

Press Release from: YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center

For Immediate Release

April 2, 2015

Media Contact: Diana Mancera, 781.477.2313, dmancera@ywcawlawrence.org

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation on April 27th in Beverly, MA

Beverly, MA: On Monday, April 27, 2015 at 1:00pm on the lawn of the Beverly City Hall, Mayor Michael P. Cahill, the YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center (YWCA NSRCC), and the Beverly Police Department will gather to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month to call attention, raise awareness, expand support for victims, and strength our response to those who are victims and survivors of rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in our community.

Nationwide, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives*. Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18**. From January 2014 to January 2015 the City of Beverly has responded to 24 calls of sexual assault.

The Center's Program Director, Diana Mancera shares, "The reality of sexual assault can be overwhelming, though it's important to remember it can be prevented when we all play our part. For example, if you notice something doesn't look right, as a bystander you can safely change the outcome – and prevent an assault - by stepping up and making your presence known. When someone does this, they're watching out for another's mother, brother, sister, child, or friend. It's time to get involved and do what's right."

Through this partnership, we continue to provide education, support, compassion, safety, and prevention initiatives to residents who are victims and survivors of rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in our community

We invite all members of the community to join us in recognizing that there is no excuse for abuse and that as a community, we will speak up to offer safety to victims, ongoing education to the community, and do all we can to reduce the incidence of relational abuse and domestic violence.

About the YWCA of Greater Lawrence

Black, M. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M. R. (2011). *National intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control,: http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Whitfield, C.L., Brown, D. L., Felitti, V. J., Dong, M., & Giles, W. H. (2005). Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28, 430–438. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2005.01.015

The YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center is a division of the YWCA of Greater Lawrence. We are a social change organization which exists today for the same reasons it was founded back in 1892: to assure that women have the tools, skills and opportunities needed to become and remain personally and economically self-sufficient. Behind every one of our milestones is a story, a journey and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of women and their families. The breadth of our offerings is great, with every program and service molded to our mission of helping to foster peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Each year we serve over 15,000 people from our Lawrence, Haverhill, Lynn and Salem, NH locations, where people know they can turn for caring, compassionate and highly skilled support. You may be interested in viewing our website at www.ywcalawrence.org.

###

Black, M. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M. R. (2011). *National intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control,: http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Whitfield, C.L., Brown, D. L., Felitti, V. J., Dong, M., & Giles, W. H. (2005). Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28, 430–438. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2005.01.015

(Beverly Police Department, 2015