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WCASA VOC Awards Highlight Outstanding Work To End Sexual Violence

Madison — On Saturday, April 27th, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) will present its 2013 Voices Of Courage Awards at the Madison Masonic Center in Madison. Since 1999, WCASA has presented these awards to coincide with Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). They recognize and honor the outstanding work of Wisconsin individuals and organizations that have exceeded the very highest standards in their dedicated efforts to end sexual violence and support survivors. This year’s ceremony will include a luncheon, commencing at 12:00 p.m. Admission is $10.

Sexual violence is pervasive in Wisconsin as well as across the nation. The numbers are quite sobering; the most recent comprehensive national survey found that one in five women, and one in seventy-one men, experience sexual violence during their lives.

“This ceremony is our opportunity to celebrate the courageous efforts of those doing superlative work to end sexual violence,” said Pennie Meyers, Executive Director at WCASA. “Through their work and commitment to ensure a compassionate response to sexual assault victims in all systems around the state, survivors have a greater opportunity to heal. WCASA is excited to be part of a movement that has so many dedicated, talented, and caring people around our state who are making it their life legacy to care for those impacted by this horrific crime.”

This year the Annual awards are given to eleven people in eight categories. This year’s Voices of Courage recipients are:

- **Dawn Helmrich**, Director of Data and Outcomes at United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and **McKenna Nerone**, a Senior at Wauwatosa East High School, in the **Community Support** category
- **Joshua Grube**, Deputy District Attorney of Walworth County in the **Criminal Justice** Category

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• Cherri Stillwell, Advocate at Abuse Education in the Classroom, and Jamie Stephany, Information Coordinator at L.I.N.K.E.D. of Brown County, co-nominated in the Courage category
• Sarah Cleveland, Teacher at Neenah High School in the Prevention Education category
• Molly Herrmann with the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in the Health & Human Services category
• Mary Beth Grice, Volunteer Advocate at Sexual Assault Recover Program, and Shelby Mitchell, Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, Safe Haven in the Victim/Survivor Advocacy category
• Joe Prillwitz, Guidance Counselor at Mosinee High School in the Lifetime Achievement category
• Jen Hopper, Musician will receive a special Survivor to Thriver award

WCASA invites advocates, allies, supporters, and members from the community at large to join them on April 27th to celebrate the work of these recipients. Visit http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Events-VOCAwareds.php for more information.

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