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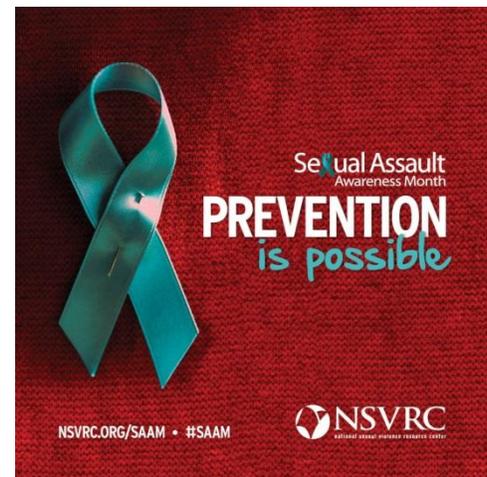
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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—Prevention is Possible

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.-April, 15th 2016– Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual assault and sexual violence is widespread and impacts every community member. Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact. Examples of sexual violence include: sexual assault, rape and sexual harassment.

- **Nationally**—1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted on campus during their time in college. Data shows that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives. Young people are more likely to experience sexual assault or rape.
- **In Wisconsin**-- It is estimated that 2 in 5 Wisconsin women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime and 1 in 5 Wisconsin women have experienced rape in their lifetime according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.
- **Right here in our community** the Family Support Center-Eau Claire Sexual Assault Outreach provided services to over 200 individuals affected by sexual violence in 2015.



Sexual violence does not just affect victims and their families, it is a community issue. It can cause feelings of fear, anger, and lack of trust for people in their workplace, campus, and community. There are also financial burdens to the community including: medical, mental health services and costs related to job loss, sick leave and more.

Prevention is possible when everyone gets involved. There are many things we can do to encourage safety and respect in our community.

- *Individuals* can be kind and respectful to their friends and family.
- *Businesses* can encourage positive messages and behaviors in the workplace.
- *Everyone* can get involved in local efforts! Consider joining Eau Claire Healthy Communities coalition efforts related to healthy relationship promotion. To learn more, visit www.ehealthycommunities.org or email healthy.communities@co.eau-claire.wi.us.

It's time for all of us to take action to create a safer community for all. For more information about Sexual Assault Awareness month, visit www.nsvrc.org/saam.

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