



The Advocate Aspect

By Laurie Cole

Staff Members

- Sherie Lynn Betances-Vela
- Angela Bridegam
- Laurie Cole
- Suzi Fode
- Lisa Greene
- Ashley Grubb
- Kirstin Jackson
- Rachelle Jager
- Gloria Martinez
- Yvonne Minnier
- Alex Mueller
- Christy Smith
- Laura Thompson
- Abby Urseth
- Elisha Verrett
- Jessica Yost

Victim Services' Annual Yard Sale

The annual yard sale is coming up soon, so I hope you are saving up those items you no longer need.

The Yard Sale will be on:
April 15th and 16th
at
147 S. Hofstetter
in Colville

If you would like to donate items for the yard sale, please call Elisha at **684-3796** for delivery arrangements.

The money raised from this yard sale will be used to support a few leadership & sexual assault prevention youth groups (in the way of art supplies) we are currently working with Club SPHYR in Hunters and Chewelah, and Activist Arts in Northport and Hunters. The art supplies will also be used with children in our office to help them express themselves more easily in forensic interviews.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 10-16, 2016



Victim Services is Raising Awareness in a BIG way

Due to a grant received from *the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators under a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and the U.S. Department of Justice*, Victim Services has put up a billboard in Colville across from Walmart. *Check it out!*

Crime Victims' Rights Week

One of the highest regarded values at Rural Resources Victim Services is the belief that we can help individuals feel empowered to make decisions in their best interest through our services.

We believe education and information is an effective vehicle in accomplishing ways to bring justice and liberation to those who are poor, alienated and marginalized in our society.

There is an unmet need in the work we do, and that is reaching out to those who do not report crime or are unaware of our program and the services we provide. It is our mission and goal to spread the word about our services to all

citizens living in Stevens and Ferry counties.

We enlighten those who may be marginalized about their rights and inform them what individualized and trauma informed services we are able to provide, whether they have been enduring a crime for some time or if some sudden event has just occurred.

Raising Awareness of Services Available to Crime Victim/Survivors is Always Important

There are no billboards in Ferry County, nor is there a radio station, so the most effective communication is Facebook. Facebook is a very effective tool for Stevens County as well. Therefore, we will use Facebook ads to target all individuals living in Ferry and Stevens County as well. Watch for all of these ads during the month of April.

This year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week marks the first year with a new name and an additional county. With our name change, we are hoping to send a clear message of our services to crime victims. This year's National Crime Victims' Rights week is an opportunity to inform the community that help and hope is available.

This issue

Staff Members, Yard Sale, National Crime Victims' Rights Week **P.1**

New Republic Receptionist, Marilyn Van Derbur (Wo+men Making a Difference Luncheon), Table Captains Needed **P.2**

Community Outreach/Education Efforts, Waffle Watch, New Community Educator **P.3**

Pinwheels for Prevention, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Celebrating Volunteers, Donor Thanks **P.4**

Call us...we can help!
24-Hours a day
1-844-509-SAFE (7233)

Marilyn Van Derbur...Miss America by Day



Marilyn is back for a return engagement for our upcoming 17th Annual *Women and Men Making a Difference* luncheon on October 14th.

Here is a bit about Marilyn:

Marilyn Van Derbur was crowned Miss America while she was a student at the University of Colorado. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Van Derbur chose motivational speaking as her career and was later named "Outstanding Woman Speaker in America" after 30,000 questionnaires were sent to business and civic meeting planners asking whom they considered to be the outstanding speaker. For 16 years, she was the only woman guest lecturer for General Motors.



Marilyn has received numerous awards and acknowledgments for her work, including being the first woman to be given the highest speaking award possible by the National Speakers Association and induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. With a desire to motivate teenagers as well as executives, Marilyn also became United Air Lines "Youth Speaker" and addressed 50 youth conferences each year.



During the course of her exceptional motivational speaking career Van Derbur has produced 24 films, two of which won national and international awards. One was shown on prime-time PBS and eight others have been shown in hundreds of classrooms. Marilyn is requested nationwide as a prominent convention keynote and motivational speaker, now speaking on the topic of sexual abuse prevention and recovery.

