

December  
2014



# Safe Space

A Domestic & Sexual Violence Program



## 18th Annual Officer of the Year Award

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### SHELTER

24 Hour Crisis Hotline

Emergency Shelter Available Every  
Night and Day

### ADVOCACY

Financial \* Legal \* Employment

Child Care \* Medical \* Housing

### SAFETY

If you feel unsafe in your home,  
but are not ready to leave, call an  
advocate to discuss options to keep  
you safe, how to prepare to leave,  
and more!

Since 1994, Safe Space has honored officer's on behalf of the victims and survivors served. Each person who accesses services at Safe Space is asked to complete a questionnaire and to share with the advocates the experiences they had with responding officers. Based on these questionnaires and conversations, a decision is made to honor an officer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide safety and hope for a violence free life.

In 2014, Safe Space advocates heard an overwhelming number of stories from survivors on officers located in not only Silver Bow County, but also in Jefferson and Deer Lodge Counties. For the first time in the history of this award, officers from three different counties were chosen.



Left to Right: Officer Honer, Officer Vauthier, and Deputy Cross.

Photography by: A Little Photography, Butte, MT

On Thursday, October 30th, 2014, a private dinner ceremony was held to honor the award recipients in front of their county sheriffs/chief, family members, as well as the staff and members of the Board of Directors of Safe Space.

Congratulations to Officer Steven Honer of Silver Bow County, Officer Kris Vauthier of Deer Lodge County, and Deputy Chad Cross of Jefferson County. The responses of the survivors and victims described how each of you exhibited concern, knowledge, and exemplary follow through during times of trauma and fear. Your demeanor and encouragement provided each survivor with the emotional strength to seek services and escape the violence that held them hostage in their own homes.

Many thanks to those who helped bring this event together: Shelby Ann, owner of A Little Photography, for donating her time and services to capture the award ceremony memories for the recipients, their counties and their families. The Masonic Temple Board for donating the Masonic Ballroom as a lovely venue. Butte Hill Catering for catering a very tasty meal. Members of Teens Advocating for a Safe Community (T.A.S.C.) and Jobs Daughters Betherl UD #2 for assisting with serving dinner and dessert. Scott Parini of KBOW/KOPR for speaking at the ceremony. Bill Fisher, Sr and staff. And all the volunteers who helped to set up the night before and clean up on Halloween.

## From the Family Resource Center

### Emotional Abuse—The Trauma Within

By: Sonja Foster, Sexual Assault Coordinator, Family Resource Center Advocate

Emotional abuse includes non-physical behaviors such as threats, insults, constant monitoring or "checking in," excessive texting, humiliation, intimidation, isolation or stalking. There are many behaviors that qualify as emotional or verbal abuse:

- \* Calling you names and putting you down.
- \* Yelling and screaming at you.
- \* Intentionally embarrassing you in public.
- \* Preventing you from seeing or talking with friends or family.
- \* Telling you what to do or wear.
- \* Using online communities or cell phones to control, intimidate or humiliate you.
- \* Blaming your actions for their abusive or unhealthy behavior.
- \* Stalking you.
- \* Threatening to commit suicide to keep you from breaking up with them.
- \* Threatening to harm you, your pet or people you care about.
- \* Making you feel guilty or immature when you don't consent to sexual activity.
- \* Threatening to expose your secrets.
- \* Starting rumors about you.
- \* Threatening to have your children taken away.

#### Is Emotional Abuse Really Abuse?

A relationship can be unhealthy or abusive without physical violence. Verbal abuse may not cause physical damage, but it does cause emotional pain and scarring. It can also lead to physical violence if the relationship continues on the unhealthy path its' on.

*Sometimes verbal abuse is so bad that you actually start believing what your partner says. You begin to think you are stupid, ugly or fat. You agree that nobody else would ever want to be in a relationship with you. Constantly being criticized and told you are not good enough causes you to lose confidence and lowers your self-esteem. As a result, you may start to blame yourself for your partners' abusive behavior.*  
(loveisrespect.org)

Remember...emotional abuse is never your fault. Talk to someone that you trust, such as a parent, friend, co-worker or teacher about your situation. You can also call an advocate at Safe Space 24 hours a day 7 days a week to talk. An advocate can help with making a safety plan and offer more information and other services.



## Meet Sonja Foster, Sexual Assault Coordinator of Safe Space

Sonja has been employed was first employed with Safe Space beginning in 2012 as the Shelter Night Advocate. She chose to work as an advocate for victims because..... Sonja is now focusing her efforts primarily towards victims of sexual assault out of the Family Resource Center. Weekly supports groups will be provided for men, women, children, and members of the LGBT community who have been victimized.

