Voices of Courage Awards Highlight Outstanding Work to End Sexual Violence

Madison — April 14, 2015 — On Saturday, April 25th, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) will present its 2015 Voices of Courage Awards at a luncheon (12:00pm) at the Madison Concourse Hotel. “The Voices of Courage Awards shine a bright light on the extraordinary leadership of Wisconsin individuals and organizations in their commitment to ending sexual violence and supporting survivors,” stated Pennie Meyers, executive director of WCASA.

“WCASA is honored, and excited, to highlight the work of so many amazing people across Wisconsin who are the real leaders in the movement to help victims become survivors, and to end this terrible crime,” stated Meyers.

Sexual violence is pervasive in Wisconsin as well as across the nation. The most recent National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that 41.3% of women and 23.7% of men in Wisconsin experience sexual violence during their lives.

Since 1999, WCASA has presented the Voices of Courage Awards during April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The awards luncheon is paired with two other important SAAM events. The morning of April 25th, WCASA will hold a Survivors and Allies Task Force Gathering. After the awards luncheon, WCASA and community members will march a short distance to the capitol for Wrap Around the Capitol to commemorate Denim Day. This event symbolizes an international effort to end sexual violence in solidarity with survivors and their allies.

This year’s awardees are:

- **Maureen Funk**, clinical manager of Social Services at the Gundersen Health System in the Lifetime Achievement category
- **Alice Skenandore**, executive director at Wise Women Gathering Place in the Lifetime Achievement category
- **Kate Malone**, tattoo artist at Atomic Tattoos in the Community Support category
- **Lt. Dale Lutz**, Jefferson Police Department in the Community Support category
- **Arianna Castro**, student at Neenah High School in the Courage category
• Kristi Dietz, director of Office of Detention Facilities at the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in the Criminal Justice category
• Theresa Wetzsteon, deputy district attorney at the Marathon County District Attorney’s Office in the Criminal Justice category
• Terri Fugate, RN of Southwest Health-Platteville in the Health & Human Services category
• Korina Pubanz, SANE nurse at the Shawano Medical Center/Thedacare in the Health & Human Services category
• Luci Staudacher, Hand-in-Hand program manager at Pathfinders in the Prevention category
• Emily Schwartzstein, student at Oregon High School in the Public Policy category
• Jan Bruder, program coordinator at Brighter Tomorrows in the Victim Advocacy category

WCASA invites advocates, allies, supporters, and members from the community at large to celebrate the work of these recipients on April 25th. Visit http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Events-VOCAwards-2015.php for more information.

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