight for justice and make it clear to university administrators that this is not an issue they can afford to ignore. We must demand sensitive, transparent, and expedient judicial proceedings as well as services that meet both the personal and academic needs of survivors. Ending this epidemic will require collaboration among students, universities, policymakers, and community members. We at SBRCC are committed to working with these groups to effect systemic change through our advocacy and prevention education services.

**THE HUNTING GROUND**

In an effort to engage the community in discussing campus sexual assault, SBRCC has been co-sponsoring and organizing free public screenings of the 2015 documentary, The Hunting Ground.

This film uses testimony from students, parents, professors, and administrators to depict the trauma inflicted upon survivors by their institutions. These screenings are followed by discussions of the local handling of these cases with a panel of policymakers, school administrators, and student advocates. We hope you will join us at our next event.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Our next screening of The Hunting Ground will be held at SBCC’s Garvin Theatre on **Tuesday, October 27** at 11:30am.
A special thanks to our community partners for helping raise awareness of sexual assault year round.

Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County • Fund for Santa Barbara • Montecito Bank and Trust
Planned Parenthood • Pacific Pride Foundation • Santa Barbara City College • Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
Santa Barbara Police Department Nightlife Enforcement Team • Santa Barbara Unified School District
Walter H. Capps Center • World Dance for Humanity

Donate your Car, Truck, RV or Boat to benefit SBRCC.

PHONE: 888-444-2392
On Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Rincon Events in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center presented its 7th Annual Chocolate de Vine fundraiser. Guests enjoyed exquisite California wines and fabulous chocolate desserts from nine local chocolatiers. As guests strolled through the beautiful venue, enjoying these delectable samplings, they also had the chance to bid in a silent auction which featured unique items such as a signed chef’s coat from Cat Cora, gift certificates to favorite local restaurants, luxurious staycations, outings, and spa packages.

The live auction highlighted tickets to the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, a private plane trip to Catalina Island, tickets to a sold out show of The Grateful Dead, premier tickets to see the Counting Crows at the Santa Barbara Bowl, and a SONOS music system. Several friends made the winning bid for the top item of the evening—a week stay in Fiji!

The evening ended with the awards given in the chocolatier competition, in the following categories: Best Tabletop Presentation—Conway’s Confections, Outstanding Flavor—Renaud’s Patisserie & Bistro, and the coveted People’s Choice—Stafford’s Famous Chocolates. The judging was performed by chocolate experts: Chef Pink—Celebrity Chef on Food Network and Chef and Owner of Bacon & Brine, Jessica Foster—Owner of Jessica Foster Confections, and Indera Mortenson—Pastry Chef at Fresco Café.

The event was a great success, thanks to generous donors and hardworking volunteers. Guests walked away with commemorative chocolates, full stomachs, and bright smiles knowing they supported a vital cause in our community!