As a childhood incest survivor, she has devoted much of her adult life to raising national awareness and understanding of sexual abuse and its long-term effects. In 1989, her family funded an adult incest survivor program in Denver, and in 1993, she co-founded two national not-for-profit organizations dedicated to public education and strengthening laws protecting victims of sexual abuse.



For her tireless work in the area of childhood sexual trauma awareness, Marilyn has received many awards and much recognition including, the "Exceptional Achievement in Public Service from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Washington D.C.". Since her story of incest became public, Marilyn has spoken in over 500 cities and answered tens of thousands of letters and emails from survivors looking to her for support.

If you would like to read more about Marilyn, visit her website at:
<http://www.missamericabyday.com>

If you are interested in attending the luncheon to hear Marilyn speak, **contact Laurie Cole at (509) 685-6088** and reserve a seat now, because they will be going quick. The cost for a seat is \$50.00, which benefits the work that Rural Resources Victim Services does in your community to help victims and survivors like Marilyn.

Meet our New Receptionist/Intake Coordinator for Republic ~ Abby

Abby Urseth is the new Receptionist/Intake Coordinator for our Republic Office.



"Hello! I'm so happy to be a part of the RRVS team!"

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I am originally from Longview, Washington and moved to this area in September with my husband and his family. We always planned to move to this side of the state, and recently started dreaming of a simpler lifestyle. We will be homesteading in Malo, and are currently building our "tiny home".

I have wanted to get involved with this line of work for a while, and looked into volunteering with CASA before we moved. I was thrilled to find out that my position at Rural Resources would allow me to help with the Victim Services side of things, in addition to other departments.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading, crocheting, archery, and hikes with our dog. We have enjoyed becoming a part of the community here, and look forward to this being our permanent home!"

If you call the Republic office, please say hello to Abby and make her feel welcome.

Calling all Table Captains...past, current, or those who wish to be a new Table Captain this year...The *Women Making a Difference* Committee is seeking Volunteers to Captain a Table at the upcoming luncheon. For more details and if you are interested, please contact Vicky Floener at (509) 690-1739 (cell), (509) 684-6673 (home), (509) 684-5235 (work) or email to Vicky@hewescraft.com.

Here's Our Recap

We have been busy stepping up our education game. There are now fabulous people working on outreach and prevention. Lisa Greene has joined Alex in the community engagement department. There's so much good stuff going on, we can't capture it all, but here's a quick recap:

SPHYR is Students Promoting Healthy Youth Relationships. At Jenkins Junior/Senior High School and Columbia Junior/Senior High School (Hunters), they are determined to promote a healthy, safe, supportive environment. These two groups, which developed independently and just recently decided to share in the name, are youth leadership at its best.

Group members organize events to raise awareness, provide prevention education on the underlying causes of violence, and organize positive community norms campaigns to shift the default of their culture from violence to peace. Both SPHYR clubs strive to include all genders and grade levels. What's more, these motivated student leaders know when to take the reins and when to ask for support and education from our agency.

We at Rural Resources Victim Services and Kids First Children's Advocacy Center strive to put ourselves out of business by relentlessly endeavoring to prevent violence, crime and abuse. The agency provides education to thousands of individuals every year and is always striving to improve. So we happily note: Jenkins Club SPHYR organized a variety of educational events in February. The school's main hallway features a chain of speech bubbles that read "Love is..."

Students were asked to finish the sentence. This inspired discussion about what healthy relationships look like. Hunters Club SPHYR created a collaborative art project called "Ground Rules" with the 7th and 8th grade classes. Middle school youth discussed what ground rules are needed in order to maintain respect and safety. They responded to the prompt: "What is the most meaningful/important ground rule? What are your favorite colors? What other art/design elements do you like?" The SPHYR Club used this feedback to create graphic art pieces that incorporated their peers' opinions and artistic preferences.

