



Dawn Radcliffe-Snell sings for the first time in front of an audience at LaCASA's 5th Annual Women Helping Women luncheon sponsored by Medline Industries, Inc. A record crowd of nearly 600 people were moved by her courageous performance, which was the highlight of the event which raised more than \$80,000.

*LaCASA thanks Photographer Kathy Weinstein for donating her time and talents which helped capture the spirit of our Women Helping Women event.

The Zacharias Center: Truly A Healing Place....

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE TWELVE YEARS OLD?

Children should be seen and not heard,
Grandpa, he'd say that with a slow Southern slur,
and Grandma'd be fryin', too busy to know
grandkids underfoot on that throw rug below
And I remember she gave me a toy ring
if I'd sit quietly and not say a thing
I was so starved, glad she saw me at all
I sat really still and watched that sun slowly fall

What do you do when you're six years old
and you've been taught to do as you're told
and the preacher man says be really good
listen to your parents and do like you should
and the teacher says adults know right
then your Daddy whispers in your ear at night
Don't tell a soul Well, that's how it goes when
you do as your told and you're six years old

I loved that ring my grandma gave to me
it was so very shiny and I cried to see
it lay in my palm, it didn't last long
on the ride with my parents it broke before a
song played on the radio, that dial glowing red
and I remember what my momma said
Oh honey, it's only a ring, don't be sad,
you might wake the baby and that'd be real bad

What do you do when you're nine years old
and you've been taught to do as you're told
and the preacher man says be really good
listen to your parents and do like you should
and the teacher says adults know right
then your Daddy whispers in your ear at night
Don't tell a soul Well, that's how it goes when
you do as your told and you're nine years old

Well I curled into a ball and I fell asleep and my
daddy, he carried me in a little girl heap up to
my room, the broken ring fell to my bed, he
whispered in my ear and I remember what he said
You're my girl and I need you, to protect the
family and what he meant (Oh God) I knew
I had learned to be quiet and I tried not to cry
but then what do you with all that hurt inside?

What do you do when you're twelve years old
and you've been taught to do as you're told
and that preacher man says you be really good
you listen to your parents, you do like you should
and the teacher, she says adults know right
and then your Daddy, he whispers in your ear at night
Oh, he's lost his soul And nobody knows when
you're all alone and you are twelve years old.

- music & lyrics by Dawn Radcliffe, ©2007
Song can be heard on our website: www.LacasaStopRape.org

"Unless you have been through it, you can't understand how important LaCASA is." Dawn Radcliffe-Snell

Voices and Spirits Soar at Women Helping Women Event



“Every day we see extraordinary acts of courage,” said Alice Vachss, former NYC sex crimes prosecutor who served as keynote speaker for Women Helping Women (center in red jacket). “Today’s event (WHW 2007) is all about saluting the courageous women in our lives who stand up for themselves and others. I’m inspired and grateful to be among them.”

Women Helping Women event Co-chairs Dawn Welker and Sherri Ballard enjoyed the camaraderie and amazing energy that resulted from their planning and hard work.



“Our staff did an amazing job of serving as tour guides for Women Helping Women event visitors,” said LaCASA’s Executive Director Torrie Flink. “Providing everyone with a detailed view of The Zacharias Center’s calm, beautiful and peaceful environment was an important element of the event, because this is where healing takes place.”



Anita Padilla, who now reports for WFLD-TV FOX 32 continued her support of LaCASA by serving as our guest emcee for the third consecutive year.



Liz & Dick Uthlein and “Uncle” Jon Mills



Silent Auction Chair Nan Streicker and bidder.

“I come to this event every year to hear the survivor stories,” said LaCASA volunteer Alison Kollof. “They always move me enough to keep doing all that I can do to help this incredible organization.”

