



Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2006

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April Declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Madison - Governor Doyle declared April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Wisconsin. The Governor's proclamation recognizes that sexual violence "continues at an alarming rate," as evidenced by national statistics that cite 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted during their lifetimes.

According to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.'s (WCASA) Executive Director, Linda Morrison, Sexual Assault Awareness Month was established to bring to light the prevalence of sexual violence in our society, to recognize and support victims, to recommit to holding offenders accountable, and to acknowledge that every individual plays a role in ending sexual violence.

The national Sexual Assault Awareness Month theme, "It's About Time to Prevent Sexual Violence," and the Wisconsin state theme, "Change Begins with You," both reflect the powerful role everyone has in ending sexual assault.

"There are simple ways we can take a stand against sexual violence every day," said Morrison. "By supporting victims and survivors, by educating ourselves and talking with others, or by being active in our kids' lives, we have an impact. Even things like treating others with respect or speaking up when someone makes a degrading comment challenge our culture of violence."

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is recognized nationally and is symbolized through a teal ribbon. Throughout the month of April, sexual assault service providers across the state hold activities to raise awareness about sexual assault. WCASA holds two annual events. The Voices of Courage Awards on April 6 at the State Capitol honors those who work year-round for victims of sexual violence. The Voices of Courage, Portraits of Change banquet and art auction is the organization's yearly fundraiser.

For more information or to get involved, visit the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.'s website at www.wcasa.org.

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