

# The Advocate

Fall 2009

• Sexual Assault Support Services

• [www.sassnh.org](http://www.sassnh.org)

## *SASS Reflects on 30 Years of Service*

For the past 30 years, SASS has worked diligently to ensure that survivors of sexual assault are supported. Whether it is through our hotline, accompaniments, or our educational programs, SASS has become known in the community as a place where survivors and their families can go in a time of need or crisis. Over the past three decades, dedicated SASS volunteers, employees and community members have made ending sexual violence their top priority.

“We have become part of the community. We’ve worked hard to make sure that no survivor goes unsupported, that every child understands their right to personal body safety, and that local police stations and hospitals know how to utilize our services when working with survivors,” states Olivia Nold, SASS outreach coordinator. SASS’ history has been full of challenges, yet incredibly rewarding through our support of individuals and families on their journey to healing.

In 1979, we began as the Women’s Resource Center. Many of the services offered today, such as the 24-hour hotline and accompaniments to hospitals, police stations, and courts were offered right from the beginning. At that time, the hotline was staffed by a small handful of women volunteers. A typical shift consisted of being on-call for an entire week at a time. As our

presence in the community grew, the agency expanded to keep pace with the increasing volume of calls.

In May of 1991, the Women’s Resource Center became Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS). This name change enabled more people to understand our services and thus the number of calls and requests for in-person support was greater than ever.

From January 1991 to May 1991, there were 8 hospital calls. Then, from June 1991 to December 1991, there were 48 hospital calls. This marked increase showed that more survivors recognized SASS as the place to go for support. Today, we have over 30 volunteer advocates who are on-call for at least one 8-hour shift per month to answer the hotline at night and respond to hospital and police requests. In 2008, advocates served over 900 individuals accessing SASS services for the first time.

Throughout our 30 years of working with survivors, they have shown a strength and resilience that is difficult to put into words. The courageous spirit that survivors exhibit bolsters our purpose. With continued support, SASS can further our mission of ending sexual violence in the community. It is our hope that sexual violence will be eradicated, and there are no more stories to be told.

As part of our 30th anniversary efforts, we’ve reached out to several organizations in the community to help meet our goal of raising \$30,000 this year. We are thrilled to have received sponsorship level support from many local businesses for both our Annual KidSAFE 5K held in May and our upcoming 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Special thanks to Portsmouth Regional Hospital and Sprague Energy for their sponsorships at the \$3,000 level. Our outreach coordinator, Olivia Nold recently accepted a check from Nancy Notis, associate director of marketing/pr for Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

Without the support of our community partners, SASS simply could not continue our work to prevent child sexual abuse, sexual assault and stalking, and supporting victims, survivors and others impacted by sexual violence.

“We have become part of the community.”



# A Message from the Board President

The SASS board of directors has been hard at work this year focusing on development goals and objectives. With an uncertain economy, our goal has been to ensure that SASS has the resources to continue in its mission to prevent and address sexual assault in our community.

This spring, we hosted the 2nd annual KidSafe 5k. This year's event was a big success thanks to all of the runners and walkers who participated. We continue to see this event grow and are encouraged each year by the number of individuals, families, and businesses that support us.

The "Where's the Outrage?" campaign was launched earlier this year and has provided inspiration and purpose as we recognize our 30th year anniversary. The day of celebration is set for Sunday, November 1st, beginning with a champagne brunch to recognize the 5th Annual Porch Light Award winners and will continue with an afternoon of fun and tunes at the Music Hall featuring our friends, Beatlejuice. To purchase tickets to this exciting event, please visit our website [www.sassnh.org](http://www.sassnh.org).

I invite you to turn your Outrage into Action and join us as we honor 30 years of service.

*Lori Waltz-Gagnon*  
Board President

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## Learn more about the SASS "Where's the Outrage?" Campaign

**Our goal at SASS has always been to put ourselves out of business.** The entire community needs to get involved so that individually and collectively we can break the silence, raise awareness, and work together to STOP sexual violence! To achieve our mission, SASS needs your help. Ending sexual violence requires moving past awareness to responsibility, and then to action. Join SASS' "Where's the Outrage?" campaign now and **turn your OUTRAGE into ACTION!**



### How YOU Can Turn Your OUTRAGE into ACTION:

#### DONATE:

- If everyone reading this newsletter gave \$30 dollars in recognition of SASS' hard work over the past 30 years, we could raise over \$60,000!
- Join us for our 30th Anniversary Celebration on November 1st!