Sponsorship and Fellowship Resulted in Amazing Success



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“Aunt” Marilyn Lustbader



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People Who Make A Difference

LaCASA Thanks Volunteer Medical Advocate Lori Pease for 12+ Years of Service

Please join us in saluting Volunteer Medical Advocate Lori Pease who, for the past 12+ years has provided the incredibly important role of serving as an On-Call Medical Advocate for sexual assault and abuse survivors. After completing LaCASA's comprehensive volunteer training in 1994, Pease briefly split her time between answering our 24-hour hotline and serving as a first-response medical advocate. A few months later, she became a full-time volunteer medical advocate - one of the most daunting, yet profoundly important volunteer roles that anyone can accept.

It meant being on-call 12 hours a day, 4-5 days each week to be with sexual assault and abuse survivors in hospital emergency rooms. "When you're on-call you have to drop whatever you're doing and rush to a hospital to ensure a survivor is not re-victimized by the medical and police examination," Pease explained. "Every client and their situation is different, and you never know what you'll have to deal with until you get there," Pease said. "The challenge is bringing together everything you've been taught by LaCASA and everything you have learned working with survivors, to help people get through this terrible experience with the least trauma possible."



Pease, who is reluctantly stepping away from her volunteer duties with LaCASA after accepting a new job that makes it impossible for her to continue, is considering ways she can remain active in the organization, such as possibly serving as a board member or on special events committees if possible in the future. "The highlights of my time with LaCASA have been the people that I've met who have demonstrated their commitment," Pease stated. "We go into this to serve the clients, and every so often one of them will tell us that we have made a difference. That means a lot."

USA WEEKEND Says Waukegan Teen Makes A-Difference In Fight Against Sexual Abuse

Alicia Conover, 18, of Waukegan was cited by USA WEEKEND and the Points of Light Foundation for her LaCASA service project last fall. Conover, whose name appeared in USA WEEKEND, organized REAL Kids CARE, a youth leadership group that works with LaCASA to raise awareness and funds to help heal young victims of sexual violence.



"CARE stands for Creating a Rape-Free Environment," said Conover, who rounded up about 15 youth volunteers to put on "A Reason to Roll" bowling fundraiser at Bertrand Bowling Lanes on Make-A-Difference-Day 2006. The event, which raised over \$1,000 for LaCASA, featured bowling, a costume party, dancing and food.

"We wanted to raise money for kids who need counseling, and it was important for us that it be a youth-run thing," said Conover, who explained that her goal is to give victims of sexual abuse hope, to let them know they are not alone and not at fault. "Children who have lost everything will again have a future because of this project," she said.

A member of the National Honor Society, a Schuler Scholar, and president of her class, Conover is also a survivor of sexual abuse. "I have seen first-hand how sexual abuse destroys lives," she stated on her Make-A-Difference-Day submission. "It is devastating how many people go unhelped, and how many beautiful lives are thrown away because of it. I want to wake up my world and help victims become survivors."

Alicia, who one day hopes to start a global foundation to fight sexual abuse, will utilize a full scholarship to attend Brown University this fall, where she will major in international peace relations and civil rights advocacy.

Se Habla Espanol? No Hay Problema Aquí.

Lake County has one of the fastest growing Hispanic populations in the Midwest. So it is no surprise that LaCASA has seen a dramatic increase in the number and variety of cases involving Spanish-speaking individuals and families. As part of our efforts to provide bi-cultural services, we have sought to add qualified and motivated bilingual professionals to our staff. As a result, 25% of our staff is bilingual, including two recently added team members: Maritza Treviño, Crisis Intervention Advocate for medical advocacy (left in photo) and Lori Viera, Bilingual/ Bi-cultural Counselor (on right) > Also pictured is LaCASA's new Legal Crisis Intervention Advocate Michelle Minarcik (center) who is not bilingual, but is equally excited about becoming a part of LaCASA's Client Services team.



