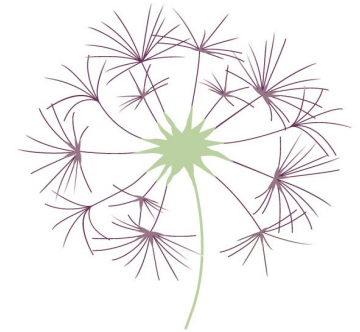


# Seeds of Hope

**35 Years of  
healing . hope . empowerment**



**rape crisis center**  
of medina and summit counties



*LEARN from yesterday,  
LIVE for today,  
and HOPE for tomorrow"*

For those of you who believe in fate (karma) or whatever you choose to call it, meeting the Grassroots leaders of the Summit County Rape Crisis movement at the TBTN rally was just "meant to be". In keeping with this year's National TBTN theme "*Celebrating Our Past and Envisioning Our Future*". We heard stories about where we came from, where we are now and where we hope to be in the future. This was quite an experience for many this year

As we have learned, the Rape Crisis Center of Akron began as an all-volunteer hotline in the basement of an Akron woman's home.

However, we knew very little about this amazing

woman or how she evolved. The woman who is responsible for the beginning of that hotline is the former Mary Berry, known today as Reverend Mary Kapper. Reverend Mary Kapper, now in her 80's, is a



remarkable woman who, after raising 10 children, (the oldest now in her 30's), went back to college. She, along with a few volunteers formed the foundation for the Summit County Rape Crisis Center we operate today.

## *Contributing to TBTN History*

In 2001, Katie Koestner led the initiative with others committed to the mission of TBTN to establish the international headquarters. Katie Koestner was the first woman to speak out nationally and publicly about date rape and has personally spoken at over 400 Take

Back the Night events throughout North America, (RAINN). She is now the TBTN Executive Director and will be the Keynote speaker for *Take Back The Night National Conference: Celebrating Our Past and Envisioning Our Future* Saturday, November 7, 2009

8:30am to 3:30pm Columbia University. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer Jeter was selected to attend this event as a special delegate for this event where she will, "Be part of this landmark moment in history for the cause to end sexual violence".

-Deb Costa, Interim Director



Left to Right: RCC Executive Director Terri Heckman and the Reverend Mary Kapper at TBTN on October 9th, 2009 in Akron, OH.

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**Fall 2009**

## **Special Interest Points**

- *35 Years of healing.hope.empowerment*
- *Deb Costa, Interim Director*
- *In Kind Donors*

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## Deb Costa, Interim Director

**Deb Costa**, the Interim Director, of the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties loves her work. She began working in the specialized field of sexual assault and rape in 1995 at Lorain County Rape Crisis. She volunteered for one year before becoming the first Child Advocate at that facility. Over the next decade she worked in varying capacities including hotline advocate, hospital advocate, legal advocate and Rape Crisis Coordinator. She presently serves as Domestic Violence Shelter Board Member for almost a decade in Lorain County. She assisted male and female survivors of all ages and cultures thus, reinforcing the fact that rape crosses all



*"I am about helping women."*

boundaries of sex, age, race and economics.

A desire to empower survivors led her to RCC where she plans on expanding the scope of the organization. She will also continue to build the Sexual Assault Coalition (SAC) on a local level and hopes to become an integral part of putting together a state coalition. Costa believes that the value of the SAC is increased

community education, networking and advancing services to the general public. She feels that the "movement" surrounding sexual assault and rape has changed over the years through improving relationships with criminal justice systems, outreach to the community and development of better support systems.

Costa is particularly interested in trafficking issues, outreach to male survivors, developing inroads to underserved populations including but not limited to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and the growing immigrant populations in Medina and Summit Counties and expansion of the volunteer program.

## Tax Season + You = RCC Success

### H&R BLOCK®

H&R BLOCK has developed a Non-Profit Referral Program and the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties is proud to take part in their effort to assist with fundraising. H & R BLOCK

will donate \$25.00 to the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties with each new referral they receive.

Simply access the link below and follow the directions to obtain a the RCC referral form.

<http://www.hrblockreferrals.com/KitDownload.aspx?GUID=C9C4B93D64F34AECB2EB5ADE11C0C95B> .

