



Wabanaki Women's Coalition

April 2018 Newsletter

Kwey Relatives...

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is recognized for raising public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. This year, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is celebrating its 17th anniversary with the theme, “Embrace your Voice/Your Voice has Power” to encourage individuals to use their voices to stand up against victim blaming, jokes about rape, and harmful misconceptions. The theme also emphasizes the power of one’s voice to promote respect, safety and equality to put an end to sexual violence by supporting survivors, promote everyday consent, respect boundaries, and practice healthy communication with others.



What is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence occurs when someone is forced or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity without their consent. Some reasons why a person might not consent to such activity could be due to age, fear, disability, illness, and/or influence of drugs or alcohol. Chances are that you know someone who is a survivor of sexual violence. Our words affect others whether we use them to speak up against rape culture and sexual violence or support a survivor. Often times, survivors listen to others’ opinions and attitudes before deciding to trust them with their personal stories of survival. Each and every voice is powerful and necessary in order to promote a culture that is free from sexual violence.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Scheduled Activities

Saturday, April 7th: 11:00am to 5:00pm. Come visit the Penobscot Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center's table at the Wabanaki Spring Social. Fill out a survey for a chance to win a prize! Location – Anah Shriners Building, 1404 Broadway, Bangor.

Tuesday, April 10th: 6:00pm. Movie night viewing of “Wind River” (adult content) organized by the Penobscot Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Location – 2 Down Street, Indian Island.

Saturday, April 14th: 10:00am to 12:00pm. Sexual Assault Awareness Community Brunch hosted by the Maliseet Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Location - Maliseet Gym

Thursday, April 19th: 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Helping Hands – Show us your SAAM Nails! Have your nails painted Teal in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Organized by the Penobscot Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Location – 2 Down Street, Indian Island.

Thursday, April 19th: 4:00pm. Sexual Assault Awareness Social and Potluck organized by the Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Location – ABM Council Chambers.

Saturday, April 21st: 5:00pm to 8:30pm. Potluck and Social organized by Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Location - Pleasant Point Youth & Recreation Building/Bingo Hall.

Wednesday, April 25th: Jeans with a Purpose #DenimDay #NoExcuse. Denim Day is an event in which people are encouraged to wear jeans in order to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault.

Wednesday, April 25th: 12:00 noon. Maliseet Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center Jeans with a Purpose #DenimDay #NoExcuse. Denim Day is an event in which people are encouraged to wear jeans in order to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault. Location - Maliseet Gym

Thursday, April 26th: 6:00pm. Movie night viewing of “Home Truth” (adult content) organized by the Penobscot Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Location – 2 Down Street, Indian Island.

Thursday, April 26th: 5:00pm. Join the Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center for rock painting, pizza, and a walk in recognition of April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Participants will be entered into a raffle for prizes! Location – Indian Township Tribal Office.



Serving Our Partners



Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-532-3000

24 Hour Crisis Line: 207-532-6401



Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-796-6106

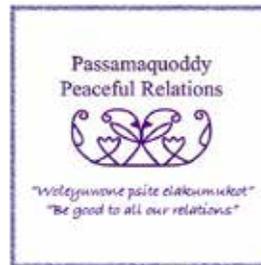
24 Hour Support Line: 207-214-1917



Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-817-3164

24 Hour Support Line: 207-817-4886



Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-853-0092/0093

24 Hour Support Line: 1-877-853-2613



Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-760-0570

24 Hour Hotline: 207-551-3639

The WWC Launches its FaceBook Page!



The WWC recently launched its FaceBook page to provide information, prevention and intervention tips, and resources regarding domestic and sexual violence, stalking, dating violence and sex trafficking. Please “Like” and visit our page to receive updates on the WWC as well as updates on activities organized by the Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers!

New WWC Office Location!



Donna Brown is pictured here unlocking the door to the new office for the Wabanaki Women's Coalition.

The new office is located at the UpStart Center for Entrepreneurship which is located at 20 Godfrey Drive in Orono, Maine.

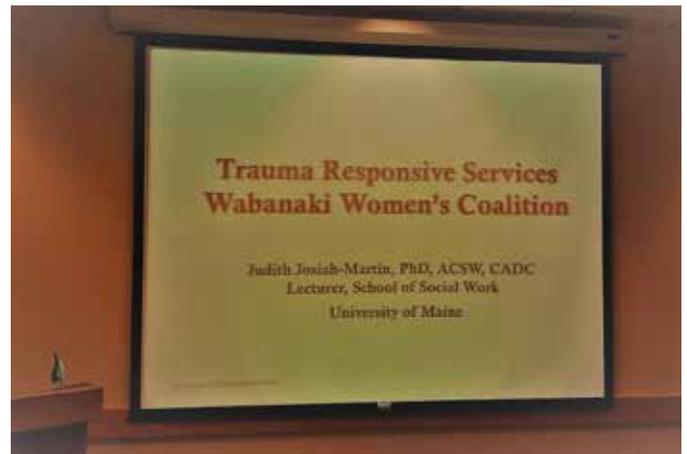
Trauma Responsive Training

The Wabanaki Women's Coalition organized Trauma Responsive Training for the staff of the 5 Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers. Attendees included tribal staff from law enforcement, education system, social services, behavioral health, IHS and child welfare. Advocacy center staff from Next Step, Hope and Justice, as well as Partners for Peace were in attendance, as well as staff from the Houlton Police Department, Aroostook County Sheriff's office, Maine DHHS, and Wabanaki Public Health.

