



September Newsletter

Transgender Persons & Violence (Part 2)

Special Dates

- Sept. 5: Volunteer Hours Due
- Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26— Trauma Informed Yoga @ Response, 11:00am
- Sept. 5: Volunteer Meeting @ 5:00pm
- Sept. 23: Wit-n-Waiter dinner
- Oct. 2: Candlelight walk, Woodstock @ 7:00pm

Urgent Needs!

- Individually packaged snack food
- Peanut Butter
- Twin sheet sets
- Umbrellas
- New Pillows
- Gift Cards (Walmart, Food Lion, Dollar General, Sheetz)

As we continue our exploration of transgender issues, let's look at the rates of violence against transgender people.

The [National Transgender Discrimination Survey](#) found that among those transgender respondents who had interacted with police, 6 percent had been physically assaulted and 2 percent had been sexually assaulted by police. Among black transgender people, 15 percent reported physical assault and 7 percent reported sexual assault by police. Additionally, 22 percent of those transgender people who had attempted to access shelters reported being sexually assaulted by either another person in the shelter or by shelter staff.

Respondents who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming during grades K-12 report significant rates of harassment (78%), physical assault (35%), and sexual violence (12%). **Of these respondents, more than half (51%) report having attempted suicide.**

The overwhelming majority (90%) of respondents report harassment and mistreatment at work.

In 2016, advocates [tracked](#) at least 22 deaths of transgender people in the United States due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded. Some of these cases involve clear anti-transgender bias. In others, the victim's transgender status may have put them at risk in other ways, such as forcing them into homelessness.

These statistics make it clear that such violence disproportionately affects gender non-conforming people and especially transgender women of color; the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other necessities. These barriers make them vulnerable in so many ways.

Abuse specific to the transgender population

In addition to the typical forms of abuse found in other relationships, there are specific forms of abuse that occur in relationships where one partner is transgender. Some of these include:

- Using offensive pronouns such as "it" to refer to the transgender partner.
- Ridiculing the transgender partner's appearance.
- Telling the transgender partner that he or she is not a real man or woman.
- Denying the transgender partner's access to medical treatment or hormones.
- Hiding the person's wigs, binders or hormones that help the person "pass".
- Purposefully "outing" a transgender person.

As we can see from the information above, the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault in the transgender community is a complex one. In our final segment next month we will look at barriers for this population and how we can serve them.

Survivor Story

Taylor Swift

In the news this month you may have been following the case of pop star Taylor Swift and former radio host David Mueller. The outcome may be seen as a win for women everywhere!

In June of 2013, Taylor accused Mueller of groping her during a meet-and-greet event. As a result of the accusation, Mueller was fired from his job as a radio DJ; he then sued Taylor, her mother, and a radio promotions director in 2015. In August of this year Swift filed a countersuit for assault and battery against Mueller ; the jury ruled in favor of Swift and awarded her a symbolic \$1 in damages.

Swift's hope is that the trial will "serve as an example to other women who may resist publicly reliving similar outrageous and humiliating acts."

Some of the more memorable quotes from the trial:

- *When attorney Gabriel McFarland claimed that Swift's skirt did not appear ruffled at the front in a photo where the incident was taking place, Swift responded: "Because my ass is located at the back of my body."*
- *Asked by his lawyers if he had groped her more than once she said: "Other than grabbing my ass against my will, underneath my skirt, and refusing to let go, he did not otherwise touch me inappropriately."*
- *She also refused to be bullied over the incident, insisting: "I am not going to allow your client to make me feel like it is anyway my fault because it isn't."*
- *She added: "I'm being blamed for the unfortunate events of his life that are a product of his decisions. Not mine."*



Kudos to Swift for speaking strongly against sexual assault. We at Response are pleased that Swift has joined our cause with a pledge to "help those whose voices should also be heard."

Volunteer Recap

Rubbermaid Sale



Early on the morning of Aug 5th a hardy group of volunteers and staff gathered in the parking lot of Belk in Winchester to help unload a tractor trailer full of Rubbermaid products. This monthly sale is a partnership between Rubbermaid, United Way, and a designated non-profit agency; this month it was our turn to benefit! The products which are donated by Rubbermaid are discontinued, slightly damaged, or returned products. Customers were lined up at the barriers before 8 a.m., ready to buy! The sales were intense for awhile, but the effort was worthwhile, as Response received over \$2500 from this fundraiser! Thanks to all involved!

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Training

Our next round of volunteer training has begun! Our group is small, but we have already learned a lot. We have completed 3 evenings of training, and will continue throughout the fall. If you know anyone who might want to complete this training during the winter and spring months, please have them contact Lynn McKee at 459-5599 or volcoor@shentel.net

Trauma Informed Yoga

We would like to express our condolences to Christine Wells on the passing of her father. Christine has been conducting our weekly yoga classes, which are enjoyed by clients and staff alike. She has taken some time off for healing, and we are hoping to welcome her back to the shelter to resume the classes in September. Please join us on Tuesdays, usually at 11:00. Schedule is subject to change, so please give a call before you come! We can all use a little self-care, and this is a great way to get it.



Wit-n-Waiter Wahoo

Preparations for our Wit-n-Waiter Silver Jubilee event are in full swing! Many hands have had a part in helping to make this fundraiser a success. Staff, board members, and volunteers have been busy gathering auction and raffle basket items, posting flyers throughout the towns, arranging food and drink, working with decorations, and many other tasks. Now we need guests to come and enjoy the event! Please think about folks that might enjoy this event and invite them to purchase a ticket. Or if you know of a group that would like to “buy” a table so that they could enjoy the event together, please direct them to our website, responseva.org, to make reservations soon! The more, the merrier!

Keep the Light Burning

Keep your ears open for more information about our “Keep the Light Burning” campaign coming in October. As you may know, October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and we will be kicking off this campaign on Oct. 2 with a candlelight walk through Woodstock. We will meet that evening at 7:00 at the town gazebo and will continue the walk through town. We are inviting various agencies, churches, and organizations to join us in the walk, as well as to participate in a photo campaign throughout the month; we are asking individuals and groups to pose with our “Keep the Light Burning” poster so that we can post these photos to our Facebook page. Think of some creative ways that you could join in and let us know how we can help!