Bring the form to a participating

H&R BLOCK when you have your taxes prepared. To qualify as a new client you must not have had your taxes prepared through H&R BLOCK in the 2008 tax year.

This program will run from January 1 through April 15, 2010. The total amount generated from the program will be rewarded to the RCC in one convenient check at the end of the tax season.

## Editor's Comments

### 35 and Growing...

Tick tock... time passes too quickly and before we know it another season had passed, another birthday celebrated, another child has graduated, another elder has died, another...

Change is difficult. Over the past thirty five years, the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties has changed considerably. From the humble beginnings in the home

of a woman concerned about the welfare of women in her community in 1974 to receiving grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration which led to the hiring of an executive director and one staff. The Rape Crisis Center joined with the YWCA in the early 80s. At the same time, Medina County responded to community need by establishing a volunteer run Rape Crisis Center. When the YWCA closed in

2005, it made for the merger between counties that resulted in the current Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties.

Change is good.

As Always,

*"healing. hope. empowerment."*

*-Jennifer Kay Jeter*



## Dear Hope

Send correspondence to **Dear Hope** at Rape Crisis Center 759 W. Market St. Akron, OH 44303

### Dear Hope,

I was seventeen when I was assaulted by a close friend that was nineteen. It was my first sexual experience. I never told anyone because I felt that I should have known better. That was five years ago.

The reason that I am writing is that since that time I have finished high school and obtained a bachelor's degree in education. At college, I met an incredible guy. I feel strongly about him and we have had intimate discussions but not sexual relations.

My history is wrecking my life and I feel that I should tell him about the rape. However, I am afraid that it may scare him away. But, I also feel if I don't do anything I will lose him. Help me.

-Hopeless

### Dear Hopeless,

Five years is a long time to keep a secret as heavy as the one you have carried in silence. Thank you for sharing your story with me.

I would suggest that you contact a local counseling agency and request a

therapist that has done extensive work with survivors of sexual assault and rape. They will be able to guide you as you progress through the various healing stages. I am happy for you that you have found someone that you care for significantly and have considered sharing your story with. This will all be part of your healing and moving forward successfully with your life.

We wish you healing on your journey.

*-Hope*

### Dear Hope,

A neighbor confided in me that at one time she believed her ex husband may have been abusing their daughter during her visitation time with him. They are divorced. However, my neighbor is hoping for a reconciliation. She has made comments in the past about having to compete with her daughter for her ex husband's attention.



I have noticed a grave change in this six year old's behavior. What once was a friendly inquisitive child is now withdrawn and reluctant to engage in conversation.

Am I overreacting? I don't want to be the nosy neighbor but I feel that I should do something.

-Hands Tied

### Dear Hands Tied,

I understand the difficulty of your situation. As a concerned citizen, you can keep alert to the child's welfare and report your findings to your local Children's Services hotline. They will follow up from there and fully investigate the

situation. All of this can be done anonymously without putting yourself in harm's way.

Thank you for concerning yourself with this child's welfare.

*-Hope*



## Swan Song...

As autumn approaches, I find myself in a reflective mood. It was a very busy summer at the Rape Crisis Center. We saw our typical increase in client activity. Additionally, we collaborated with the Battered Women's Shelter to launch a professional Training Institute, we partnered with another local agency to start a support group for its female clients, we held our first annual Ride for Healing fundraiser, we began formation of a Rape Crisis Center-based support group for women, and we unveiled our new website. Through it all, we were also actively involved in local, regional and statewide sexual assault coalitions. Whew!

Since I began my tenure at RCC in

April of last year, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and Take Back the Night both saw increases in community participation and dollars. We dramatically increased the number of volunteers serving on the crisis hotline and as hospital advocates. We also expanded volunteer service roles to include assisting with community outreach efforts and providing support to the Training Institute and fundraising events. The staff did more outreach, educated more people, served more clients and built stronger relationships with other agencies. I am pleased with what the Rape Crisis Center has accomplished in a relatively short amount of time. I am uplifted by the passion and dedication of the staff and volunteers. Mostly, I am humbled

by the resilience of survivors who press on through the shattering experience of sexual violence. We exist for them and they under gird everything we do.

