

Assault forums to discuss barriers to help

Posted Thursday, August 16, 2007

The Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault invites individuals who identify with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or gay-questioning community to join one of two focus groups at anonymous, confidential and comfortable locations.

The groups will address the barriers experienced in obtaining services in the areas of health care, medical, legal or law enforcement.

The first meeting will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at LaCASA/Zacharias Center 4275 Old Grand Avenue, Gurnee. The second meeting will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 11 at the College of Lake County Grayslake campus in Room C003.

The purpose of these focus groups is to work together to gain a greater understanding of what additional services are needed in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gay-questioning community and what LaCASA/Zacharias Center can do to help.

To register or for information, contact Sandie Heraver at (847) 244-1187, ext. 25 or via e-mail to sheraver@LacasaStopRape.org. For more information, visit www.lacasastoprape.org.

Men's Initiative: The Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault, LaCASA Zacharias Center in Gurnee, has a new program, the Men's Initiative.

This program supports the belief that men can and should be part of the solution to ending sexual violence.

The program's mission is to support men in all efforts to end sexual violence, make social change, mentor men and boys to promote safe, respectful relationships and educate and mobilize the community toward action to end male-dominated violence.

Over the next year, LaCASA will be recruiting men in Lake County and beyond. Recruitment will take place in civic and community groups, colleges, businesses, faith-based groups and within law enforcement and medical personnel.

LaCASA will provide training to help prepare men for their role as educators and mentors. Participants will then be asked to use their skills in order to make change possible. Training includes but is not limited to, types of sexual violence, myths and stereotypes around rape, prevalence, how to support someone who's been assaulted and what a victim might experience from the emergency room to the courtroom.

LaCASA's objective is to have participants equipped with awareness, training and resources to go into their communities and ask other men to look at alternatives to violence against women, girls and boys. They'll encourage young men and boys to challenge their thinking in regards to objectifying women and children and trivializing the

violence against them.

For more information, call LaCASA Zacharias Center at (847) 244-1187 and ask for Wendy Ivy, the program coordinator of volunteers and training.

dailyherald.com