



## APRIL IS NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

This April, COMPASS, Inc. encourages Tuscarawas and Carroll communities to join the movement in preventing sexual violence. This month and throughout the year, make it a priority to learn about, educate and promote healthy sexuality – working to prevent sexual violence.

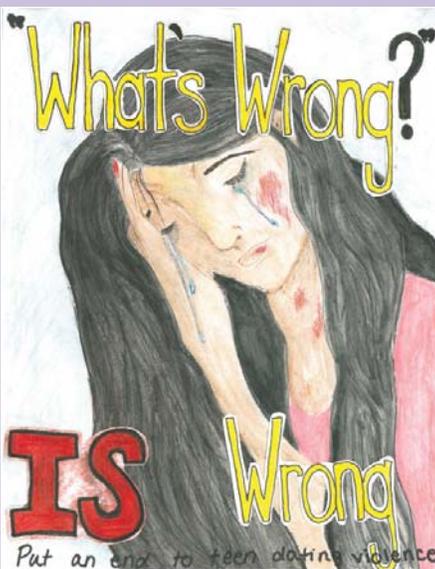
*"Sexual assault, rape and violence are serious, ongoing issues facing our community," said Molly MacMath, director of COMPASS, Inc. "This April and always, work to prevent sexual assault and violence through setting proper example to impressionable youth, educating yourself and others, dispelling mixed messaging through entertainment and cultural avenues and supporting survivors."*

Prevention begins with promotion. Promoting healthy behaviors encourages sexual interactions and relationships based in respect and consent.

**What can YOU do during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month?** Here are some small steps that can lead us to a big difference:

- Take the time to educate yourself and others about healthy relationships and sexual assault. Log onto the following websites for more information:
  - [www.breakthecycle.org](http://www.breakthecycle.org)
  - <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>
  - [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)
- Talk to family members and others about positive/ healthy relationships.
- Contact COMPASS for educational materials on teen dating prevention at 330-339-2504.

## POSTER CONTEST WINNER



Congratulations to Louisa Ann Rhodes, winner of the Teen Dating Violence Prevention poster contest. Louisa is in the 12th grade at Carrollton High School.

All poster entries will be displayed at Compass' annual 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' event on April 28.

# Walk a Mile in her shoes®

The Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence



\*Registration form and more details on page 3.

# IT'S TIME...TO REAUTHORIZE VAWA!

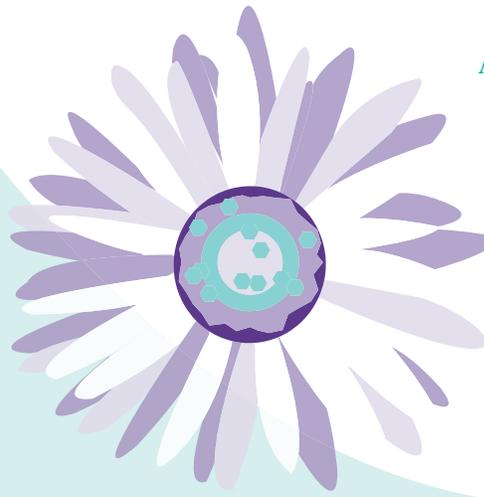
*Taken from The Ohio Alliance  
to End Sexual Violence*

With Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, we are starting a call to action this March for Ohioans to tell Congress to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Ohio Alliance To End Sexual Violence and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network are collaborating on this call to action because:

- An estimated 1 in 6 women in Ohio and nearly 1 in 71 men has been raped in their lifetime. That equals approximately 743,000 adult women who are survivors of rape living in Ohio.
- 1 in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have been stalked during their lifetime.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), enacted in 1994, recognizes the insidious and pervasive nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and supports comprehensive, effective and cost saving responses to these crimes. VAWA programs, administered by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges the tools they need to hold offenders accountable and keep communities safe while supporting victims. VAWA must be swiftly reauthorized to ensure the continuation of these vital, lifesaving programs and laws.

Please sign on to this letter today by visiting <http://ohiosurvivors.oaesv.org/take-action/view/22> and let us know which county you are from in Ohio. Thank you for your support of this important cause!



## ARE YOU A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

COMPASS is once again offering a support group for adult, female survivors of sexual violence. This is a wonderful opportunity for survivors to come together for support during the healing process. If you would like to join a group or want more information, please call 330-339-2504 and ask to speak to a support group facilitator.

## OHIO RAPE CRISIS FUND

On February 23, 2012, Representative Nan Baker and Representative Lynn Slaby sent out a co-sponsor request to the Ohio House of Representatives, requesting other Ohio House Representatives co-sponsor the Ohio Rape Crisis Fund.

Rape crisis centers and programs provide a healing environment for survivors to get connected with services that foster empowerment and resiliency. Ohio has less than 38 rape crisis centers/programs across the state. With 88 counties in Ohio, that translates to too many counties and survivors in Ohio going without services.