It is rare – indeed, it is a blessing – to be able to apply one's deepest heart to one's work. That is what made the decision to leave RCC so difficult, no matter how necessary. Managing work and family is always a tricky balancing act for anyone and my life outside of RCC demanded more of my focused attention. So, I leave the job, but not the organization. I remain a friend and supporter. Thank you for the opportunity to share my heart and please know that you have my very best wishes for continued good work and success.

-Janet V. Black

# Krieger's Health Foods Market In Kind Donor



**Krieger's Health Foods Market** has been a staple in Summit County for decades. Generations of families have shopped for quality produce at this establishment. Their generosity is also well known in the community as well as their support of local farmers. Krieger's is a family owned market with organic groceries, herbs, fresh produce, vegan and vegetarian items, vitamins and supplements.

As an in kind donor, Krieger's responded to a request from RCC for pumpkins and donated a total of twenty five of the orange orbs which were used for the Rape Crisis Center



of Medina and Summit Counties **Take Back the Night** celebration in Akron, OH.

Attendees at the yearly event were greeted by carved pumpkin votives that featured the name of the event and stars. The interior gathering place contained additional pump-

kins which adorned guest tables.

Krieger's Health Foods Market is located at 615 Graham Road in Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221. Visit often for an ever changing array of seasonal items. For hours of operation please call 330-929-2929.

-JKJeter



**"Betsy" Haffner is the President and Lead Design behind Dirty City Design**

The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties would like to recognize Betsy Haffner who began as a volunteer with RCC in 2008. Within weeks she began developing "Betsy" Haffner is the President and Lead Design behind *Dirty City Design*. Her work was completed and resulted in two separate design ideas. For 2009, the *Dirty City Design* logo development, stationary, marketing collateral, website development a

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Raw Purr

**Raw Purr** (Dawn Ward) is the name of the vocal folk artist that performed at **Take Back the Night** at Firestone Community Center on October 9th. Her music has been described as



"emotionally intelligent music" and was an elegant addition to the evening of conversation and fellowship.

Raw Purr is known for her participation in the **Rock Goddess Festival** (for peace). She has performed at that celebration in Seattle as well as Atlanta. When not performing, Dawn Ward and her husband Richard own and operate the funky

## In Kind Donor

hippy **VINTAGE** store in Akron, OH.

The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties feels fortunate to have been selected by Raw Purr to perform at TBTN. Her wish is "that I can be a vessel for the millions of unheard voices." To hear the original music of Raw Purr or to schedule her for your community event or house concert contact Raw Purr at [thefunkyhippy@hotmail.com](mailto:thefunkyhippy@hotmail.com) or visit [rawpurr.com](http://rawpurr.com).

-JKJeter

## Thank You

The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties would like to thank numerous contributors for their generous donations to the organization. Following is a partial list of companies that have responded to the needs of RCC:

**Mc Donald's**  
Grant St. Akron, OH

**Red Lobster**  
Montrose

**Olive Garden**  
Montrose

**Macaroni Grill**  
Montrose

**Gojo Industries**  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

**Giant Eagle**  
Howe Ave. Akron, OH

**J&K Subway, Inc.**  
Canton, OH

**Weathervane Theatre**  
Merriman Valley

**Bessay Hair Salon**  
Merriman Valley

**Walmart**  
Kent, OH

**Henry's Acme**  
Akron, OH

**Distillata Water**  
Cleveland, OH

**Circle K**  
Akron, OH

**Target**  
Howe Ave. Akron, OH

**Firestone Park IGA**

**Chick-fil-A**  
Howe Ave. Akron, OH

**TGI Friday**  
Interstate Parkway Akron, OH

**All Net**  
Akron, OH

## TLIGHT

Recognize "Betsy" Haffner for her contributions. "Betsy" designed marketing materials to promote RCC events. **gn.** Take Back the Night 2008 was the first project **City Design** artist created a poster and t-shirt art for the annual Take Back the Night Foundation and will become a permanent fixture. **City Design** is a graphic design center focused on branding and consulting. Contact her at [betsy@dirtycitydesign.com](mailto:betsy@dirtycitydesign.com).



## Three Ways to Donate

There are numerous ways to support your favorite charities while conducting your everyday life. You might call it Passive Donating. Whatever you call it, it equals success for the Rape Crisis center of Medina and Summit Counties.



