



WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



Contact:
Peter Fiala
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
(608) 257-1516
peterf@wcasa.org
<http://www.wcasa.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

###

WCASA VOC Awards Highlight Outstanding Work To End Sexual Violence

Madison — On Saturday, April 26th, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) will present its 2014 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. Registration information can be found at <http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Events-VOCAwards.php>.

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 eight people in seven categories. This year's Voices of Courage recipients are:

- Linda Davis, Survivor, Advocate, Volunteer, Activist and Philanthropist, in the Lifetime Achievement category
- Alma Mann, Sexual Assault Victim Advocate at People Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (PADA) in the Victim/Survivor Advocacy category
- Jackie Larsen, Crisis Response Specialist at Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Services, in the Criminal Justice category
- Janice Griffin, Counselor/Advocate at the Rape Crisis Center, in the Victim/Survivor Advocacy category

- Mariana Rodriguez, Program Manager at UMOS Latina Resource Center, in the Community Support category
- Pamela Christopher, Executive Director at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, in the Courage category
- Sarah Chesmore, Clinical/SANE Emergency Room Coordinator at Fort Health Care, in the Health & Human Services category
- Tanvi Kumar, student at Fond du Lac High School, in the Prevention Education category

WCASA invites advocates, allies, supporters, and members from the community at large to join them on April 26th to celebrate the work of these recipients. Visit <http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Events-VOCAwards.php> for more information.