Due to a lack of statewide funding, rape crisis centers' services are not completely available to those victims of sexually oriented offenses in Ohio. Sadly nearly a dozen rape crisis programs in Ohio have closed over the past ten years because of the lack of financial support. In reality rape crisis centers do not receive the consistent state-level funding from year to year. This puts victims of sexually oriented offenses at risk not having the sufficient and effective services needed to move forward with their lives. State funding would be able to address several concerns, such as the lack of available and centralized information on assistance, the challenges in prosecuting cases, education on awareness and prevention, lack of training, and the limited amount of resources.

Kara Porter, Statewide Outreach Manager at the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence reports that, "About one third of the time when OAESV receives a call from a survivor there is no local rape crisis service to refer her or him to. Recently, OAESV responded to a call by a survivor in a rural county that needed an advocate. The closest rape crisis center was two counties away. Another caller, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse in Southern Ohio needed a local hotline number. But the hotline for that area had closed down and there was nowhere to call."

This legislation would increase sex offense fines paid by sex offenders, which would then be distributed to Rape Crisis Programs in Ohio, and administered by the Office of the Attorney General. Outcomes are improved for survivors who receive rape crisis services. A 2006 study showed that rape survivors with advocates were 59% more likely to have police reports taken than survivors without advocates. Survivors of sexual assault are three times more likely to suffer from depression, but crisis intervention and counseling services can help counteract this risk. Katie Hanna said, "It is our hope that with the Ohio Rape Crisis Trust Fund will ensure that survivors all across the state will receive the services they need and deserve."

## COMPASS IS ON FACEBOOK



Like us on Facebook and we'll keep you informed with tips and resources to fight sexual assault and gender violence in your community and provide you with information about upcoming COMPASS events.

[www.facebook.com/CompassSupport](http://www.facebook.com/CompassSupport)

# Walk a Mile in her shoes.®

The Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

Thank you to our **Sponsors:**

L.A.C.E.Y Performing Arts Center  
Wendy's  
Dover Knights of Columbus  
Hennis Care Centre of Dover  
Tuscarawas County Chiropractic Clinic  
Kent State University Justice Studies Club  
Boulevard Lanes  
McInturf Realty, Inc.

**Saturday, April 28 - J.I.M.'s Place**

228 West High Ave., New Philadelphia

Registration & Events: 10:30 a.m.

\*Financial donations are greatly appreciated.

Walk start: 11 a.m.

Women and children welcome



Walker Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

*All pledge and donation checks should be made payable to COMPASS and will be collected during registration.*

Sponsor Name	Address	City	Zip	Donation
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In consideration of my entry in the Walk a Mile event, I, for myself, my heirs, my executors and administrators, waive and release any and all right and claims for damages I have or may have hereafter against the organizers of this event, its participants, its employees, all sponsors and their representatives and all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner, as a result of my participation in the event, including travel to and from this event, I attest and verify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for completion of this event and I have not been advised otherwise by a qualified medical person. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my name and likeness in any broadcast, telecast, video or print media of this event without compensation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



COMPASS, Inc.  
P.O. Box 481  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

**NEW**  
**Website!** [www.compassrapecrisis.org](http://www.compassrapecrisis.org)

*This publication was supported by grant number 2011VASAVE341 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, through the Ohio Attorney General's Office.*

*Victims of federal crimes will be served.*

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## Would you like to become a volunteer for COMPASS?

Volunteers are needed to staff our 24-hour crisis hotline, which provides immediate support and information to sexual assault victims. Crisis hotline volunteers receive comprehensive training and will receive a volunteer reference manual. Crisis line volunteers can use a pager provided by COMPASS or use their personal cell phone for crisis calls. Crisis hotline volunteers also serve as hospital advocates. Area hospitals contact COMPASS when they are treating a sexual assault victim in their emergency rooms. Hospital advocates provide support and information to the survivor at the hospital. Volunteers also may be asked to accompany a victim to a law enforcement agency as an advocate. The purpose of the volunteer advocate is to offer support, accurate information and referral services for those affected by sexual violence.

COMPASS also does community awareness activities, such as health fairs, speaking engagements and school functions. Volunteers also may be asked to assist with these events.

Although COMPASS cannot compensate volunteers with dollars, there are many benefits to becoming a volunteer:

- education and awareness about sexual assault and related crimes and how it effects individuals
- experience in working with a diverse group
- group discussions about sensitive and confidential issues
- meeting new people and locating county resources
- recognition for a job well done
- time can be used on resumes and applications for jobs or enrolling in schools
- the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at COMPASS, Ronda Phillips, at 330-339-2504 or email [advocate@compassrapecrisis.org](mailto:advocate@compassrapecrisis.org).