

Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County
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Staff Directory

Executive Director:

Tasha Smith - ext. 1

Clinical Director of Therapy Services:

Stephanie Sacks – ext. 2

Advocacy and Prevention Education Director:

Carlyn Sampson – ext. 3

Bookkeeper:

Veronica Patty – ext. 4

Crisis Line Coordinator:

Lea Martin – ext. 5

Therapists:

Gretchen Escobar – ext. 6

Sara Wendler – ext. 7

Community Advocate:

Carly Irvine – 8

Prevention Educator and Community

Advocate:

Gracie Sedy – ext. 9

Intern/Volunteer

Therapist:

Sunny Poyner – ext. 105

Office Administrator:

Renae Lusk – ext. 0

Tasha's Tidings

We are now in the 11th month of providing services in our new program YES to Hope! The YES to Hope program is the only program of its kind here in Pierce County. Through this program we provide wrap-around case management and a drop-in center for youth experiencing Commercial Sexual Exploitation. The drop-in center provides a safe place for youth to be, with computers for job searching and GED purposes, hygiene products, shower facilities and supportive staff to help safety plan next steps and make connections to needed services. We also offer on-site therapy services as well as a weekly therapy group for the youth to participate in. We have 24 hour crisis line where our advocates can respond to our youth in person 24 hours a day. We have had a tremendous amount of success partnering with the Prosecuting Attorney's office, Pierce County Juvenile Detention, the Child Advocacy Center, Tacoma Police Department, Tacoma Public Schools, Child Welfare Services and many more. Through these strong partnerships we have created an environment in which referrals are made easily, collaborative case planning is done and necessary services are quickly put into place, all of which greatly benefiting the client's safety, recovery and wellbeing. Since our start date for this program in July, 2015 we have had over 100 referrals of youth and young adults being commercially sexually exploited here in our community. The need for these services in Pierce County is greater than any of us ever imagined. The funding from the City of Tacoma covers 1 full time case manager for this program which is about 1/3 of the support needed to work with the case load this program holds. So our main focus moving forward is finding new avenues of fundraising and grant writing to bring in the funds needed to provide the best services possible to youth experiencing sex trafficking right here in Pierce County

New Quarterly Newsletter

We are excited to unveil a new quarterly agency newsletter being spearheaded by Renae Lusk, the new Office Administrator.

This newsletter will come out on a quarterly basis and will be sent via email to the Board of Directors, all clients and donors that have provided email addresses as well as on our website under the "News and Calendar" tab which will then be archived on there.

She will be compiling information and updates on each agency division along with details regarding special events and fundraising. We would like to extend an invitation to our readers for any comments, concerns or questions regarding the newsletter and its contents to be emailed to Renae at renae@hopesacpc.org.

*"Our lives begin to end the
day we become silent
about things that matter"*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes 2016

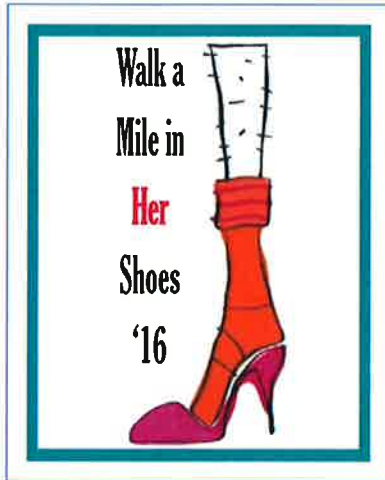
"You cannot understand a person's experience until you have walked a mile in their shoes"

We had a great turnout for our annual Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes event! Mark Lindquist helped create some buzz thanks to him posting on his Facebook about the event and of course, he presented the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office's annual fashion show which included their wonderful furry companion, Kiley, who was dressed to the nines as well.

We gave out two awards, one for Best Shoes and another for Highest Fundraiser. Best Shoes went to Joe Flach and our Highest Fundraiser was Scott Peters.

