



Niagara County FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT Newsletter

Volume 4

March 2020

Inside this issue:

Child Abuse Prevention Month	2
Happenings Around Town	3
Toast Off	3
"Hats Off!"	4

FVIP Learn & Share Dates : a free opportunity for learning and networking

All meetings take place at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Auditorium A or B at 9am. Dates are tentative to change.

- **March 20-** Bikers Against Child Abuse
- **June 19-** LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency for Service Providers
- **September 18-** Sexual Health & Responsibility
- **December 18-** Maintaining Professional Boundaries

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

Take Back The Night 2020

Niagara University's **5th Annual Take Back the Night (TBTN)** event is scheduled for **Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 P.M.** Since the early 1970s, organizations and universities around the world have been holding TBTN events as a way to empower survivors and promote education and awareness around rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

The event co-organizers, Dr. Dana Radatz and Dr. Jennifer Beebe work collaboratively with many Niagara University departments and student organizations, as well as community sponsors, such as Pinnacle Community Services, the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Unit, and the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier. The

event will feature resource tables, poster making, and a short formal program. Following the program, participants will engage in a campus wide march, and end the evening with a candlelight vigil in the Niagara University Chapel.



The event admission is \$1 for students and \$5 for non-students. Hope to see you there!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Did you know...

- ◆ Every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted
- ◆ 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have reported experiencing some form of sexual violence during their lifetime
- ◆ 91% of reported victims of rape and sexual assault are female, nine percent are male
- ◆ 81% of women and 35% of men report significant short or long term impacts such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

The movement to end sexual violence begins with people willing to get involved, speak out and take a stand. This April, show the world you're getting involved. Join your communities, both in person and online, to help increase public awareness and to educate regarding sexual assault prevention **It is important to know where to seek help.**

Learn more at: www.nsvrc.org

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Key Facts & Statistics

- The most common type of maltreatment is neglect
- In Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018, about 4.3 million reports were made to Child Protective Services concerning the safety and well-being of approximately 7.8 million children
- Last year, an estimated 678,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect nationwide
- In 2019, The number of reported cases of child abuse and maltreatment for Niagara County was 4,125



Program Spotlight: Child Protective Services

There are an increasing numbers of families and children that are experiencing complex problems such as, substance abuse, domestic violence, marital discord, mental illness, and unemployment, which contribute to child abuse, maltreatment and neglect. Niagara County Child Protective Caseworkers are the first responders in the war on child abuse. Niagara County's Child Protective Services, law enforcement, Child Advocacy Center of Niagara and other community agencies band together in response to this crisis.

There are five units in two Niagara County offices (Lockport and Niagara Falls) that investigate complaints of abuse and maltreatment or neglect against children under the age of 18 years. Caseworkers initiate investigations within 24 hours after receiving a report from the hotline and are prepared to begin a complete safety assessment of the children involved.

Niagara County Department of Social Services has implemented the **Family Assessment Response (FAR)** program within their county. FAR is a program that responds to concerns about child abuse and neglect by:

- Focusing on child safety
- Avoiding negative labels for parents
- Setting aside the issue of fault
- Working in partnership with parents
- Identifying families' needs
- Building on parents and communities
- Providing services and resources matched to families' needs



Child abuse can be prevented by helping families cope with these complex challenges.

If you have suspicions of child abuse or neglect to report or you are concerned about the health or safety of a child, please immediately call:

The NYS Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-342-3720 , Mandated Reporters call 1-800-635-1522.

Happenings Around Town...

Here is what is happening:

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

Email lbachman@niagarafamily.org

Here is what is happening:



Friday, March 20th
Pinnacle Awards Gala
Wurlitzer Events

6-10pm

Tickets can be purchased by clicking the

event banner on

pinnaclecs.org

\$75/ticket

Thursday, April 2nd
Take Back The Night
Niagara University
Upper Level Gallagher

6pm

Resource tables, Program, Campus

March & Candle Light Vigil.

Come take a stand against violence!

\$1 admission students/ \$5 non-students

Friday, April 3rd
Paint the County Blue
Project 308 Gallery
North Tonawanda NY

6pm

\$20/ticket, preregistration required

RSVP to ewrobel@pinnaclecs.org

or call Eileen at 285-6984

Friday, April 17th
Paint the County Blue
Hyatt Place
Niagara Falls, NY

7pm, Happy Hour starts at 5pm

\$20/ticket, preregistration required

RSVP to ewrobel@pinnaclecs.org

or call Eileen at 285-6984

Wednesday, April 22nd

Paint the County Blue

Save The Michaels

Lockport, NY

6pm

\$20/ticket, preregistration required

RSVP to ewrobel@pinnaclecs.org or

call Eileen at 285-6984

Friday, April 24th

Walk A Mile

Niagara Community College

Around Noon

Friday, April 24th

Savvy Parenthood Baby Expo

Hyde Park Stone Room

Niagara Falls, NY

11am-2pm

“Toast Off to... Debbie Aloian!”



Debbie Aloian, Residential Care Coordinator for the Passage

Domestic Violence Program retired after almost 28 years with Pinnacle Community Services. Debbie has been an integral part of not only the Passage program, but also Pinnacle as a whole. Debbie started working for Passage in 1992 as a Resident Care Worker. In 2001, Debbie took over the role managing the Passage shelter. Since being hired back in 2001, her dedication to assisting survivors of abuse and their families has not wavered. Debbie's knack for establishing connections with the community is unprecedented. Many of those established relationships are still going strong today. Debbie has always been there to help survivors of abuse and their families, and was always willing to put in extra effort to find the help that person was in need of. Whether it was through phone calls, navigating individuals through various systems, or simply offering support, Debbie's passion to help shined through day after day. She has had an impact on hundreds of individuals throughout the community, spanning much farther than just Niagara County. Thank you for your years of dedication, Debbie! You will be greatly missed by many.

Happy Retirement, Debbie!



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.

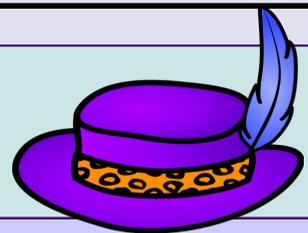
We are so excited to share the FVIP Newsletter with the community. We will be sharing news, events, and program highlights on a quarterly basis!

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/>

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

**“HATS OFF!” to...
Zonta International!**



Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. The Niagara Falls, New York club was chartered in May, 1924.

The Niagara Falls Club has supported many local service agencies in the community, including the Passage program. Zonta members have supported the Passage Program in more ways than one, even helping to paint the shelter when it first opened, nearly three decades ago. The club continues to collect personal care items, household items, gift cards and other necessities to support survivors of abuse and their families. This also includes their annual donation, towards the Fresh Start Fund, which was created to assist families in moving forward towards a life free from abuse. Recently, Zonta secured a grant to further these efforts. This is an example of the many ways Zonta partners with the community to empower women through service and advocacy.

Thank you, Zonta, for your ongoing support and dedication to this community!

Hats off to you, Zonta!!!