The featured speaker was Judith Josiah-Martin. Judith is an experienced social work clinician, educator and administrator who brings an extensive knowledge of programs and interventions that have been effective in assisting health care practitioners and mental health workers in enhancing service delivery to individuals and families.

As a clinical social worker and a certified alcohol and drug counselor, she teaches full-time at the University of Maine School of Social Work, and is a Research Advisor for the MSW program at Smith College.

She has co-authored book chapters and numerous articles on women and addiction, and specializes in providing trainings on trauma, substance use and related disorders, diversity and cultural competence in physical health and mental health service delivery.



Houlton Regional Hospital Training. L-R Sarah DeWitt, Judith Josiah-Martin, Cathy St. John, Jessica Huff, Tanya Raymond, Donna Brown



Indian Island Training Group Photo.

Training objectives included the following:

To explore trauma and its relationship to prevalent mental health concerns, disabilities, delinquency, family violence, and substance abuse;

To review sources of individual and organizational trauma;

To examine the triangulation of trauma, violence, and loss of control;

To examine the question, Can workers and organizations be violent even when pledging to help others?;

To learn about a specific model for trauma responsive care for individuals and organizations.

Woliwon -Thank you



Trauma Responsive Services Training Group Photo. Washington County Community College, Friday March 30, 2018.



Washington County Community College L-R Nancy Soctomah, Desiree Tyrrell, Judith Josiah-Martin, Donna Brown.

DV Day at the State House

On February 20th, the Wabanaki Women's Coalition joined the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) and its member organizations at the annual Domestic Day at the State House event. Advocates from the various organizations met in the Hall of Flags to talk with policy makers about how we connect with people affected by abuse in our communities. The theme this year was "Through Our Doors." Key messages that were communicated with legislators included:

- There are many "doors" through which people connect with our services.
- Those doors are interconnected. (For example, someone may call looking for shelter, but through that door they also find legal advocacy, a support group, and a connection to another resource.
- The needs of the people with whom we work are complex and multi-layered. Our method of connecting folks—no matter through which door they come—to as many other doors as possible, is an efficient and effective way to address their needs.
- If we close any of the doors, we have a ripple effect on people accessing other services and sources of help.



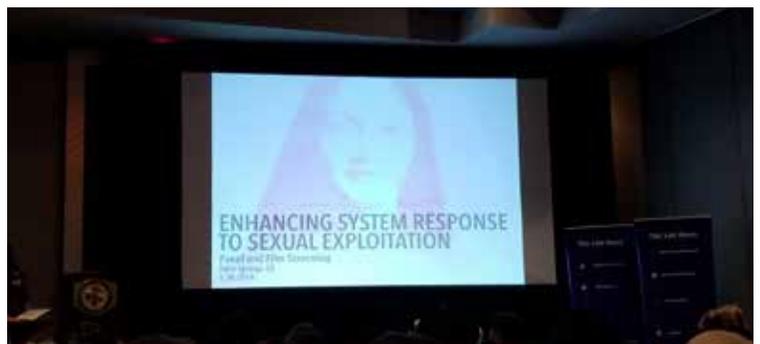
WWC Attends National Conference

On January 30th and 31st, the Wabanaki Women's Coalition attended the Strengthening Sovereign Responses to Sex Trafficking in Indian Country Conference in Palm Springs, California.

This conference was organized by the Office of Violence Against Women and TA Providers: Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Mending the Sacred Hoop. Conference highlights included key issues to improve response to American Indian/Alaska Native survivors of sex trafficking.

Some of the workshops included the following:

- Tribal Leadership: Examining our own Community
- Indian Gaming: Human Trafficking in Indian Country
- Trauma-Informed Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Judges/Prosecution: Victim Trauma and its Impact on
- Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault
- Don't Buy It Project: It Takes a Whole Community
- Working with LGBTQ and Two Spirit Survivors
- Working with Survivors with Disabilities
- Developing a Collaborative Response: Federal Prosecution Options for Law Enforcement Working with Advocates



February: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center hosted an evening of discussion and dream catcher making with Tribal youth and their parents/guardians. The evening consisted of discussions on teen dating violence types and overview, healthy relationships and boundaries, and also a presentation on cyber safety and sexting provided by Wendy Page from AMHC's Sexual Assault Response Services.