Family Resource Center Hotline: 406-565-2468

Sonja's Email: [sonjaf@safespaceonline.org](mailto:sonjaf@safespaceonline.org)

Family Resource Center hours:

Tuesday—Friday

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

### *Client Testimonials*

## *Have You Heard?*

*Thank you for just listening! I can't tell you how much that helped me.*

*I was so scared—but having [Advocate] with me helped me to not over-react in front of the judge. Having someone to walk with me and sit beside me gave me courage again.*

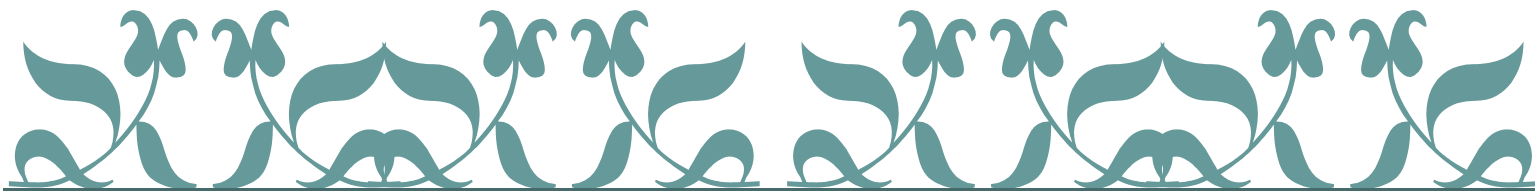
*It was nice to know that someone was always there when I couldn't sleep....even at 3 in the morning. [The Advocate] stopped whatever she was doing and brought me Kleenex's and just let me break down. I was a priority for the first time in a long time.*

*Thank you for your kindness and being so good to my children. They were so afraid to go somewhere with strangers, but you did everything you could to make them comfortable.*

*I can't wait to come back and help others like me as a volunteer!*







Safe Space has trained advocates to provide assistance and support to each victim and survivor of domestic and sexual violence. The staff at Safe Space fully understands that in order to provide appropriate steps in healing, it requires an entire community of support and collaboration. Safe Space has receives referrals from multiple agencies, and worked collaboratively with them on multiple cases to provide hope, medical and mental health treatments, employment assistance, financial budgeting, child care and more. It is also because of our business supporters that we have been able to provide recent outreach and education to the communities. During this holiday season, Safe Space wants to thank all the agencies we have collaborated with throughout the 6 counties we serve in the winter months so far.

4C's	Department of Family Services	Butte Silver Bow Courts
Aware, Inc.	Adult Protective Services	The Irish Times
Butte Emergency Food Bank	Butte Plaza Mall	JDI Bethel #2
Butte Silver Bow Law Enforcement	Montana Chemical Dependency	TASC of Butte
Deer Lodge County Police Dept.	Department of Public Health and Human Services	Butte Exchange Club
Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept.	Office of Public Assistance	
County Victim/Witness Advocates	Butte Job Service	
Law Librarian, Marijo	Rocky Mountain Clinic	
Career Futures	Damsels in Defense	
Salvation Army	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	
Western Montana Mental Health	KOPR/KBOW	
Montana Tech/Highland Campus	The Montana Standard	
Women of Tech	KXLF News	
Family Outreach	ABC/Fox News	
Youth Dynamics	Communication Ready	
St. James Hospital	Butte Head Start	
Community Health Center		

And the many private donors, supporters, and volunteers who work endlessly to help maintain the domestic/sexual violence prevention and intervention programs in our community.



## From the Desk of the Executive Director



The winter holidays are here! Families are gathering for meals around a well-decorated table. Children are making their lists of gift wishes. Skiing and sledding are just around the corner as fun recreational activities. But not all blinking lights are from the LED Icicles hanging from the neighbors rooftops and not all the noise from next door is holiday cheer.

Domestic and sexual violence does not cease because a Christmas tree is decorated or a menorah is lit. And as law enforcement, EMT's, and advocates respond to the need of victims trying escape the nightmares behind closed doors, we are reminded that sometimes a little holiday cheer from a stranger goes a long way in the transition from violence to hope.

This holiday season, whether you celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hannaka, or another holiday, consider reaching out to a family who is experiencing their celebration away from their bed; eating meals with strangers they are just meeting; and in fear of not only their welfare and safety, but also in fear that Santa may not find his way to their children on Christmas Eve.

