



# Niagara County FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT Newsletter

Volume 2

February 2018

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### 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 16— Topic: Addressing Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care, presented by Shelley Hitzel**

More dates and information to follow. In the meantime, visit our website at <http://cacofniagara.org/services/family-violence-intervention-project/>

## Child Abuse Prevention

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. One in four children have experienced abuse or neglect at some point in their lives, according to the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. One in seven children experienced abuse in the past year.

Reports of child abuse and maltreatment continue to increase locally. Last year the Niagara County Department of Social Services investigated over 4,200 reports of child abuse and maltreatment.

Niagara County benefits from a long history of collaborative response to child abuse. Niagara County's Child Abuse Intervention Project (CAIP) is a multidisciplinary team of professionals from child protection, law enforcement, prosecution, medicine, victim advocacy, mental health treatment and the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

CAIP addresses the most serious forms of suspected child abuse and

maltreatment including sexual assault, physical injury, severe neglect, witnessing violence, child death and child trafficking. The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara provides a comfortable environment for investigative interviews, medical evaluation, therapy, advocacy and other support services. Professionals on the CAIP team are dedicated to protecting children and preventing further harm.

The entire community can play a role in protecting children from abuse and maltreatment. Protective factors are present in healthy families and healthy communities. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships between children and parents or other caregivers play a crucial role. Healthy relationships and environments help to support the long-term well-being of children.

Supports for parents, knowledge of positive parenting and child development, social connections and nurturing can all help.

For more information and prevention resources, visit our website at [www.cacofniagara.org](http://www.cacofniagara.org).

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Did you know...

- ◆ Every 98 seconds an American is Sexually Assaulted
- ◆ One in 5 women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives
- ◆ One in 5 women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college
- ◆ Rape is the most under-reported crime, 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police, only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to authorities.

It is important to know where to seek help. Learn more at: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

Data provided by: [https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications\\_nsvrc\\_factsheet\\_media-packet\\_statistics-about-sexual-violence\\_0.pdf](https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media-packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf)

## Spotlight: Women's History Month

"March is Women's History Month, a necessary awareness-raising month as the fight for equality continues. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), celebrates Women's History Month by honoring Susan B. Anthony, one of the founding mothers of our nation's feminist movement. Her legacy is monumental—to date, she remains only one of two women to have been featured on U.S. currency (the other being Sacajawea, who was integral to the completion of the Lewis and Clark Expedition).

Susan B. Anthony was a fierce crusader fighting for women's suffrage, the abolition of slavery, and temperance. It was her participation in the temperance movement that led to her staunch advocacy for women's suffrage: as a woman, she was barred from speaking at temperance rallies, despite her more than fifteen years of experience as a teacher. Anthony realized that no one would take women



seriously in politics if they were not allowed to vote.

Joined by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869, and traveled the country encouraging others to support women's suffrage. Despite pushback, Anthony refused to be silenced. While Anthony was never able to legally vote, her steadfast commitment paved the way for the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. Voting is a right that has been – and continues to be – denied to so many, both in the United States and around the world. While the Nineteenth Amendment granted all women the right to vote, it was many years until all women were able to fully exercise that right. For example, state laws prohibited many Black

women from voting in the South. It was not until the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s that Black women in this part of the country would truly be able to vote.

Like Anthony, we strive for a better, brighter, equal future.

NNEDV celebrates Anthony's legacy as a suffragist and encourages all Americans to be conscious of employing the rights she helped to ensure. The best way to honor the sacrifices that scores of suffragists made in the long fight for universal suffrage is through continued political engagement. As Anthony herself said, "...[T]here will never be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers." Now, a hundred years after receiving the right to vote in New York State, is more important than ever to highlight the importance of the suffrage movement and the on-going advocacy being done today.

Thanks Susan for Suffrage this Women's History Month. (2016, March 18). Retrieved from [https://nnedv.org/latest\\_update/susan-b-anthony-womens-history-month](https://nnedv.org/latest_update/susan-b-anthony-womens-history-month)



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



#### Study abstract

"Extant research overwhelmingly indicates that victim cooperation influences case outcomes in both sexual assault and intimate partner violence cases. However, no studies have examined cooperation decisions in intimate partner sexual assault (IPSA) cases. This study uses data on sexual assaults reported to Los Angeles Law enforcement in 2008 to address this

issue. Because the contextual factors associated with sexual assault can vary dramatically depending on the suspect-victim relationship, this study estimates a model of victim cooperation that includes factors unique to IPSA. Additionally, the current research discusses how police practices and perceptions likely interact with

victim characteristics to affect victim cooperation decisions. Quantitative findings are supplemented with qualitative analysis of the reasons victims reported for declining to cooperate."

O'Neal, E. N. (2016). Victim Cooperation in Intimate Partner Sexual Assault Cases: A Mixed Methods Examination. *Justice Quarterly*, 34(6), 1014-1043. doi:10.1080/07418825.2016.1244285

# Happenings Around Town...

Here is what is happening:



**Family & Children's Service of Niagara**

*Please Join Us:*

*Side by Side, Step by Step:  
An Awards Gala to Celebrate Our Journey*

*Friday, March 9, 2018  
6:00-9:00pm*

*DoubleTree by Hilton  
401 Buffalo Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303*

*\$60 per person includes food and open bar  
Please return payment with enclosed RSVP or visit us at  
niagarafamily.org and click on our event banner!*

*Thank you to our Signature Sponsor*



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Niagara County  
Family Violence  
Intervention Project



**Safe at Home**  
Conference

**Save the Date:**  
**Tuesday, October 16, 2018**  
**Niagara Falls, New York**



Have an agency announcement, group dates or events to share?  
Email [lbachman@niagarafamily.org](mailto:lbachman@niagarafamily.org)

**Wednesday, April 4th**  
**Take Back The Night**  
Niagara University  
Upper Level Gallagher  
6-8pm  
Resource tables, Program, Campus  
March & Candle Light Vigil.  
Come take a stand against violence!  
\$1 admission

**Thursday, April 19th**  
**Prevent Child Abuse Walk**  
5pm Rain or Shine  
Focus on Families Invites you to meet at the  
Oasis Shelter near Volleyball Courts  
Robins Drive, Niagara Falls



## WHAT IS FVIP

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

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.

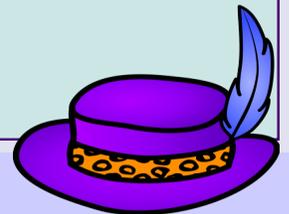
For nearly 20 years, FVIP has recognized the co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence and worked together to protect children and adults alike. Volunteer FVIP Steering Committee members set the FVIP's strategic agenda for training, collaboration, and networking for mutual support for a shared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

We are so excited to share the FVIP Newsletter with the community. 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.

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

## “HATS OFF!” to... Mary Brennan Taylor!



Mary Brennan Taylor is the Vice President of Programs at the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, a position she has held with the Agency for over 13 years. In this capacity Mary is responsible for the management and growth of the YW's crisis services programs. These include direct services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. With a staff of over 25 professionals, Mary works diligently to ensure that victims are provided a comprehensive range of services and programs across Niagara County from housing to hotlines. Mary has grown these services according to the community needs to include MOU's with local colleges and training for students, law enforcement, employers and the medical community. Mary is recognized as a state wide expert in the DV/SA field and is often called upon to speak both in the community and as an advocate in Albany. In her spare time, Mary is very involved in the community with Board seats at Niagara Hospice and LCTV and volunteers locally and nationally with the University at Buffalo Medical School, CDC and the Consumers Union speaking as a victims advocate about Hospital Borne Infections.

**Hats off to you, Mary!**