After the presentations were completed participants were invited to make a dream catcher with the help of Amy Joseph from Gedakina and Donna Brown from the Wabanaki Women's Coalition. This allowed youth and their parents/guardians to spend time together while working on a cultural activity which helped to encourage better lines of communication.

A total of 23 participants attended this event. For some participants, this was the first time they had an opportunity to make a dream catcher! The Maliseet Advocacy Center staff hopes that participants had an enjoyable evening and left with a better understanding of teen dating violence, healthy boundaries and relationships, red flags and the importance of reaching out for help.



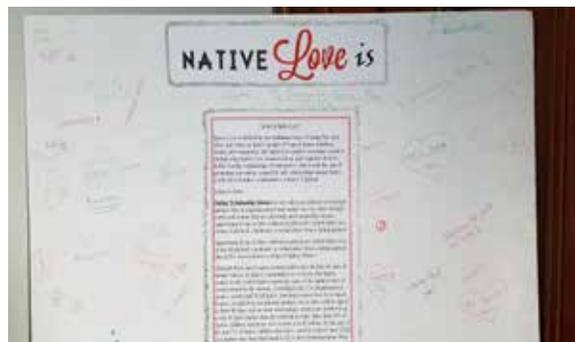
Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

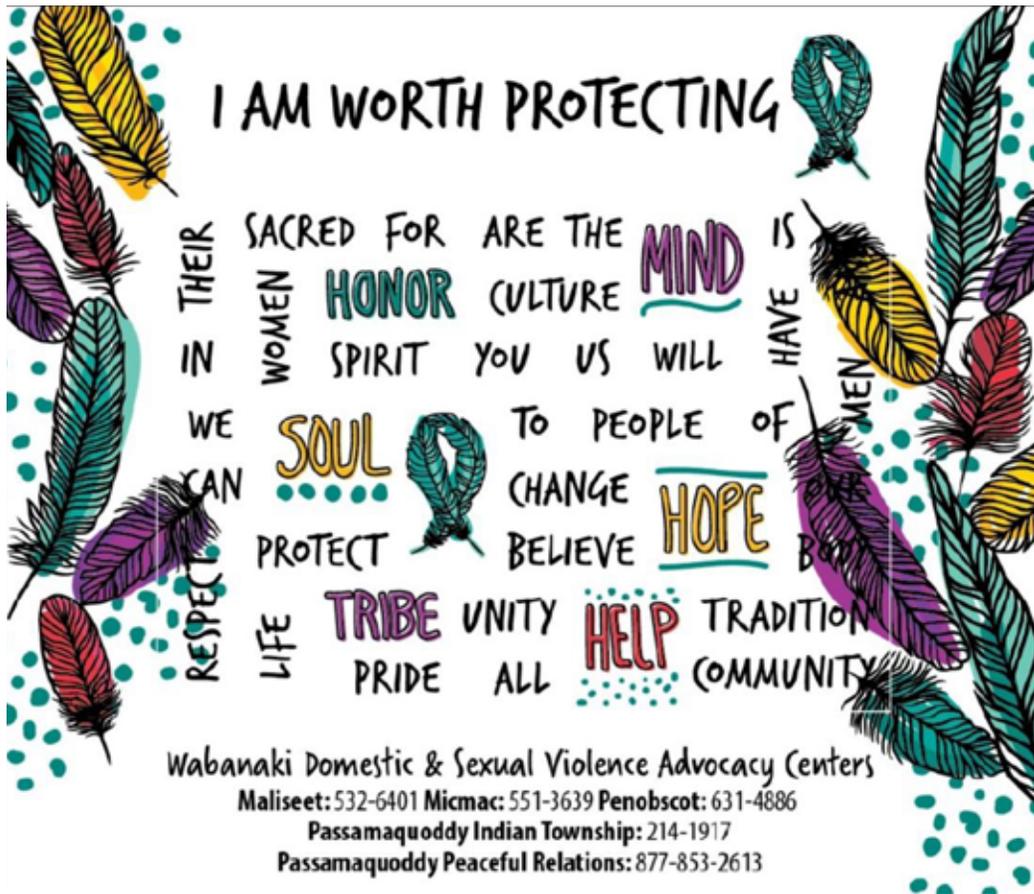
Healthy Me, Healthy We! A Journey of Self-Love, Strength and Positivity. This TDVAM activity was organized by the Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center, and included a fun night of education, pizza and ice skating at the Presque Isle Forum.

Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Potluck and Social

Organized by the Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center, teens from the various Wabanaki communities gathered for the week during the inter-tribal youth gathering. Youth had an opportunity to participate in educational activities on the topic of TDVAM, healthy boundaries and relationships, while also defining what Native Love means to them.





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