"LaCASA is an inspiring place because it's obvious everyone here cares very deeply," said Treviño, who was previously a juvenile counselor at a youth detention center. "Several teenagers told me they were victims of sexual assault and abuse, and said the toughest thing was not having anyone they could confide in." By coordinating LaCASA's 120 medical and hotline advocates, Treviño is making sure there's always someone on-call when survivors need help. "I'm inspired by our volunteer advocates, who are driven to help however and whenever people need information or assistance."

Viera, who serves as LaCASA's primary contact with Spanish-speaking counseling clients, says it's heartwarming to see evidence that Hispanics are "coming out of the closet" and starting to address the truths about sexual abuse in their community. "It's amazing to be able to introduce people in need to LaCASA; a place that is so calm, safe and designed for spiritual healing. Upon entering the Zacharias Center, it's immediately evident this is a place where healing begins. Caring and compassion are not things you can fake...and people notice them as soon as they walk in our door."

Speaking Out



Anne Ream, founder of "The Voices and Faces Project" and keynote speaker at LaCASA's 2006 Women Helping Women luncheon, wrote an editorial piece that appeared in The Chicago Tribune's June 17th issue.

Entitled "The Duke LaCrosse Case: Cheers can't drown out painful truths," the entire piece can be read at Ream's website www.voicesandfaces.org. Excerpts from the letter follow:

We may never know everything that occurred on the night of March 13, 2006, when the Duke lacrosse players threw a team party at an off campus house. But what we do know is troubling enough. Photos taken at the party show two young women, hired to perform by the players, dancing at the center of a group of largely drunken and leering men.

The North Carolina Attorney General's own report details how one of the lacrosse players held up a broomstick during the night's events, suggesting that the women use it as a "sex toy." Another player sent a chilling group email just hours after the party, musing about bringing in more "strippers" while "cutting off their skin and ejaculating." And witnesses reported hearing racial slurs lobbed by partygoers.

To be fair, individual acts do not implicate the entire lacrosse team. Misogyny is not illegal. And none of these ugly events constitute a criminal act. But they stand as a testimony all their own, a window into a world where "good" men engage in troubling - and sometimes troubled - behavior.

Every public rape case exists in two spaces: in the practical, "law and order" world where it works its way through an imperfect system, and in the public imagination, where it exists symbolically, a Rorschach test of our values and beliefs. It is not only the specifics, but also the symbolics of the Duke case that remain troubling. They serve to remind those who come forward with rape charges that they will pay a steep and very public price for the chance to be heard.

Millions of rape victims, the majority of whom never report the crime, much less see legal justice, watched silently as this case unfolded, thinking about how they might have fared under such scrutiny. That the accuser gave conflicting statements to the police is not unusual. A victim's statements, particularly in the wake of a traumatic attack, can be confused and inconsistent. Memory is resolutely imperfect over time and under the duress of repeated questioning.

Our cultural response to rape leaves its victims in the cruelest of double binds: they must choose between coming forward, which carries the risk of being blamed, and remaining silent, which carries the risk of isolation. It is a silence that damages more than the victim. It strikes a blow to our public safety as well, since unreported sexual violence allows perpetrators to violate again. The myth of the "false report" of rape must be replaced by this truth: it is underreporting, not false reporting, that poses the greatest risk to our families and our communities. It is silence that is the enemy of change.

Lynn Osborn, LaCASA's Associate Director, wrote a Letter to the Editor in response to Anne's piece, which appeared in The Chicago Tribune on June 24th.

One painful truth from the Duke LaCrosse Case is that we are a society that doesn't value or respect one another. This devaluation is amplified in groups and gets even louder when the group is a group of men and the target is women. It may be true that these men did not rape this woman but what is clear, is that we live in a rape culture. A rape culture perpetuates the belief that women are inferior and available for men's pleasure; either in the form of physical rape or through verbiage or gestures that are humiliating.