All in all, our total raised was just under \$25,000! We cannot thank our supporters and those who contributed enough! We would like to give a special thank you to:

- Mark Lindquist
- Pierce County Prosecutor's Office
- Davies Pearson
- Anthem Coffee for their generous donation of coffee for the event
- PLU Fraternity



Up Next: Annual Rebuilding Hope Ride!

This year we are pleased to announce that Brothers in Arms MC South Puget Sound will be sponsoring our annual ride on June 11th. It will be held at Northwest Harley Davidson located at 8000 Freedom LN SE in Lacey, WA and is a rain or shine event. We have some extraordinary items that will be available in our raffle and silent auction such as concert tickets to Carrie Underwood, Gwen Stefani and Sting with Peter Gabriel as well as Mariner's Tickets!

Additionally, we will have a great live band and will complete the ride with a dinner that will be included in paid registration. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM and kickstands will go up at 10:00 AM. The pricing will be \$15 per rider and \$25 with passenger. We are positively thrilled to partner with Brothers in Arms MC South Puget Sound and cannot thank them enough for their support in this sure to be greatly successful event!

Sponsored By
BROTHERS IN ARMS MC
 South Puget Sound

★ ★ ★
REBUILDING HOPE RIDE



SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016
 Northwest Harley Davidson 8000 Freedom Ln SE, Lacey WA

RAIN OR SHINE
 Registration 9:00 am / Kickstands Up at 10:00 am

RAFFLES PRIZES 50/50 SILENT AUCTION
LIVE BAND AND FOOD AT FINAL LOCATION

NORTHWEST HARLEY DAVIDSON **REBUILDING HOPE!**

WWW.SEXUALASSAULTCENTER.COM

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us! Use this web address to start shopping and donating all at once!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0962226>

Drop-In Center Update

By Carlyn Sampson

Since Rebuilding Hope! was first able to begin developing a specific program offering community-based wrap-around case management and confidential advocacy support services to youths and young adults who experience commercial sexual exploitation (also can be identified as sex/human trafficking or domestic minor sex trafficking) back in July 2015, YES to Hope! was able to add and utilize - thanks to innovative funding initiatives from the City of Tacoma - a drop-in space that is especially designated for YES to Hope! clients.

This drop-in space not only provides a safe, confidential, trauma-informed environment for clients or referrals to engage in YES to Hope! services, but it also allows them to have access to a modest computer lab, a supply of healthy snacks and beverages as well as an array of hygiene products that can either be used on-site in the shower facilities provided by the agency's all-gender bathroom or to take once they leave the drop-in center.

Recently, YES to Hope! has begun to offer its first round of an 8-week therapeutically led YES Group, which allows eligible YES to Hope! clients to participate in a weekly one-hour peer group that functions uniquely from a "support group" by allowing participants to interact in activities (art, writing, etc.) that are meant to help them reflect on themselves - their past, present and future. Participants are not required to disclose any information about their past or current life experiences, but through these exercises are encouraged to share how these activities and reflections impact them. This approach allows the participants to experience an environment where they may - for possibly the first time - engage in a safe, confidential dialogue with other peers with the aiding facilitation of a trauma-informed therapist.

We are proud to be able to utilize the YES to Hope! drop-in space as the setting for these weekly Group meetings and, upon completion of this first 8-week cohort, our goal is to continue facilitating ongoing YES Groups with new or continuing clients. It's atmosphere and amenities have proven to provide the comfortable and accommodating setting that clients can have a sense of ownership over, thus empowering them to access and utilize all YES to Hope! services as needed.

The 2nd Annual Jackson Edition MixxedFit Masterclass - All proceeds will go to Rebuilding Hope!