When you access the Yahoo powered search engine GoodSearch one cent per search will be donated to the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties. RCC is one of

more than 83,000 non-profit agencies enrolled in the GoodSearch giving program.



For those individuals that prefer to shop online, GoodShop offers you the opportunity to donate to the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties when purchasing through the online shopping mall. It is a simple process: 1) Enter the name of RCC 2) Shop from a list of over 1300 stores and 3) up to 30% of the pur-

chase will be donated to RCC!



Community Cash Back.

Retain and forward Acme grocery receipts to RCC. Acme's Community Cash Back program offers a 5% return on purchases of particular brands. A complete listing of applicable brands is available at the grocer.

# Justice System Advocacy

As a survivor of sexual assault you have the right to decide whether or not you want to report the assault to the police. Also you have the right to access medical and mental health services, even if you do not want to report the crime.

The Rape Crisis Center is an independent non-profit organization that can assist you. Conversations between you and the Justice System Advocate (JSA) are confidential.

No information will be released without your consent. No two sexual assaults are the same and no two outcomes are identical. Through education and support the JSA can lend a hand in navigating individuals and their families through their journey with the legal system.



The JSA is not an attorney and as such is unable to give legal advice. However she or he will assist with communicating your concerns to the right people. Such as requesting that the person who assaulted you be

tested for sexually transmitted diseases, and talking to the prosecutor about your information not being disclosed to the public.

A support system is helpful in any crisis. The RCC can help you build that support system. There are many sources that the RCC can help you get in contact with, including applying for reimbursement through the Ohio Crime Victims Compensation Act for expenses incurred as a result of the assault support groups, and Community Legal Aid. The

Rape Crisis Center's mission is to stop sexual assault through education and awareness. The JSA welcomes everyone's questions. If the JSA doesn't know the answer, she will find the answer for you. The Justice System is available to support a survivor. You have the right to make your own decisions and to change your mind.

For additional information on talking to or obtaining a JSA contact an RCC office.:

**Medina County Office**  
704 North Court Street  
Medina, Ohio 44256  
330-764-8635

**Summit County Office**  
759 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44303  
330-374-0740

**24-Hour crisis Hotline:**  
330-434-7273 (RAPE)  
Toll Free 1-877-906-7273 (RAPE)

-Jody Daugherty, RCC Extern

## Seeds of Hope Staff Recognition

acknowledges

*Jennifer Kay Jeter*



Jennifer Kay Jeter joined the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties in 2008 as the Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator. In that capacity, she has developed programming to address the changing needs of the community covering such topics as Web Shy (Internet Safety) and Personal Boundaries 101. Her history of social service includes geriatric mental health and theatre training for youth as well as her work in sexual assault and rape. She serves on two area not for profit boards.

In October, Jeter was recognized for her work by Freedom House for Women, Inc. in Akron, OH. Freedom House for Women was established to assist women in procuring and keeping suitable housing, employment, familial ties and pursuing opportunities for continued education.

In November, Jeter will be one of one hundred delegates to attend the first **National Take Back the Night Conference** (Celebrating Our Past and Envisioning Our Future) in New York City at Columbia University. We wish her continued success!

## Meagan's Law Interest Renewed

The Previously introduced 'International Megan's Law' gains world wide attention and support for the second time as 3 convicted sex offenders visiting from America were recently banished from Cambodia. The three American men were arrested, and now face charges under the Protect Act of 2003, in the United States for alleged crimes of sexual abuse of children in Asia.

As stated in Time Magazine, "The three previously convicted sex offenders in question has reinvigorated support for H.R. 1623, the 'International Megan's Law'. This bill was first intro-

duced by Representative Chris Smith in March 2009.

Under the Protect Act of 2003, the men will be prosecuted domestically for crimes committed overseas. Since its passage into law on April 30, 2003, the Protect Act has led to 70 arrests of nationals abroad by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. The offenders are the first to be charged under a new initiative, 'Operation Twisted Traveler', which specifically focuses on crimes committed in Cambodia as part of a larger, coordinated effort to crackdown on international sex tourism. The three men each face up to 30 years in prison per

victim if convicted.

