THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & GRANT PROVIDERS

Ministry of Justice, Province of BC, Community Gaming Grant – Project Respect: School-based workshops, Rhizome Youth-led Social Action Project, Youth-focused Counsellor

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund – Crisis and Information Line, Information Meetings, Workshops for Supporters

United Way of Greater Victoria – Project Respect: School-based workshop, Rhizome Youth-led Social Action Project

Canadian Women’s Foundation – Project Respect: Teen Healthy Relationships Project

Telus Community Fund – Project Respect: Teen Healthy Relationships Project

The Harweg Foundation – General Fund

Vancouver Foundation – Trans* Inclusion and Accessibility to Sexual Assault Services

Thrifty’s Smile Card – Updating communications and promotional materials

OUR MISSION

The Women’s Sexual Assault Centre is a feminist organization committed to ending sexualized violence through healing, education, and prevention. We are dedicated to supporting women and all trans* survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, through advocacy, counselling, and empowerment.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Visit www.walkamilevictoria.com

Walk a Mile In Her Shoes®
Sunday, May 25, 2014 | 2-4pm
Spirit (Centennial) Square

All funds raised from this event will go directly towards Victoria Sexual Assault Centre’s commitment to ending sexualized violence through advocacy, counselling, empowerment and prevention education.

Make a gift of Securities!
VWSAC is now able to accept gifts of securities. Gifting securities is the most tax efficient way to make a charitable donation and a great way for donors to make a greater impact with their gift.

Believe in our work? Want to see survivors of sexualized violence continue to receive the support they need? Make a donation today! Visit www.vwsac.com or call 250-383-5545.

Make a gift of Securities!

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

Both hospital and VSAC staff recognized the need for change. In a collaborative effort with police, they developed a coordinated response to sexual assaults: the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Over the years, community support for SART has grown. SART is now overseen by Team Victoria, a committee of invested partner members who work together to ensure our collective response meets the needs of survivors.

Today we are able to provide a holistic response to trauma survivors. We work together by joining our expertise and knowledge to support our community. We thank you for supporting our efforts.

Make a gift of Securities!

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

We are in the process of legally changing our name from Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Centre to Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. We will keep you informed as we navigate this process.

Make a gift of Securities!
"Research shows that when a survivor receives compassionate support during the initial response, it has a significant impact on their healing."

**Q&A with Karen Wickham**

(Victoria Sexual Assault Centre Crisis Line Coordinator)

Karen Wickham, VSAC Crisis Line Coordinator: Survivors of sexual assault have experienced a traumatic event that can have a lasting impact on their lives. They need to know their choices and their rights as a victim of a crime. The VSAC Sexual Assault Response Team is there to provide support, information, medical treatment (if requested), and generally reducing the longer-term impact of a traumatic event.

**Q&A with Jan Malinsky**

(Detective, Victoria Police Department, Special Victims Unit)

Tell me about your job? I investigate all sexual related offences including historical and current sex assaults. We also investigate all child physical and sexual assaults. There is no typical day, every day is different and it’s one of the reasons I love my work.

**Q&A with Kelly Branchi**

(B.C.N., Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE), Clinical Nurse Leader, Emergency, SANE Program Coordinator, VSAC Board of Directors)

As a Forensic Nurse Examiner, some may say you have an incredibly difficult job. Do you like your work? I can’t imagine doing anything else. It’s more of a passion than a job.

You also sit on the board of directors. Why did you decide to help the board? I joined the board at a time when the board needed a lot of new faces to help bring an organization back to health.

As one of VSAC’s most active members of the Board of Directors Gratitude Committee (a committee formed specifically to work on thank you donor letters), which would you like donors to know? I wish every donor could come to the Centre and see the actual survivors who made a donation possible. The Centre belongs to the survivors, because you keep it thriving.

The goal of the gratitude committee is to help donors feel part of our community. In our society, I don’t think we say thank you enough. And small donations deserve just as much thanks as large ones. I love to write handwritten cards. I want donors to feel special.

What do you think VSAC needs most to keep thriving? Resources are needed to provide continuous counseling with- out a waitlist. Why should someone have to wait for support and counseling?

What do you think VSAC is needed? VSAC helps people rebuild their life after what can be a very traumatic experience. VSAC helps bring people out of darkness and back into the light.

**What we Want Survivors to Know**

Karen Wickham, VSAC Crisis Line Coordinator: Survivors of sexual assault have experienced a traumatic event that can have a lasting impact on their lives. They need to know their choices and their rights as a victim of a crime. The VSAC Sexual Assault Response Team is there to provide support, information, medical treatment (if requested), and generally reducing the longer-term impact of a traumatic event.

Kelly Branchi, Forensic Nurse Examiner: I want every survivor to know, you are not just another patient. My job is to be the best nurse I can be, for you, on your terms. I will tailor the exam to whatever the survivor asks for, whether that is a full forensic exam or a quick prescription for pregnancy prevention and medication for sexually transmitted infections.

Jan Malinsky, Victoria Police Department Detective: Male survivors are not alone. I want survivors to know I believe them. I want to work with them and want survivors to feel comfortable sharing what has happened to them. People might not know or understand that as police, one of our main goals is to connect survivors to services and work towards making the community a safer place. As one of VSAC’s most active members of the Board of Directors, what value does VSAC bring to the organization? From your perspective, what value does VSAC bring to the organization? VSAC helps people re-establish their lives and support survivors through the healing process.

**What does each member of the Sexual Assault Response Team do?**

**VSAC Support Workers**

- Provide immediate emotional support to survivors of recent sexual assaults
- Provide accompaniment to hospital, and medical/police involvement as requested by the survivor.
- Provide information regarding medical and forensic procedures, and options for reporting to the police.
- Provide information on follow-up counseling and justice-related services available through Victoria Sexual Assault Centre.

**Forensic Nurse Support Workers**

- A Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) is a nurse who has been specially trained to provide a medical and/or forensic exam to victims of sexual assault, to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder and to provide court-ordered DNA testing.
- FNEs also “collect evidence and give testimony that can be used in a court of law to apprehend or prosecute perpetrators who commit violent and abusive acts.”

*Team Victoria consists of the partner members of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), as well as Crime Counsel and other Victim Service agencies. Team Victoria meets on a monthly basis for case consultation as well as service coordination and improvement.

International Association of Forensic Nurses

~from the Victoria Police Department

To access the SART team either call our crisis & information line at 250-383-2030 or visit the Victoria General Hospital Emergency Room.