This time of year is always buzzing in the office as we gear up for our annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® - the international walk to raise funds and awareness against sexualized violence, which this year will be held on Sunday, May 26th, 2pm-4pm at Centennial Square. We are lucky to have Vancity as our presenting sponsor again this year.

In Victoria, as our understanding of the root causes of sexualized violence have evolved, so has the intention and planning behind this event. We’ve heard from participants that one day is not enough to have a lasting impact, so thanks to a grant from the Victoria Foundation, we will be offering workshops, coordinating community conversations and opportunities for people to engage in different social-actions before and after Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®.

Also, a few weeks before Walk a Mile, we will have the amazing opportunity to host three events with Jackson Katz, Ph.D., an educator, author and acclaimed lecturer who is a pioneer in the fields of gender violence prevention education and critical media literacy. He is cofounder of Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), one of the original “bystander” programs and the most widely utilized sexual and domestic violence prevention initiative in college and professional athletics in North America including the BC Lions. The bystander approach puts the focus on the perpetrators of violence, rather than the victim, and concentrates on the role of peers in preventing violence. Katz lectures widely in the United States and around the world on violence, media, and masculinities and we are so thrilled to have him in Victoria. (Check out the calendar below for his event dates)

To reserve tickets for Jackson Katz events, please call 250-383-5545.

“To read our Open Letter about our involvement in college and professional athletics in North America including the BC Lions. Please visit: http://vwsac.com/Open-Letter-2013/”

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS - WSAC EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 2nd, 2013</td>
<td><strong>Jackson Katz Public Talk</strong> in downtown Victoria, 7:30pm, 345 Quebec Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 3rd, 2013</td>
<td><strong>MEN’S LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST</strong> – 7:30am-9am - Harbour Towers, 345 Quebec Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PREVENTION EDUCATORS TRAINING</strong> – 10am – 1pm, location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 2nd, 2013</td>
<td><strong>VICTORIA GODDESS RUN</strong> - Watch walkamilevictoria.com for event date and information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 30th, 2013</td>
<td><strong>TRIATHLON OF COMPASSION</strong> - Watch triofcompasion.com for details.</td>
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**It is our Mission**

To support, empower and advocate for women who are survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse; and to work towards the prevention of sexualized violence against women.  

**WSAC Board of Directors**

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**Telemarketing**

Every year WSAC uses telemarketing to reach out to donors. This year our telephone campaign will start in April and we hope to raise $60,000. In the event that you get a call and have already made a gift (thank you!) to our agency this year, let the caller know you support us directly. If you would like to have your number removed from the telemarketing call list, please contact us at 250-383-5545 or sincerely@vwsac.com.

**Our Donors:** Thank you to our 2013 Funders and Grant Providers

**DID YOU KNOW**

The Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls will be the priority theme at the United Nations 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013.

“We will come to know that ending violence against women is as important as ending poverty, or AIDS or global warming. We will come to see that it is not a local issue or particular to any culture or religion or village or age.” Eve Ensler

Women’s Sexual Assault Centre  
345 Quebec Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1J6  
Tel: 250-383-5545  
Fax: 250-383-3232  
Email: victoriagoddess@vancity.com

“ONE BILLION RISING” We know that one day of enthusiastic dance won’t immediately stop violence against women and girls. But it’s a start, and just one piece of the critical work community organizations do to make social change while ensuring survivors’ needs for services are met. We are grateful to everyone who supports our work via donations and volunteer time. We invite you to stay engaged with One Billion Rising Victoria by liking our facebook page: www.facebook.com/VictoriaRisingOneBillionRising.
Judith Prat, Manager of Direct Client Services

The callers’ stories were heart wrenching, salted as teens or young women, many know that 1 in 3 women, 1 in 6 men, and 1 in 2 Trans* people will experience sexualized violence live radio. No sooner had he said the st

by Judith Pratt, Manager of Direct Client Services. Not to Tell 25% ever tell. Which begs the question:

“I learned a lot about my friends and classmates. They had some great information that I didn’t know. It also made me feel happy because it lets me know that they understand this type of violence and wouldn’t try to hurt me.”

~ Gr. 7 student’s answer when asked what was it like to talk about sexualized violence with your classmates.

"It’s ironic that filling those gender expectations gives some power, when it takes so much more strength and courage to go against the grain.

That is what should be rewarded, not conforming out of fear."

~ Gr. 10 student’s thoughts after a Project Respect workshop

The Project Respect Youth-Led Social Action Team, Rhizome, has continued their work of creating change and addressing intersecting forms of violence within their schools and communities. Through the sharing of stories, experiences, and frustrations, Rhizome youth leaders identified that while their schools offer an environment to challenge violent norms, that gender stereotypes and heteronormativity are often reproduced in the classroom. In order to address this issue, the youth developed a workshop to deliver to teachers, policy makers, and other adults in positions of influence or power, with the intention of shifting responsibility onto teachers to question (rather than reinforce or ignore) sexism, gender stereotypes, and heteronormativity in order to create environments that are safer and more inclusive for all students. Rhizome offered this workshop to a group of adults from the community, and as a Professional Development workshop for teachers within the district. The feedback and support for this workshop has been very positive, and we are excited to see the effects ripple outward into school environments and the community at large.

Other members of Rhizome have been involved in a collaboration with the Inter-Cultural Association and Antidote to create a mural project. The youth are exploring themes of community (What is community? How can we shape and change it?), and turning those themes into powerful and purposeful street-art. Rhizome youth are also involved with hollaback! Victoria (http://victoria.hollaback.org/), a web-based resource that offers people space to respond to and track street harassment within the area.

An issue, energy, perspectives, experiences, and knowledge enter into the Rhizome Social Action Team, imaginative and progressive ideas for community action continue to emerge. We can’t wait to see what projects arise next!

Judith Pratt, Manager of Direct Client Services

Designed by Christy Smith, the Shh... T-shirt campaign aims to break the silence around sexualized violence. This t-shirt design uses birds to symbolize freedom while Shh! represents the silence many female victims endure when keeping their pain a secret. 1 in 3 women survive sexual assault, and 1 in 3 birds on the shirt are colored to symbolize this. The white birds represent the 1 in 4 survivors who will never tell anyone or reach out for help. Statistics prove that survivors of sexualized violence are not alone; however often victims feel isolated or scared to get help to change their future. The flock of birds inside the t-shirt symbolizes women in a ‘flock’ who are affected to help show survivors they are not alone. Sales of these T-shirts benefit the Women’s Sexual Assault Centre.

If you are interested in purchasing one, please email reception@wsasvc or call 250-383-5545.

Sizes range from XS - XXL

Only 25% of survivors of sexualized violence ever tell anyone

Shh... T-shirt Campaign

Project Respect

by kingstay Strudwick, Prevention Educator