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Contact: Jessica Shomper, Prevention Coordinator
1-877-739-3895 x119

2007 Awards for Sexual Assault Awareness Month Announced by National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Enola, PA (April 11, 2007) During April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), anti-sexual violence advocates and organizations focus their efforts on raising awareness nationwide. They hold special events and campaigns to draw attention to sexual violence as a major public health issue.

The NSVRC's 2007 campaign theme for SAAM is Prevent Sexual Violence...in our communities. Over 125 events are registered on the national calendar including 37 screenings of the documentary No! Confronting Sexual Assault in our Communities.

Annually the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) also recognizes programs and individuals working to end sexual violence.

The 2007 National Award for Outstanding Response to and Prevention of Sexual Violence goes to recipients in the field of sexual violence prevention and intervention who have demonstrated commitment and innovation in their ongoing work at the national level. They are:

- Susan Vickers, of the Victim Rights Law Center, works to improve the lives of sexual assault survivors through her consistent dedication to training civil attorneys who aid these victims.
- Robert Franklin, of the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Injury and Violence Prevention, creates and manages social marketing campaigns to reduce statutory rape and sexual coercion.
- STAND & SERVE, a project of Peer Solutions, cultivates positive social change with middle and high school students by uniting schools, families and communities through peer educational programs.

Additionally, each year NSVRC invites state, territory and tribal coalitions to submit nominations for the NSVRC's Award for Outstanding Advocacy and Community Work

in Ending Sexual Violence. This award recognizes individuals who are doing outstanding work within their local communities, state or territory. In 2007 the award honors fourteen (14) recipients including directors, client services coordinators and community educators from throughout the country. A complete list of awardees is available on the NSVRC website.

Karen Baker, NSVRC Director, said "what an honor it is to recognize some of our inspiring heroes – people who are working tirelessly to make our world safer by preventing sexual violence."

The NSVRC provides resources and information on sexual violence. Phone toll free: 877-739-3895 or visit www.nsvrc.org <<http://www.nsvrc.org/>>