Our culture tolerates the dehumanization of women and in fact profits from it as for example in the use of degrading imagery of women in advertising. These men may be innocent of rape but they are not innocent. An environment was sought and created by these men that night which is injurious to women. There are varying degrees of innocence. I submit that as long as society (you and I) tolerates living in a rape culture, our innocence will remain questionable.

Polance Creates Art For Healing Self and The Planet; Judith Dawn Memorial Fund recipient a Cool Globe Artist

Joyce Polance is one of the artists participating in Chicago's "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet," an innovative project that uses the medium of public art to inspire individuals and organizations to take action against global warming. The exhibit features over 100 sculpted globes, each five feet in diameter, (including Joyce's entry entitled "Green Vehicles") which are displayed along Chicago's lake-front from The Field Museum north to Navy Pier. You can also view her artwork at www.jpolance.com and can see her globe (#123) on the www.coolglobes.org website.



She is, like Dawn Radcliffe-Snell (see cover), a recipient of a grant from the Judith Dawn Memorial Fund for survivors of sexual abuse. Ms. Polance actually received two grants that helped pay for her studio rent at a critical time in her career. She is currently represented by the Gwenda Jay/Addington Gallery in Chicago. Questions, applications for artist funds, and donations to support the ongoing efforts of the Judith Dawn Memorial fund for the Arts are welcome. For details, visit www.LacasaStopRape.org resources section.

Thank You to LaCASA's Donors

We wish to gratefully acknowledge the following individual and tribute donors **for the second half of FY07 from Jan 1st to June 30th, 2007.** This list does not include ticket purchases or contributions to special events. Although every attempt has been made to list each contribution, errors do sometimes occur. Thank you for your understanding and generosity.

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Linda Saslow, in memory of Michelle Bergman's mother
Linda & Dick Saslow, in memory of Heidi
Paul Schultz, in honor of Ric & Elise Potenz
Cheryl Singley, in honor of Sue Kessler

LaCasino Royale/007 in 2007

Pierce Brosnan, Sean Connery, Daniel Craig... Not a single one will be attending this year's fall fundraiser, LaCasino Royale.



Even so, our guests can count on plenty of Monte Carlo-style excitement with wonderful food and music. The event is presented by LaCASA's Aunts & Uncles with underwriting by our ace fundraising special agents, Morris Belzberg and Jon Mills - spies who love us.

This year's volunteer co-chairs are John and Connie Klein and Michele Jenks. Along with casino-style gambling and great food, there will be both a live and a silent auction. We cordially invite you to come and "wager with your hearts".



The elegant Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park was so popular last year that we are returning. Date: Saturday, September 15th. Open bar. Seats are limited. Contact Linda West at 847.244.1187.

Thank you Aunts & Uncles! Club Tops 100!

For the first time since the Aunts & Uncles Club was created in 1999, membership in the special donor program has surpassed the 100 mark. We now have 105 LaCASA Aunts & Uncles!



Aunts & Uncles Club members each pledge a minimum of \$1,000 annually to support our programs for child survivors of sexual abuse. These include crisis intervention with survivors and family members, medical and legal advocacy, counseling, and art therapy, as well as our all-important prevention work in schools.

Statistics show that one-in-three girls and one-in-six boys will be sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. Aunts & Uncles help LaCASA provide for the long-term well being of children traumatized by sexual abuse. We know that if we can see child survivors, we can relieve their immediate symptoms and help prevent crippling or life-threatening problems in adulthood.

Rummage Sale Redux

LaCASA/Zacharias Center's dedicated and tireless **Second Hand Roses** are currently collecting for the annual rummage sale on Saturday mornings from 9-12 Noon at the rear of the building, 4275 Old Grand Avenue in Gurnee.

Tax deduction letters are available when donations are dropped off. Furniture is the type of item most prized by the committee because they offer the greatest profitability. So please think about us before you get rid of used furniture. We cannot accept computers, medical equipment, printers, fax machines or items that need repair.



