



Niagara County FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT Newsletter

Volume 1

February 2017

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"If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable—each segment distinct."

-Letty Cottin Pogrebin

WHAT IS FVIP?

The Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project (FVIP) is a coalition of agencies and organizations committed to addressing interpersonal violence and child abuse through collaborative responses, community education and professional training.

For nearly 20 years, FVIP has recognized the co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence and worked together to protect children and adults alike. Volunteer FVIP Steering Committee members set the FVIP's strategic agenda for training, collaboration, and networking for mutual support for a shared mission.

We are so excited to introduce our first FVIP Newsletter. We will be sharing news, events, and program highlights on a quarterly basis!

The FVIP is coordinated by the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara,

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. For more information go to www.cacofniagara.org and look for FVIP under the services tab or email cacofniagara@nfmcc.org

FVIP Meeting Dates and Topics— a free opportunity for learning and networking

All meetings take place at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Auditorium A or B at 9am.

March 17– Topic: Trauma-Informed Care, presented by Shelley Hitzel, MSW, CAC Sr. Case Worker

June 16– Topic– TBA

September 15– TBA

December 15–TBA

In the meantime, visit our website at <http://cacofniagara.org/services/family-violence-intervention-project/>

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Did you know...

Dating Violence CAN Happen to Anyone...

One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.

As a parent or guardian, it is important to learn the warning signs of dating violence...

Though 82% of parents feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents (58%) could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.

Learn more at loveisrespect.org

Data provided by: <http://www.loveisrespect.org/resources/dating-violence-statistics/>

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month Spotlight: Stewards of Children

Stewards of Children® is an evidence-informed child sexual abuse prevention, recognition, and intervention training. It is offered free of charge by the [Child Advocacy Center of Niagara](#), a service of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, with the support of the Niagara Area Foundation. Each attendee receives a reference workbook.

Darkness to Light *Stewards of Children* takes a direct and comprehensive approach to the problem of sexual abuse and is conducted by an authorized facilitator trained to implement this program.

The program integrates stories of sexual abuse survivors with the perspective of educators, counselors, youth sports, men-

tors, child advocacy, law enforcement, medical, and the faith community - those who interface daily with the problem of child sexual abuse

Statistics suggest that 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused by the age of 18 and the median age for reported sexual abuse is 9 years old. Ninety percent of the children who are sexually abused are violated by someone they know and trust. We know that ending child sex-



ual abuse takes a cooperative effort. When we prevent child sexual abuse, we address a root cause of social problems like violent crime, homelessness, teen pregnancy, health problems, and substance abuse.

Upcoming trainings- Please register at <http://nfmmc.org/classes-events/events> or call 285-0045

Lockport Public Library Community Room - Tuesday, 3/07, 2-4pm

North Tonawanda Public Library - Wednesday, 3/22, 2-4pm

Niagara Falls LaSalle Branch Public Library-Thursday, 3/23, 2-4pm



Research Corner- We are happy to provide you with recent research related to family violence



Study abstract

“Many adult survivors of childhood abuse hide their victimization, avoiding disclosure that could identify perpetrators, end the abuse, and bring help to the victim. We surveyed 1,679 women undergraduates to understand disclosure of childhood sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, and, for the first time, witnessed domestic violence, which many consider to be emotionally abusive. A substantial minority of victims failed to ever disclose their sexual abuse (23%), physical abuse (34%), emotional abuse (20%), and witnessed domestic violence (29%). Overall, abuse-specific factors were better predictors of disclosure than

individual-level characteristics. Disclosure of sexual abuse was related to experiencing more frequent abuse (by the same and by multiple perpetrators), being more worried about injury and more upset at the time of the abuse, and self-labeling as a victim of abuse.

Disclosure of physical abuse was related to experiencing more frequent abuse (by the same and multiple perpetrators), being less emotionally close to the perpetrator, being older when the abuse ended, being more worried and upset, and self-labeling as a victim. Disclosure of emotional abuse was associated with being older when the abuse ended, and being more worried and

upset. Disclosure was unrelated to victim demographic characteristics or defensive reactions (dissociative proneness, fantasy proneness, repressive coping style, and temporary forgetting), except that among physical and emotional abuse victims, repressors were less likely to disclose than nonrepressors.

Disclosure of witnessing domestic violence was not significantly related to any factors measured.”