For the second year, Safe Space is humbled by the efforts and collaboration of the Butte Family YMCA in helping to provide families victimized by domestic and sexual violence with the joy and hope of this season. The Giving Tree at the YMCA has requests for families served by Safe Space and needs of the program to continue to provide emergency and supportive advocacy year round.

For more information on how you can help provide a bit of cheer during a time of trauma, contact Safe Space at 406-782-9807 or visit the Butte Family YMCA at 2975 Washoe Street.

*Sabrina Tauscher*

**Weekly Volunteer Meetings 5:30 P.M. on Thursdays at  
201 W. Granite St.—All Are Welcome To Attend!**

### **Committees to Join:**

**\* Shelter Friends \* Resource Center Troopers \* Flamingo Flockers \* Holiday Helpers \* Volunteer Advocates \* Children's Activity Group Planners \* Financial Committee \* And more!!!**

### **Volunteer Chairs Still Open:**

**\* President \* Co-President \* Treasurer \* Grant Writer \***



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# December 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LGBT DV/SA Support Group 12pm at Highland Campus	2 Women's Sexual Assault Support Group 2pm -3 pm	3 Women's Support Group 4-5 pm	4 Men's Sexual Assault Support Group 2 -3 pm Monthly Volunteer Meeting 5:30 PM	5	6
7	8 LGBT DV/SA Support Group 12pm at Highland Campus	9 Women's Sexual Assault Support Group 2pm -3 pm	10 Women's Support Group 4-5 pm *Don't forget to RSVP for the Holiday Party by 5 PM.	11 Men's Sexual Assault Support Group 2 -3 pm Volunteer Meeting Cancelled: Consider Attending the Early Childhood Services Forum at 6:30 PM at the Rocky Mountain Room under old Denny's	12 Safe Space Holiday Party at 6:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus	13 1st Annual "Safe For the Holidays" Drag Show 9PM at the Times—Find event on Facebook!
14	15 LGBT DV/SA Support Group 12pm at Highland Campus	16 Women's Sexual Assault Support Group 2pm -3 pm	17 Women's Support Group 4-5 pm	18 Men's Sexual Assault Support Group 2 -3 pm Misc. Volunteer Committee Meetings 5:30 PM	19	20
21	22 LGBT DV/SA Support Group 12pm at Jacobs House Men's Sexual Assault Support Group 2 -3 pm Monthly Volun-	23 Women's Sexual Assault Support Group 2pm -3 pm Women's Support Group 4-5 pm	24 No Meetings	25 No meetings	26 No meetings	27
28	29 No Meetings	30 No Meetings	31 No Meetings	 		

Additional activities may be scheduled after this publishing. Please visit [www.safespaceonline.org](http://www.safespaceonline.org) for up to date information.

# *Let's Talk in 2015:*

**January:** Stalking Awareness and Support Groups

**February:** Teen Dating Violence Awareness and 2014 Data

**March:** Bystander Awareness; PTSD Awareness; Stress Awareness

**April:** Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Awareness

**May:** Volunteer Advocates; and Healthy Relationships

**June:** The Underserved Communities and Victims (Men & LGBT)

**July:** Obstacles of Freedom in Domestic Violence; Children As Witnesses Pt 1

**August:** The Services of Safe Space; Children As Witness Pt 2

**September:** Campus Safety—College and High School; Suicide Awareness

**October:** Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**November:** Violence, Substance Abuse & Mental Health—A Deadly Trifecta

**December:** Community Collaborations & Thank You's; Human Trafficking in MT

# *Get Involved in 2015:*

**January:** Stalking Awareness Event 1/10/15

Flock Party Planning (Event in March 2015)

Volunteer Chair Nominations and Elections 1/8/15

**February:** Teen Dating Violence Event

Flock Party Planning (Event in March 2015)

**March:** Flock Party 2015

Flamingo Technician Training

Shelter Spring Clean Up

**April:** Flamingo Flocking

**May:** Volunteer Advocate Trainings

**June:** Fourth of July Parade Float Construction & Decorating

**July:** 1st Annual Volunteer Thank You Picnic

**August:** Planning for DVAM

**September:** Planning for DVAM

Volunteer Advocate Training Begins

**October:** Silent Witnesses

Purple Pinkies Pledge

Purple Sock Drive

Officer of the Year Award Ceremony

**November:** Shelter Fall Clean Up

**December:** Annual Holiday Shoppe for Clients

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