LaCASA's three-day sale runs September 28-30th. For more information please call 847. 244.1187 ext. 15.

Annual Dinner at Trustmark, Inc.

"It is my favorite event," Torrie Flink, executive director of The LaCASA/Zacharias Center. "It's for family." Low key, low stress - it's all about the gratitude of this organization for the hard work of its volunteers and staff.



This year's dinner will be held in the beautiful lobby of Trustmark Inc. in Lake Forest on October 8th.

"Trustmark's foundation has been a generous supporter of our unique programs and services for many years," Flink points out. "We are delighted to be celebrating in their inspiring workplace."

Volunteers with any questions can contact Wendy Ivy at 847.244.1187.

Women's Resource Fair Supports LaCASA

The LaCASA/Zacharias Center is honored to have been chosen as this year's charity beneficiary from the ticket sales to the Fourth Annual Women's Resource Fair. The fair is presented under one roof and runs from Friday, Nov. 2, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. thru Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (location TBD).



The event will feature 50 exhibiting local organizations and businesses and 25 educational lectures by noted experts in the areas of Health & Wellness, Education, Holistic Products, Healthy Home, Empowerment and Counseling. Admission is \$10 and includes access to all 45 minute lectures and educational booths. Healthy and affordable lunches are available on-site for purchase. Parking is free and the fair is fully accessible. For up-to-date information on fair location, speaker schedule or other questions visit www.womensresourcefair.org or call (847) 328-8775.



2007 Calendar of Events

- Sept 15 * **LaCasino Royale**, sponsored by the LaCASA Aunts & Uncles Club, will be held at the Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park; features mock gambling, dinner, music, live and silent auctions.
- Sept. 28-30 LaCASA's **3-Day Giant, Tented Rummage Sale** includes new and gently-used items such as clothing, household items, furniture, sporting goods, linens, books, toys and collectibles.
- October 8 LaCASA's **Annual Dinner** to honor volunteers and staff.

2008 Yearlong 25th Anniversary Celebration

- June '08 * Sixth Annual **"Women Helping Women"** luncheon at The Zacharias Center.

* Reserve tables for **LaCASINO Night 2007** and **Women Helping Women 2008** now by contacting Linda West at (847) 244-1187 ext. 21 or lwest@LacasaStopRape.org

**Visit our new website at
www.LacasaStopRape.org**

- To learn more about our organization and key issues
 - To securely register on-line for upcoming events
- Thanks again to Volunteer Webmaster Scot Gallup for his extraordinary creativity and care in designing our new on-line home.

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Lori Viera, Bi-Cultural Counselor, ext. 13
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Cecy Wren, Director of Client Services, ext. 32
Maritza Treviño, Crisis Intervention Advocate - Medical, ext. 30
Michelle Minarcik, Crisis Intervention Advocate - Legal, ext. 20

LaCASA Support Groups

Fundamentals of Healing - 12 week introductory group offers information and support for adults just beginning to come to terms with issues of sexual violence in their lives.

AMAC Therapy Group - 16 week group provides advanced therapeutic guidance and support for survivors of childhood sexual abuse who have had previous therapy.

Caregivers Group - 6 week group gives support and information to adults who are in parental roles to children who have been sexually abused. Topics include child development, childhood trauma and its impact on the family, mandated reporting, boundaries, discipline, and communication.

Latency Age Group - for children 8-12 who have been sexually abused. May be held in conjunction with a care-givers group. Topics covered include understanding sexual abuse, safety, feelings and coping with feelings, and boundaries.

Adolescent Groups - offered for young people 13-18 who have been sexually abused. Topics include: safety, feelings and coping strategies, relationships, intimacy, and sexuality.

– Please call LaCASA to sign up. Groups are run on as needed basis.

LaCASA Phone Directory

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (847) 872-7799
Non-Emergency Office Phone: (847) 244-1187
Website: www.LacasaStopRape.org
TTY: (847) 244-1367