

WINTER 2010

*We extend our warmest  
wishes for a  
Happy Holiday Season!*

*The Staff of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center*

*The Sex Abuse Treatment Center's mission is to support  
the emotional healing process of those sexually  
assaulted in Hawai'i, to increase community  
awareness about their needs and to reduce the incidence  
of all forms of sexual assault.*

## FROM THE HEART

*Comments from those served by the SATC staff*

"The doctor had a great bedside manner – patient and great with our daughter. The counselor was very kind and sensitive ... we are very pleased with our decision to use SATC..." (parent referring to an SATC physician and crisis worker in the ER.)

"This program (SATC) has helped me to understand what happened and the process of dealing with emotional side effects. I feel a sense of relief in my life." (client referring to therapy sessions at SATC)

"I gained great tools to use in my classroom, at my school and in my community. Please make sure more teachers get this information..." (teacher referring to SATC's sexual abuse prevention curriculum training)

## I Believe in the Healing Process

*By Cece Fontaine, Crisis Intervention Therapist for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center*

I wake to the piercing summons of my pager. I learn that a 20 year old female was just brought to the Kapiolani Hospital by the police, following a sexual assault. I quickly tie up my hair, brush my teeth and dart out into the night...complete silence on the rain-slicked streets at 3:15 a.m. I wonder if I'm the only one awake; but no, I pass one or two cars — other than that, Honolulu appears to be sleeping peacefully as I make my way to the hospital.

After parking, I stare at the automatic doors into the ER, reminded that behind them sits a broken, shattered victim of sexual violence. We (she and I) will spend the next several hours together in an exam room that will offer both physical and emotional healing, suddenly, my mind clears of everything else and all of my focus is on her...

The silence in the room is absolute; somehow it almost seems rude to speak, so I receive her emotions respectfully and wait... her face remains half-hidden from me as she stares at the ground and tears roll down her cheeks. I sit in the chair next to her, listening and learning from the sound of silence.

"I'm sorry, I'm so dirty—and I smell like him. Tell me how he could have done this to me." Those first words from her start the journey and I am honored to be the recipient of such trust.

There are many details I have to attend to: notify the on-call physician, contact the sex crimes detective, prepare for the collection of forensic evidence ... but nothing is more important at this minute though, than being there for her; just to meet someone's pain without feeling the pressure to fix it, for truly I can't.

Bits of her story begin to emerge: just beginning her sophomore year in college, new to the islands, but so excited to have the opportunity to experience the culture and tropical beauty of paradise. She shares how the anxiety her parents felt at her coming alone to a far away place was tempered by the knowledge that her Dad's friend lived here. There was someone to call if there was an emergency...but how does she tell them that HE is the emergency? How does she tell them that HE is the one who hurt her?

Going through the examination, she shares more and more...how he picked her up from the airport and raped her before dropping her off at the dorm... she speaks of the betrayal and shock she felt... she hesitates and starts to sob...

Our doctor is kind and very professional, he listens carefully, documenting her assault and commending her for her bravery in coming forward. We explain together that the instruments and medical equipment she sees around the room will not hurt her, that we can stop if she is uncomfortable in any way. Collection of

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forensic specimens and clothing worn, cultures taken for infections, photographs of the forming bruise on her cheek, administration of medications...and finally the doctor is finished. She is relieved to learn that I can arrange for her to shower and get into some clean clothes.

I contact our staff on day shift and ask them to find a safe place for her to stay until her parents arrive later today, and to provide a meal. I inform them that soon the detective will pick her up and take her to the police station for her interview. Our staff will accompany her to the police station, and later arrange for the entire family to receive support and counseling at our Center.

As I gather my things at the end of a long shift, I am reminded that others often think the energy handed to me in my job, is negative; I don't see it like that at all. In the aftermath of trauma, my job is to gently nurture a broken spirit and to diligently believe in the healing process- and I consider that, a gift!

## Reaching Out to Those at High Risk

Within the last year the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) has expanded its services to better meet the needs of those who are at high risk of sexual victimization. Under the direction of Dr. Nicole Littenberg of the Pacific Survivor Center, the SATC has established a new **High Risk Medical Clinic** for people such as those with histories of commercial sexual exploitation (e.g. sex trafficking victims, juvenile sex workers) or chronic runaways who disclose a history of sexual assault or survival sex.



*SATC Crisis Worker Rachel Pfund counsels survivor at the High Risk Medical Clinic.*

The clinic provides medical examinations, treatment, forensic evaluations, and referrals. Patients can be tested for sexually transmitted infections and evaluated for other trauma-related illnesses and injuries. They also have the option to have any signs of physical abuse documented (i.e. bruises, scars, burns, lacerations, brandings & tattoos) so if they later decide to take legal action the evidence will be preserved. During every medical examination an SATC counselor is present to offer crisis counseling and to assess the survivor's needs, with follow up services provided as needed.

