



Spring Newsletter 2018

Crook County Family Violence & Sexual Services Inc.

Office/24-Hour Crisis Line: (307) 283-241504 N 5th St., P.O. Box 128 Sundance
WY 82729

www.crookcountyfamilyviolence.webs.com

ccfvdirector@gmail.com

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****Special thanks to our volunteers****



Our Volunteers go above and beyond month after month. They help with multiple tasks, primarily manning the 24HR crisis line on evenings and weekends so that staff has some reprieve. Being on-call and ready to handle the trauma of a crisis multiple times a week is an enormous charge; one which they graciously accept time and time again.

Current Projects & Upcoming Events:

Pinwheel Planters

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we need you to help us spread the word that no child should ever suffer abuse and/or neglect! Wyoming's citizens are so unique in their individualism but also their full support of families and communities! This is a great opportunity to show unity in your community, and on a statewide level, to say that we will not stand for the abuse and/or neglect of our children! The 2018 Pinwheel Garden Project will have a significant awareness impact in Wyoming communities and will be supporting our prevention message as we strive to reach as many people as possible. By displaying these gardens, you are telling your community that you support the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Wyoming!

CCFV&SAS will be making two dozen small planters with blue flowers and a pinwheel. The planters are chalkboard material so that you can write your own message about awareness! We would love to see as many business's and local outlets displaying one of these as possible. If you would like to reserve a planter in advance, please call 307-283-2415.

Thank you for your support!



Poster Contest

Students in our county school will be participating in a fun competition to bring awareness to child abuse through their own lens. Each school has been provided with contest rules and all students are invited to participate. We have asked the kids to design an original poster highlighting child-abuse awareness month. We have encouraged the school to display the posters until the end of the month. The entries will then be gathered and put before judges. One winner will be selected from each of the three county schools and will receive a \$100 cash prize!

In my mind these big, very obviously demonizable offenses are prevalent (to some degree) by the excusing of much smaller, much more tolerated behaviors. Rape jokes, Cat calling, avoiding any personal responsibility in those instances, sexist and degrading commercials, concepts of femininity, masculinity and personal value, and the proliferation of pornography (this is an entire article unto itself!).

There's been a good deal of research on cultural norms and tolerated societal behaviors and their roots. If you are interested in some academic research, check out:

*Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Advocates. (Mary Ellsberg & Lori Heise)

*Measures of Stereotyping and Prejudice: Barometers of Bias. (Susan T. Fiske & Michael S. North)

*An Analysis of Sexism in English. (Guimei He)

But here's how *I* know – I've been watching it for 3+ decades. I live in it, I have shamefully participated in it, or more commonly stood aside while it happened. Think about it, really challenge yourself to be aware of your own flaws; and then try to deny that those things have an impact



The all-important shift-

No more making sure girls do everything they can to stop rape. How on earth did we determine it was their responsibility to avoid being assaulted? And what twisted logic brought us to then blame them if they were victimized? It's not as though some mysterious phantom realized that a woman wasn't watching her drink or drank a lot (heaven forbid someone of legal age get intoxicated by a legal substance around other people doing the same) or caught on that she was walking home late alone (no one should have the right to do that...that's crazy) and then that phantom violated this person intimately. There is a REAL perpetrator- a second human-being involved- (you know the one that commits the crime) to put that blame on...I know, profound isn't it. But we continue to press prevention instead of teaching men what responsible boundaries look like. Instead of marking perpetrators behavior as inexcusable and letting victims process their own way with a battalion of support from family friends AND all of us. Teaching our responding care providers not to jump to assumptions or look for excuses based on the victim's behavior. Allowing every moment of our work as a developing culture to be driven by a respect for every person.



CCFV&SAS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, LANGUAGE, SEX, GENDER, AGE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, (DIS)ABILITY, SOCIAL CLASS, ECONOMIC STATUS, EDUCATION, MARITAL STATUS, RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OR HIV STATUS.

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