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HOPE-news
The official newsletter of HOPE Coalition

January 2010

January is Stalking Awareness Month

Kris Kvols, HOPE Coalition President

Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. President Obama recently stated in his proclamation of Stalking Awareness Month:

“Stalking is a serious and pervasive crime that affects millions of Americans each year in communities throughout our country. Though we have gained a better understanding of stalking and its prevalence since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, this dangerous and criminal behavior is still often mischaracterized as harmless.”

Communities that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. At HOPE Coalition, we view Stalking Awareness month as a community call to action. If more people learn to recognize stalking we have a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

Did you know?

- 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the US
- 3 in 4 stalking victims are stalked by someone they know
- 46% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week
- 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some form of technology
- In 1 out of 5 cases weapons are used to harm or threaten victims
- 76% of intimate partner femicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner
- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization

[Katrina Baum et al., “Stalking Victimization in the United States,” (Washington, DC: BJS, 2009).]

In order to break the cycle of violence in our community, we must all intervene. Here's what you can do.

- Learn more about stalking by visiting the [Stalking Resource Center](#).
- Print and display the [Stalking Awareness Month table tents](#) from at your workplace.
- Post [daily awareness raising messages](#) to your social networks.
- Report suspected stalking incidents to local law enforcement.
- Contact [Senator Al Franken](#) (651-221-1016), [Senator Amy Klobachar](#) (612-727-5220), and [Representative John Kline](#) (888-808-6644) and encourage them to support ongoing federal funding for stalking victims through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

- Educate yourself and others about stalking by inviting HOPE Coalition to speak to your community group, workplace, or place of worship. To arrange a speaker, contact Kris Kvols or Emily Nelson at 651-388-9360.

Comedy for a Cause

Still don't have your tickets to see "Wild Bill" Bauer at the St. James Hotel? HOPE Coalition has a limited number of tickets left for all four showings - but they are going *fast!* Call Emily at 651-388-9360, ext 30 or email at enelson@hope-coalition.org to reserve your tickets today!

Showtimes are 7:00 pm and 9:30 pm on Friday, January 14 and Saturday, January 15.

Tickets may be purchased at the door to this event, but seating is limited and we recommend that you purchase your tickets ahead of time at one of the following locations: [The Friendship House](#) (480 W. 8th Street in Red Wing), Moments on Main, or United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties.

Good People Doing Great Things

HOPE Coalition is fortunate to be located in a community that supports its mission and is dedicated to helping those in need. This monthly column, *"Good People Doing Great Things,"* highlights some of the individuals, groups, and organizations that have demonstrated commitment to helping end family violence and homelessness in our community.



Red Wing's Evening Star Quilting Guild accepted American Patchwork & Quilting challenge to join their effort to *Make a Million Pillowcases*. "Every pillowcase can make a difference in a community. It can provide comfort for a cancer patient, hope for a foster child, encouragement for a battered woman or beauty for a nursing home resident." The guild's members were challenged to produce 75 pillowcases and ended up with 93. The Hope Coalition accepted a donation of 43 for use at Kids Count and Haven of Hope. The remaining 50 were delivered to Fairview Red Wing Health Services. Jane Ward and Mary Ellen Halverson, past co-presidents of the guild presented the gifts to Kris Kvols on December 16.

In December, Sue Olson, owner of **Whimsy's Closet** in Red Wing, presented a \$1200 check to HOPE Coalition from their "Silver Card" sales. The money was used as a matching grant for 2010 Give to the Max Day. HOPE raised \$5600 total, \$1800 of which were matching funds from Whimsy's Closet, WomenCents, the Jones Family Foundation, and the Red Wing Area Fund. Sue learned about HOPE Coalition through her husband, who attended HOPE's annual Kids Count Golf Tournament last year. The issue of child abuse is on that the Olsons hold close to their hearts. Two of their adoptive children came to them as foster children and had experienced abuse early on in their lives.

Market America representatives Kim Lampe and Kirsten Ford have joined together to help area non-profits with fundraising and awareness. Kim and Kirsten will be hosting monthly informational seminars with topics ranging from "De-stressing after the holidays" to "Living heart-healthy" and "Tips to make college more affordable."



Through [Market America](#), shoppers registered under HOPE Coalition ('mnhopecoalition') or another no-profit can receive discounts and cash back on purchases made through partner stores while earning additional cash-back for the charity of their choice. Partner stores include Walmart, Sam's Club, Target, Cabellas, and hundreds more!

To find out more, or to register for January's introductory seminar, contact Kim Lampe at 612-221-5209 or email at kimlampe@travelingsanctuary.com.



Pictured at left: Emily Nelson, Development Coordinator for HOPE Coalition accepts a \$500 check from Rick Weiss, owner of Insty-Prints.

In December, HOPE Coalition was selected as one of ten local non-profits to receive a grant through the **Red Wing Insty-Prints Footprint Fund**. The fund assists local organizations with printing or services through the local branch. This is the second year that HOPE has received the award.



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