

SAFE SPACE

May Newsletter, 2013



May, Mothers, and Babies

In Montana, we often find ourselves waiting until May for spring to get into full swing and this year has been no different. Now that the weather has warmed a bit, it's nice to see people doing outside activities and enjoying the sunshine. One day in May is set aside for honoring mothers and, this year, it falls on May 12.

For most of us, being a mother is the most important responsibility we will ever have in our lives and we use all the available resources at our disposal to make sure our children are happy, healthy, safe, and well-educated. For others, the job of mothering is very difficult because of poverty and a lack of medical

care during pregnancy. A recently released report by Save the Children entitled, *Surviving the First Day, State of the World's Mother's 2013*, presents some rather startling facts—both good and bad—concerning the topic, but some of the most interesting data concerns infant survival in the United States. Although industrialized countries make up only 1% of the world's newborn deaths, this number appears to be rising in both wealthy and poor countries. According to the report, the U.S. makes up 31% of the total population among the top thirty-four industrialized countries in the world and 38% of annual live births. However, the

U.S. also makes up **60% of all first day deaths of newborns** in those thirty-four countries.

The reasons for these numbers are complex but appear to center around two main issues. First, the number of pre-term babies born in the U.S. is unacceptably high and secondly, the U.S. has the highest rate of births among adolescents of any industrialized country. These two factors have to do with poverty, lack of prenatal care, and lack of education—all things we should certainly be able to address. As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, take time to think about what we can all do to ensure that every baby is a healthy baby. For a copy of the report referenced here, go to: savethechildren.org

Safe Space, Inc.
P.O. Box 594
Butte, MT 59703

SHELTER

- * 24 hr. crisis line
- * (406) 782-8511

ADVOCACY

An advocate can help with:

- * Locating financial resources
- * Court accompaniment
- * Brainstorming plans

SAFETY

If you feel unsafe in your home but are not quite ready to leave, call us to discuss safety planning options that might keep you safe until you are ready. Crisis line is available 24 hours/day!

Upcoming Volunteer Training

Please join us for our 2013 Volunteer Training event beginning on Wednesday, May 22, at 6 p.m. This year's training will involve a different type of format that we hope will be more user-friendly while still providing the information and processing necessary to

fully understand the issues we'll be addressing. Every Wednesday, beginning May 22 and continuing until June 26, we will meet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Jacob's House. At that time, participants will be provided a list of multimedia materials that can be viewed and/or

read during the week as time permits. This material will be discussed the following Wednesday when we meet again. If interested, please call Cindy or Brienne at 782-9807 to reserve your spot as space is limited. We look forward to hearing from you.



Sexual Violence—The issue that continues to plague our society

Recent events have once again brought the issue of sexual violence into the national spotlight. The Pentagon released data in early May showing an increase in unwanted sexual contact within the military as high as 35% over the previous year. On the heels of this report, the Air Force found itself in the midst of a PR nightmare when an intoxicated Lt. Col. Jeffrey Krusinski was arrested for allegedly committing sexual battery in a parking lot near the Pentagon. Krusinski has been the head of the U.S. Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office since February.

Along with the obviously disturbing issues involved here are some that don't seem quite so clear. For instance,

there is evidence that two Air Force generals were able to effectively overturn convictions for sexual assault against male officers in their command by pardoning the crimes. Even though the military has long operated under its own justice system, it is hard to understand how and why this kind of power is given to upper level personnel.

Also, there is growing evidence that while women account for a large number of those victimized within the military, more and more men are coming forward with their own stories of sexual victimization and unfair treatment by the military. While members of Congress search for ways to deal with these issues, it's important that we, as citizens, pay close attention to what happens. No one should

fear bodily harm from their fellow servicemen and women or be forced to follow a chain of command in reporting that most likely includes the offender.

On Monday, May 13, PBS will air *The Invisible War* beginning at 8 p.m. MST. We would encourage everyone to view this documentary and talk with your friends and neighbors, family members, and community leaders about how the issue of sexual violence can be addressed in the military as well as in the civilian population.

References:

- Frontline, pbs.or, "Why the Military has a Sexual Assault Problem", 5/10/13
- WP Politics, washingtonpost.com, "Congress turns attention to sexual assault in the military", by Ed O'Keefe, 5/8/13



The U.S. Department of Justice has concluded its investigation into how sexual assaults are handled at the University of Montana in Missoula. The resulting report is a mixed bag of some disturbing findings along with the encouraging news that changes which have been initiated in the past year are making a positive impact on campus. A key element to this story is the fact that similarly poor handling of sexual assault has been happening on campuses around the country for far too long. Perhaps the conclusion of this investigation signals a new beginning for the state of Montana? We hope so. (The missoulian.com, 5/10/13)

Safe Space

Office: (406)782-9807

Crisis: (406)782-8511

Toll Free: 1-877-335-8511

Email: safespacebutte@gmail.com

Website: www.safespaceonline.org

Coming up!

May 13—The Invisible War on PBS, 9 p.m. MST

May 22 —Week 1 of 2013 Volunteer Training, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Jacob's House

May 29—Week 2 of 2013 Volunteer Training, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Jacob's House

June 1—1st Annual Love Shouldn't Hurt 5K Run/Walk Stodden Park, 10 a.m.

(Visit safespaceonline.org for pre-registration information)

June 5—Week 3 Training; *The Invisible War*, view and discussion of film Everyone welcome