Both clubs have been going strong for several years. At the start of this school year, leaders from both groups contacted our agency eager to start planning this year's events. They contacted us before we had a chance to reach out to them. This is incredibly exciting for us. Everything that they do is impressive, but knowing that they are motivated to strive to end violence makes the future look very bright.

This is good stuff...This is inspiring...This is hope!



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Waffle Watch

Happy Birthday, Waffle!



Waffle, the impossibly cute therapy dog in training, continues to grow and learn. She's now about 85 pounds and one-year-old. Despite being a year old, she is still not full grown. Bernese Mountain Dogs continue to mature into their second year. Waffle continues to work with Alex and the trainer, Chaun, on advanced obedience and therapy skills. She's currently working on mastering the basics when commands are given from a distance. This will allow an advocate to visit with a survivor while Waffle assists. The handler can be a distance away and still give Waffle cues to sit, down, stay, get back, rest, etc. We are pleased with Waffle's progress and are looking forward to attempting the therapy dog tests in about six months. To follow her journey, visit our Facebook and Instagram pages /RuralVictimHelp or search for the hashtag #WaffleWatch.

Meet Our New Community Educator

Lisa Greene is the new Community Educator helping our Community Engagement Program Manager Alex Pantagotacos Mueller, with her outreach and prevention efforts.



"Hi, my name is Lisa Greene, I am the Community Educator here at Rural Resources Victim Services.

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As the Community Educator, I coordinate with the excellent Alex, to implement and supplement community education and awareness raising programs for all types of crime victimization. This currently looks like being involved in the planning and operation of our exciting *Girl Power* event, collaborating with local service agencies to create events and awareness building for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, connecting with local schools about our services, as well as countless other exciting projects.

I have recently moved back to the Stevens County area. A large part of my childhood was spent in Stevens County, and although I have been gone for ten years, it still feels like home.

In my time away, I attended Western Washington University, where I worked as a Peer Health Educator and Social Psychology Research Assistant. In 2014 I graduated with my B.A. in Psychology. After graduation, I spent the next year and a half traveling and exploring from the San Juans to Alaska to Southeast Asia, which led me back to Stevens County. I am so thrilled to be back in this gorgeous corner of the world, working with a wonderful group of people in a field I am tremendously passionate about."

If you are out and about and see Lisa...be sure to welcome her!

Pinwheels for Prevention

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Come join us in supporting all the children who have been served by CASA, Child Protective Services (Fostering Washington), and Rural Resources Victim Services on the Stevens County Courthouse lawn in Colville from **Noon to 1pm on April 7th**.

There will be a display of pinwheels that amount to all the children served by these agencies for child abuse, a presentation, and tables with resources and information. If you are unable to attend, go by and see the display of pinwheels, which will be planted on the courthouse lawn for the rest of the month.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



When someone comes to you...what will your reaction be?

There is no shame when your loved one dies...When your car is stolen...When you're diagnosed with cancer...Friends and loved ones gather around you for support. They don't blame you for "bringing it on yourself."

It should be the same with sexual violence. But all too often, survivors who have the courage to tell someone what happened are blamed for bringing it on themselves. *This needs to change.*

Start by Believing is a public awareness campaign designed by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) to change the way we respond to rape and sexual assault in our communities.

Victim Services staff will be speaking to community leaders during the month of April to get their pledge to "Start By Believing". If you would like to be a part of this campaign, contact Angela for more information at 685-6092.

Celebrating Volunteers!

Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 10th – 16th

We are so grateful for all of our volunteers and the care and support they give to our clients and to us as staff. We could not do the work we are doing without their help. Volunteers donated 6,187 Hours in 2015, which is a value of \$141,176.00...that is a HUGE value, but we value our volunteers far beyond any dollar amount.

Thank-You to all of you...we appreciate everything you do!

Rural Resources Victim Services & Kids First Children's Advocacy Center

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509.684.3796 phone • 509.685.6098 fax

42 Klondike Road • Republic, WA 99166
509-775-3331 phone • 509-775-2014 fax
509.684.6139 24-Hr Help Line • 1-844-509-SAFE toll-free



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