ICE Head John Morton stated "Let their arrests serve as notice to any other person who might be tempted to evade justice by victimizing children outside of this country. Boarding a plane to a foreign land is no protection." Karen Strauss of Polaris Project, an organization combating human trafficking, agrees that the passage of the International Megan's Law would be a positive development: "If we know someone is committing serious crimes at home or overseas, we want to accurately identify them."

-Deb Costa, Interim Director

## International Megan's Law of 2009

The following is a summary of International Megan's Law:

- Requires registered sex offenders to notify appropriate jurisdictions of their intent to travel not later than 21 days before their departure or arrival in the United States. Imposes a fine and/or prison term of up to 10 years for failure to report such travel.
- Requires diplomatic or consular missions in each foreign country to establish and maintain a countrywide sex offender registry for sex offenders from the United States who temporarily or permanently reside in such country.
- Directs the Commissioner of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to issue directives for the assessment of sex offenders whose travel is reported to determine whether such offenders are high risk sex offenders.
- Directs the President to establish the International Sex Offender Travel Center to monitor the travel of high risk sex offenders.
- Authorizes the Secretary of State to rescind the passports of individuals awaiting trial for a sex offense against a minor or a permanent resident who has been convicted of such an offense.
- Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make convicted sex offenders inadmissible to the United States.
- Amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to include in the annual report of the Secretary of State on the status of severe forms of human trafficking efforts of foreign countries to identify and provide notice of international travel by sex offenders.
- Encourages the President to use authorities under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist foreign countries in identifying and providing notice of sex offenders traveling to the United States and other countries.
- Sets forth reporting requirements relating to the travel of international sex offenders and the implementation of this Act.

Latest Major Action: 4/27/2009: Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.



The International Megan's Law is named for Megan Nicole Kanka. Megan was 7 years old in July of 1994 when she was kidnapped, raped and murdered. Her attacker was a serial sex offender that lived across the street from her home in New Jersey.

# Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties

## Medina County Office

704 North Court Street  
Medina, OH 44256

Phone: 330.764.8635

Fax: 330.723.9660

Email: [Crystalb@scmcbws.org](mailto:Crystalb@scmcbws.org)

## Summit County Office

759 West Market St.  
Akron, OH 44303

Phone: 330.374.0740

Fax: 330.374.0119

Email: [Jenniferj@scmcbws.org](mailto:Jenniferj@scmcbws.org)



rape crisis center  
of medina and summit counties

*The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties is committed to ending sexual assault through education and awareness, and to empower, support and advocate for all those affected by this crime.*

## The Menacing Mind of a Stalker

Per the Stalking Resource Center, stalking is defined as "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involves repeated visual or physical proximity, nonconsensual communication, or verbal, written or implied threats or a combination thereof, that would cause a reasonable person to fear."

In the state of Ohio, stalking is classified as a misdemeanor for the first offense and the penalty for repeat offenses is a felony in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree.

According to the Stalking Resource Center, 3.4 million people, over the age of 18 in the United States, are stalked each year. Nationwide 1 in 4 of victims are stalked using some form of technology such as an email (83%) or instant messag-

ing (35%). Some victims have reported being stalked through use of such devices as Global Positioning System (GPS), video or digital cameras or listening devices. In 2007 in Ohio, over 81% of reported incidents involving stalking, the victims were female. 30.4% of the reported victims were between the ages of 25 to 34.

Ohio House Bill 471 will authorize courts to require certain persons who engage in menacing by stalking to wear electronic monitoring devices.

The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties will present "The Menacing Mind of a Stalker," a workshop about stalking with a focus on predatory behavior using cell phones and the Internet.



This workshop will provide insight into the efforts to get HB 471 passed in Ohio. Presenters will be Sgt. Michael Korach of the New Franklin Police department, the Honorable David Fish, Judge for the Barberton Municipal Court, Cameron Wallace, activist on HB 471 and Kelly Grace, Information Manager for Crime Victims Compensation.

The workshop will be held at the Lake Anna YMCA Community Center, on 500 W. Hopocan Ave. in Barberton. There is a fee of \$35.00. Contact Deb Costa at 330-374-0740 ext. 126 or [DebC@scmcbw.org](mailto:DebC@scmcbw.org).

Natalie Koby,  
RCC Public Relations Volunteer

*healing.hope.empowerment*