We are excited to announce that Antonio Evans, one of the instructors of MixxedFit® has organized the 2nd Annual Jackson Edition Masterclass, a fundraiser event that will benefit Rebuilding Hope! Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County. He will be using MixxedFit® as the dance fitness format for this event; a people-inspired dance fitness program that is a mix of explosive dancing and boot camp toning. This Masterclass will feature music by Michael Jackson & his siblings (Janet, Jackson 5, etc.). The decision to use Michael & his siblings as the featured music is because of Michael's well known contribution to Charity, and we wanted to do this event close to his birthday. (August 29th) Be prepared to have a good time with a 90 min workout for a great cause & we thank you in advance for your contributions. Tickets are \$15 (including ticket handling fees). It will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM at Center at Norpoint - 4818 Nassau Avenue Northeast, Tacoma, WA 98422.



*"Every 30 seconds,
another person becomes
a victim of Human
Trafficking."*



Advocacy Update

By Carlyn Sampson

Our Advocacy Department continues to provide 24 hour support through our Crisis, Information and Support Line to all those impacted by sexual violence. The amount of victim-survivors we help on a daily basis through emotional support as well as medical and legal advocacy is astounding and we would like to thank all of our trained advocates from the bottom of our hearts for all of the great work you do!

In recent weeks, especially with Sexual Awareness Month in April, we have been receiving more cooperation from the military and we were invited to attend the SHARP Summit (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention) along with the Junior Leadership SHARP Summit which included Junior NCOs. All in all, there were about 220 soldiers involved in the Summit. We discussed culture change and what the military is doing to help with culture change. Since then, we have seen an increase in soldiers utilizing our services. On a quarterly basis, the Advocacy Division will offer to coordinate opportunities with SHARP to provide in-person advocacy training to military victim advocates, which will instruct them on how to interact with victims, how to inform them of our services and how to collaborate with us.

Additionally, we have had more interaction with local colleges and universities including Pacific Lutheran University, University of Washington Tacoma Campus and Washington State University Tacoma Campus. We are getting our information set up on their websites under their student portals to connect students with volunteer and internship opportunities with us.

We continue to work closely with Washington Women's Correctional Facility and are starting to provide in-person advocacy services at the facility as well as at Remann Hall. Prevention education presentations will continue to be provided to youths detained at Remann Hall by our newly appointed Prevention Educator, Gracie Sedy, with assistance as needed by Carly Irvine.

Therapy Update

By Stephanie Sacks

We have been determined to see our success continue to rise to new heights with our therapy clients and are currently focusing on decreasing our Wait List, which is currently at 2 months. As more and more clients have insurance, we are working to be able to provide therapy to these clients using their insurance benefits. This is a lengthy process and as we attempt to determine what specific insurance most of our clients have, we will continually sign up our therapists with those companies so that clients can be seen here using their benefits without any complications. The more insurance clients we see, the more we will be able to increase our revenue to be able to hire on additional therapists and continue to see clients on a sliding fee scale.

Coming up on June 21st, 23rd, 28th and 30th from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM, we will be hosting the Basic Sexual Assault Awareness Training at the Tacoma Police Department. Experts from the following fields will be presenting: SACPC Directors, Law Enforcement, Forensic Examiner, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Mary Bridge Children's Advocacy Center and more. This training is required for all those interested in volunteering, working as an intern or serving as a victim advocate at Rebuilding Hope! and it is also open to other community members and professionals who are interested in becoming certified/recertified in Basic Sexual Assault Awareness. Fees for differing applicants are explained on the registration form, but questions regarding fees can be directed to Carlyn Sampson, Director of Advocacy and Prevention Education (carlyn@hopesacpc.org; 253-597-6424 ext. 3). All completed registration forms are due via e-mail, postal mail or delivered in person to our office by the close of business day on Monday, June 13.

The cost for this training is as follows: \$225/person; SACPC Advocates/Interns: \$75; Group Rate of 3 or more people from the same organization registering together: \$125/person. The registration form can be downloaded from our website under the "News and Calendar" tab.

Wish List:

- **Gift Card Donations of \$10 or less for multiple purposes**
- **Bus Passes**