#### RAISE AWARENESS:

- Display the "Where's the Outrage?" sticker on your car or at your place of business.
- Join the "Where's the Outrage?" cause on Facebook.

#### VOLUNTEER:

- Join the SASS team and volunteer on our hotline, as an educator in area schools, or lend a hand with outreach activities and events.

# Healthy Relationships Project

This year, Sexual Assault Support Services and A Safe Place are embarking on an exciting new collaboration. We have received funding from the United Way of the Greater Seacoast Area to develop a comprehensive interpersonal violence prevention package of workshops for teens. The goal is to have a series of skill and knowledge building workshops that begin in sixth grade and continue through high school.



These research-based programs will meet a community need as the New Hampshire Department of Education requires all middle schools to provide education on interpersonal relationships through the Family and Consumer Sciences programs. This series will foster healthy relationships through setting and respecting good boundaries, the use of critical thinking to make informed choices, examining gender role stereotypes, the role media plays in normalizing violence, standing up for oneself, and standing up for others.

Emily Murphy, a longtime SASS educator, will have primary responsibility for this new effort. She will be teaching these workshops along with staff from SASS. Since both A Safe Place and SASS have been providing workshops on dating safety and sexual assault prevention for many years, Emily has had a great deal of material to review and refresh.

She has also developed new evaluation tools for students and teachers. In particular, we will be surveying teachers to determine what other topics they would like to see covered. We hope to use these results to expand our offerings.

For detailed descriptions of these workshops, please visit our website at [www.sassnh.org](http://www.sassnh.org).

# Kids' T-Shirt Art Contest



The Kids' T-Shirt Art Contest began three years ago as an extension of the SASS Keeping Kids Safe program, which reaches over 10,000 children every year. Rockingham and Strafford county students in grades K-5 are invited to submit original artwork related to Personal Body Safety.

Second grader Sarah's winning design was revealed at the SASS 2nd annual KidSAFE 5K on May 9th!

"We received so many wonderful entries this year," said Emily Murphy, SASS educator. "As educators, it is exciting to see so many local students taking that next step and expressing our messages of safety in their artwork. Although there were

many great designs to choose from, Sarah's entry really stood out, as it beautifully captured the mission of SASS: promoting safe and healthy children and communities."



Visit [www.sassnh.org](http://www.sassnh.org) for information about entering the 2010 contest!

# SASS Happenings

## **Soaring for SASS** *October 10, 2009*

Skydive New England, Lebanon ME  
Gather sponsors to raise money and awareness for your dive or donate in support those taking the ultimate plunge! Visit [www.sassnh.org](http://www.sassnh.org) for details.

## **Volunteer Recognition Night** *January 2010*

An evening to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our wonderful volunteers. Details to come!

## **Vagina Monologues Showing** *February 6, 2010 - 3:00 and 8:00 PM* *February 13, 2010 - 8:00 PM*

Players Ring, Portsmouth NH  
Proceeds to benefit SASS and A Safe Place.

## **Advocate Training** *Starts September 10th*

SASS is always looking for dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team as an advocate, contact Lindsey at 603-436-4107.

**If you or someone you know  
is in need of  
Sexual Assault Support  
Services,  
please call the  
SASS 24 Hour Hotline:  
1-888-747-7070**

## *30th Anniversary Celebration*

### **5th Annual Porch Light Award: Champagne Brunch** *November 1, 2009 - 10:30 AM*

York Harbor Inn, York ME

Collaborating once again, A Safe Place and SASS will host a champagne brunch for this year's Annual Porch Light Award. The award honors individuals whose contributions to improving the lives of women, men and children show an exemplary commitment to building a safer and healthier society. Join us in celebration of their achievements and to mark SASS' 30th Anniversary. Tickets \$50 per person or \$75 including Beatlejuice concert. Contact Olivia at 436-4107 or [outreach@sassnh.org](mailto:outreach@sassnh.org) to order.

### **Beatlejuice: an Afternoon to Benefit Children & Families** *November 1, 2009 - 3:00 PM*

The Music Hall, Portsmouth NH

Sexual Assault Support Services & A Safe Place Present: Beatlejuice at The Music Hall. Back by popular demand! New England's premier Beatles tribute band performs again for an all-ages benefit show in recognition of the 30th anniversary of SASS! Enjoy your favorite Beatles songs sung by some of the region's top vocalists. Tickets \$35 per person. Order now at [www.sassnh.org](http://www.sassnh.org)!