"The lives of those we serve are often complicated by factors such as homelessness, histories of abuse, low self esteem, and lack of dependable social support, and none of these issues can be effectively addressed in isolation," explains Dr. Littenberg. "Through this clinic, we hope to offer not only medical and emotional care, but also to provide some of the security and support that survivors will need to overcome these challenges and rebuild their lives."

## Crisis Intervention Services Highlighted at SATC Luncheon

At the Sex Abuse Treatment Center's (SATC) annual benefit luncheon on October 19th, tribute was paid to the dedicated crisis intervention team who are ready 24/7 to meet the needs of sexual assault survivors. In speaking to the luncheon crowd of over 200 people, the SATC Executive Director Adriana Ramelli spoke of the professionalism, commitment and heart of SATC's crisis intervention staff. To highlight their work, KITV news reporter Catherine Cruz read a moving account written by an SATC crisis intervention therapist about her experience on the job serving a young female survivor (excerpt from the reading on the front cover).

At the luncheon, Adriana Ramelli presented State Attorney General Mark J. Bennett a plaque to acknowledge his outstanding leadership in helping to ensure survivors of sexual violence receive comprehensive treatment services statewide. Also during the luncheon, Chris Colgate from the Tommy Holmes Foundation presented SATC with a much appreciated \$15,000 donation.



(L to R): Dwight Sato, HPD Detective, Holly Bloom, SATC Crisis Worker, Cindy Shimomi-Saito, SATC Associate Director, Brandon Nakasone, James Maurer and Ben Villaflor, HPD Detectives, Marty Oliphant, O'ahu Children Justice Center (CJC) Director, Lisa Pang-Saito, CJC therapist, Jasmine Mau-Mukai, Statewide CJC Director, and Thalia Murphy, Deputy Prosecutor.



Luncheon guests representing the Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation (L to R): Gail Cosgrove, Rhonda Griswold, Dianne Brookins and Karen Char.

Mahalo to this year's generous table sponsors:

Alexander & Baldwin, Marilyn Carlsmith, First Hawaiian Bank, Pamela and Fred Ferguson-Brey, Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation, David Heywood, Sanne Higgins, Skipper Jones, Joyful Heart Foundation, Representative Barbara Marumoto, Margaret Murchie, PMCI Hawai'i, Martha Smith, Jenai Wall, Julie T. Watumull and an anonymous sponsor.

Also, many thanks to the following individuals and businesses who helped make year's luncheon a success: Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Cookie Corner, Diamond Head Theatre, Sanford D. Goto, Inc., Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hirai, Kapi'olani Women's Center, Dr. and Mrs. Dayton Lum, Maui Divers Jewelry, Mari Muraoka, Wayne and Phyllis Muraoka, Elizabeth Kent of Vested Interest, Pat Wassel, Craig Yoshikawa of McKinley Car Wash, and Young Laundry & Dry Cleaning.

## O'ahu Football Coaches Implement Violence Prevention Program

[respect]

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) partnered with five high school football programs this season to implement the Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) program. The CBIM program, developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, was created in response to national research indicating that 1 in 5 teen girls experience physical or sexual abuse in dating relationships.

Football coaching staff and players from Aiea, Farrington, Kalaheo, McKinley, and Waianae high schools participated in the CBIM program this fall. During the season, the CBIM coaches talked to their players for 5-10 minutes once a week about topics such as: the importance of treating women and girls with honor and respect; why violence never equals strength; and the key role athletes can play in modeling respectful behavior for other guys. Coaches were also encouraged to take advantage of "teachable moments" that crop up during the season in order to reinforce the value of non-violence and respect.

"Partnering with coaches is a particularly effective approach to educating teen boys," said SATC Education Manager Christine Trecker. "I was very impressed by the coaches' commitment to supporting and guiding their players both on and off the field." Mark Brillante, Kalaheo High School's Athletic Director and former health teacher, teamed with SATC staff to conduct clinics prior to the football season to prepare the coaches to implement the program.

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## Rotarians Visit SATC on Paul Harris Day

On August 31st, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) welcomed members of the Honolulu Rotary Club. The Rotarians visited SATC to learn about the various services the Center provides to survivors of sexual assault and to the community.

The visit was one of many visits to local organizations that Rotarians scheduled on Paul Harris Day, a day in honor of the Chicago attorney who founded the Rotary Club in 1905.

Adriana Ramelli, SATC Executive Director, did a presentation for the Rotarians and she was joined by Monica Cobb-Adams who shared her family's personal story about the value of SATC's services. The Rotarians' visit was an opportunity to share information and to build ties with members of this well respected community focused service group. Roland Lagareta, a member of the Honolulu Rotary Club and an SATC advisory board member, organized the event.



Front row (L to R): Maria Haney, Susan Doyle, Adriana Ramelli, Robyn Ocepek  
Back row (L to R): Bob Sigall, Rich Proctor, Byron Eliashof, Don Jones, Rich Smylie & Roland Lagareta

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