Bottoms, B. L., Peter-Hagene, L. C., Epstein, M. A., Wiley, T. R. A., Reynolds, C. E., & Rudnicki, A. G. (2016). “Abuse characteristics and individual differences related to disclosing childhood sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and witnessed domestic violence.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 31(7), 1308-1339.

If you would like a PDF copy of the article, please email Dana Radatz at dradatz@niagara.edu.

Happenings Around Town...

Have an agency announcement, group dates or events to share?

Email lbachman@niagarafamily.org

Here is what is happening:



Wednesday, March 1

FVIP Painting Fundraiser Kids Party

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm,

Family & Children's Service of Niagara
1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls.

Cost is \$15. [Register online here.](#) or call Eileen Wrobel at 716-286-4570, ext 2.

Download the event flyer – [FVIP Painting with Spirit 2017.](#)

Wednesday, March 1 (and every first Wednesday in 2017 except July)

Gay Straight Alliance– a peer-led support group for 14-19 year olds who identify as lesbian, gay, bi, transgender

6-7:30pm at Family & Children's Service of Niagara, 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls

Sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Youth Services of WNY in partnership with Family & Children's

Tuesday, March 7

Stewards of Children

Lockport Public Library Community Room, 2-4pm. Please register at

<http://nfmmc.org/classes-events/events> or call 285-0045

Wednesday, March 22

Stewards of Children

North Tonawanda Public Library, 2-4pm
Please register at

<http://nfmmc.org/classes-events/events> or call 285-0045

Thursday, March 23rd

Stewards of Children

Niagara Falls Lasalle Branch Public Library, 2-4pm

Please register at

<http://nfmmc.org/classes-events/events> or call 285-0045

Thursday, March 24

Domestic Violence Academy

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, Auditorium A

621 Tenth Street

Niagara Falls, NY

For more information or to register: Call 285-0045 or

Email cacofniagara@nfmmc.org

Thursday March 30th

Take Back the Night

Niagara University

7-9pm at Upper Level Gallagher

Resource tables, poster making, program, campus march and candle light vigil. Come and take a stand against violence! \$1 admission

May 9th- "In Her Shoes"

Domestic Violence simulation.

10am-Noon

Family & Children's Service of Niagara
1522 Main St., Niagara Falls

RSVP to lbachman@niagarafamily.org or call Larissa at 285-6984

SAVE THE DATE!

**2017
Safe at Home
Conference**

**Thursday,
October 12,
2017**

**More Details to
Follow!**

"HATS OFF!" to...



Dr. Dana Radatz! Dr. Radatz came to Niagara University in August of 2015. In a short amount of time, Dr. Radatz has become an integral part of our community.

Dr. Radatz completed the needs assessments for the Niagara County Safe Harbor initiative and for our own FVIP. Dr. Radatz organized Niagara University's first Take Back the Night event, as well as the Red Flag Campaign featuring Niagara County DV survivor artwork. For both of these important events, Dr. Radatz collaborated with the Niagara County community. Dr. Radatz is also a member of the FVIP steering committee. We can't wait to see what she does next! Hats off to you, Dana!

FVIP

For more information about FVIP, go to www.cacofniagara.org and look for FVIP under the services tab or email cacofniagara@nfmmc.org

Check out our new FVIP logo, created by Eileen Wrobel!



**Domestic Violence
Hotline #s:
Passage (716) 299-0909
YWCA (716) 433-6716**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACADEMY

Domestic violence affects up to 25% of American households. Anyone who works with people encounters individuals who have experienced or been exposed to domestic violence.

This free beginner level domestic violence training will address the dynamics of domestic violence, trauma issues, identifying and responding to clients affected by violence in the home, the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children and resources available in Niagara County.

Join us for this
FREE training:
Thursday, March 24,
9:30 am – 11:30 am
Niagara Falls Memorial
Medical Center
Auditorium A
621 Tenth Street
Niagara Falls, NY

For more information or
to register: Call 285-0045 or
Email cacofniagara@nfmmc.org

Domestic Violence Academy
Presenters:
Susan LaRose, Domestic Violence Coordinator
Niagara County Sheriff's Office
Ann Marie Tucker, Director,
Child Advocacy Center
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

Sponsored by:
Niagara County Family
Violence Intervention Project



THE
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
OF NIAGARA

*A service of
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center*