February, 2020

FRIENDS, INC.

Est. 1978

Advocacy • Empowerment • Prevention

Mission Statement: To empower those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault by offering safety, support, and community awareness.

ENTERTAINMENT WITH FRIENDS:

Mystery Masquerade

CELEBRATING ADVOCACY, EMPOWERMENT, & PREVENTION

Our most recent annual event was celebrated on October 19th, 2019 at the West Bend Mutual Insurance Prairie Center. We enjoyed good food, great entertainment and the company of our amazing supporters. We'd like to thank our attendees, supporters, and sponsors for a fun and successful event.

Aurora Health Care®

We are AdvocateAuroraHealth

USCCA | DELTA DEFENSE LLC

This year's event will incorporate dueling pianos and take place on **Friday, October 23rd** at the same location. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

1 in 3 teens will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by an intimate partner before they become adults. You can play a role in promoting safe and healthy teen dating relationships by teaching the teenagers in your life the warning signs of an abusive partner. An abusive or controlling person may exhibit the following unhealthy behaviors toward their dating partner:

- Checking their partner's cell phone or social media accounts without permission
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Explosive temper
- Isolating their partner from family or friends
- Making false accusations
- Physically hurting their partner in any way
- Possessiveness of their partner
- Constantly monitoring their partner's whereabouts and checking in to see what their partner is doing and who they are with
- Pressuring or forcing their partner to have sexual contact
- Vandalizing or ruining their partner's personal property

The first step in stopping abuse is by knowing what it looks like. Some signs to keep an eye out for in someone you think may be a victim of dating violence:

- Physical marks on the body
- Unexplained mood swings
- Fear of disappointing their partner
- Displaying submissive behavior while with their partner
- Depression or anxiety
- Substance use
- Spending less time with friends

FRIENDS staff wore the color orange on February 11th in honor of "Love is Respect" week and to show support and awareness for victims of teen dating violence.

Sometimes these are not signs of abuse but simply just behavior associated with being a teenager. The best way to address it is to simply start a conversation.

LOOKING AHEAD: SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Our agency looks forward to this month every year because it gives our Prevention Education Program a time to shine! Denim Day is Wednesday, April 29th. Be sure to take a picture of yourself in jeans and tag us on Facebook or Instagram!

During the month of April, you may spot displays of denim in downtown West Bend and FRIENDS coffee sleeves at local Washington County coffee shops. Keep your eye on our social media pages for more details about the different ways you can get involved and show support during SAAM.

The theme of 2020's SAAM from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is "I Ask". A simple way to get involved is reminding young people how important it is to always ask for consent. A big part of ending sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse before they even happen is always asking for consent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
262-334-7298 | PO BOX 117 WEST BEND, WI 53095 | WWW.FRIENDSWI.ORG

FREE CHRYSTUL KIZER

All eyes should be looking to Kenosha County, Wisconsin and a 19-year-old woman named Chrystul Kizer. Chrystul is a victim of sex trafficking. When she was 16 years old, she met her perpetrator, Randy Volar. In June 2018, Volar was found dead in his burning home in Kenosha. Chrystul has been charged with these crimes and is awaiting trial in March 2020. Her bond, originally set at one million dollars, was recently lowered to $400,000.

Advocates from across the state, including from FRIENDS, have united to support and promote awareness for Chrystul's cause. Wisconsin law has an affirmative defense in cases where victims of sex trafficking have committed crimes. The current goal is to raise the money for Chrystul's bond so she can await and prepare for trial from a safe place. Donating to Chrystul's cause is possible through fundrazr.com.

PhotoCredit: WCASA

Advocates stand outside the Kenosha County Courthouse after they packed the courtroom during a proceeding for Chrystul Kizer's criminal case. Many of them wear red because it is Chrystul's favorite color.

Information gathered from:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/local/child-sex-trafficking-murder/

Human Trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that enslaves 24.9 million people around the world. There are two types of human trafficking: labor and sex trafficking. Both of these types are perpetrated through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

It is up to us to learn how to recognize the signs of human trafficking. If you suspect that someone is being trafficked, reach out to the National Human Trafficking Hotline to report.

For warning signs and more details, head to:
https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/what-you-need-know-about-human-trafficking-awareness-month

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our 2019 donors. You are the reason we are able to help survivors and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Last year, donors like you raised awareness for our cause, held donation drives and campaigns, donated funds and wish list items, participated in our holiday giving program, and gave your time for projects we needed help with! We are so grateful, and we thank you. If you would like to give back or have any questions, please reach out to us at:

info@friendswi.org

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GO GREEN!

Do you enjoy staying up to date on everything we're doing here at FRIENDS? We're transitioning to an electronic newsletter! If you don't want to miss anything, sign up for our e-newsletter now. After 2020, we will no longer mail newsletters out.

How to sign up for our e-newsletter:

Online: *www.friendswi.org*
Head to our "About Us" page and sign up there.

Email: *officemanager@friendswi.org*
Send your email and name to our Office Manager; subject line "E-Newsletter"

Mail: *PO Box 117 West Bend, WI 53095*
Send your email and name to our PO Box.

Fax: *262-334-7725*
Fax your information; ATTN: Office Manager

Call: 262-334-7298
Call and ask for the Office Manager, and say it's about the newseltter