

# SAVI Advocate

The Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program

## Dear Friends,

When we talk about crime, when we read about it in the paper, when we see it on TV, most of us get caught up in the crime itself. We want to know what happened and where, and we want to see the criminals caught and brought to justice. We follow trials and debate guilt and innocence over coffee, mixing opinion with what we know to be fact. And somewhere in there, usually lost and sometimes forgotten, is a living person who has been victimized, who is suffering and who needs help and support.

Against this backdrop of anonymity, the voice of one survivor resonates clearly and distinctly, with the power of an entire chorus. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time when survivors come forward to tell their stories of suffering turned to strength, in hopes of encouraging others to heal, while continuing to heal themselves. Amazingly, the Central Park Jogger, whether by fortune or by design, will share her story with the world, for the very first time, during the month of April. Soon, the world will know her courage, hear about her struggle, and revel in her triumph. As I contemplate the last fourteen years, remembering her hardships and successes, I remain utterly in awe of her will to heal.

There is much to celebrate this April, including the appointment of Captain Susan Morley, as Deputy Inspector of the NYPD Special Victims Unit. Survivors have few

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Deputy Inspector Susan Morley, pictured with Iona Siegel at the 1999 Silver Whistle Award Dinner, where Captain Morley was honored for her work in the field.

## Top Cop Susan Morley

By Diane Cochrane, Editor

What's it like to be one of NYPD's top cops? Or to put it another way, what is it like to be the Deputy Inspector of the newly created Special Victims Division? "It's one of the most demanding, challenging and rewarding jobs in the world," says Susan Morley who was promoted to this position in January of this year. And if she achieves the goals on her to-do list, she has her work cut

out for her. A partial list of her plans includes setting interborough investigative standards; analyzing crime patterns; raising the sensitivity level of her troops; increasing police outreach particularly to men who could be potential rapists; clearing up old cases by testing DNA samples, a tool not readily available to the police until recently; and strictly enforcing compliance with Megan's law.

Being in command of the new Special Victims Division will make it easier for her to realize these objectives because now all special victim squads in four of the five boroughs of New York City will report directly to her. In the past, the teams accounted to their borough chiefs, hindering the development of overall crime pictures and the analyses of patterns. If, for example, a rapist with a certain MO was assaulting women in the Bronx and then moved to Manhattan, detectives might not see the connection between the crimes.

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## Central Park Jogger Makes Key Note Speech at SAVI Award Dinner

Katie Couric Presents Award For Mount Sinai's Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program

The Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI) will proudly honor the Central Park Jogger at the SAVI Silver Whistle Award Dinner, on Thursday, May 8th, 2003, at the Puck Building's Grand Ballroom, at 295 Lafayette Street. Following close on the heels of the release of her book, *I Am The Central Park Jogger: A Story of Hope and*

*Possibility*, published by Simon and Schuster, this event promises to be a unique celebration of her strength and integrity.

Katie Couric, who will serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening, says she is "inspired by the Jogger's strength and focus, and by SAVI's commitment to sup-

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## Dear Friends

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advocates as driven and determined as Captain Morley. She has committed her life to helping and fighting for survivors of sexual violence. Even so, she says painfully, "I would like nothing more than to shut down the Special Victims Units. . . and for SAVI's phones to stop ringing." Until that day comes, we're glad to have Captain Morley on our side.

This April, as we look around and see the strength and bravery in our midst, as we listen to the Central Park Jogger's voice for the first time, firm and resolute, a true Phoenix, risen from the flames, let us all remember our commitment to this cause. Let us, once again, take up the mantle of our fight, let us reach out to someone who needs our help, and let us continue to educate our children. We can make a difference—we *do* make a difference.

Thank you all for your support, your passion and your resolve.



## SAVI Award Dinner

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porting victims of sexual violence, and to educating our community." Ms. Couric, who was SAVI Silver Whistle Honoree in 1995, will present the evening's award to the Jogger. Also in a show of support for this brave woman, past honorees Dick Wolf, Creator and Executive Producer of NBC's hit television series *Law & Order*, and Patricia Cornwell, best-selling novelist, will serve as honorary chairs. Cocktails will be served from 6pm-7pm, with dinner starting at 7pm. Tickets begin at \$500, tables at \$5000 with proceeds benefiting the SAVI Program. To purchase a ticket, contact the SAVI Benefit Office at 212.249.6188, or via email at SAVIBenefit@hotmail.com.

## Top Cop Susan Morley

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When she was interviewed in 1990 for a position supervising rape and sexual assault investigations in the Borough of Queens, she kept asking herself "do I really want to get into sex crimes?" The answer was yes, and solving sex crimes became her passion.

"This was before DNA testing. So we had to seek out detectives on other cases, compare notes and make educated guesses."

One case stands out in her mind. "Three women had been raped and killed and four others raped. If it was the same killer, he had no MO. He murdered in different ways and different types of women. One was a street person, another on her way home from church, and a third was pregnant. I spent a lot of time talking to the night watch detectives because that's when most stranger-rapes occur. One mentioned that a neighborhood canvas, after one of the murders, turned up a witness who had seen a woman riding on the handlebars of a bicycle. I had a victim who talked about a bike. Finally we had a link—women on bicycle handlebars—and that led to other cases."

In 1993, Susan was recruited to command the NYPD's Special Victims Liaison Unit.

There her responsibilities included, among many others, training detectives to investigate sex crimes and child abuse cases with compassion. Once more, the bicycle case assumed a role in her career, this time as a teaching tool, to respond sensitively and logically to victims.

"The victim in the bicycle case agreed to drive around with us to look for the suspect. She was shaking violently in the van, and after we caught him, she took a long time to identify him. She said she wanted to make sure because she had been raped two years earlier by a stranger." The victim felt guilty about the two rapes. "She told me that since the first rape she had changed how she dressed to make her look unattractive, and felt she hadn't done a good enough job. We had to educate her not to feel guilty, that it

had nothing to do with the way she looked."

Still, investigators might have challenged her credibility because of the previous rape. "Occasionally we see cases where women do not tell the truth and there has been no rape. Detectives can become hardened or burn out, and it would not be hard to think that she was crazy or lying. So I use this case as an example of the need to investigate crimes carefully."

Susan Morley is a 19-year veteran of the New York City Police Department. She holds a bachelor's degree in Police Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a graduate of the FBI Academy in Quantico, and the Police Management Institute of Columbia University, where she and her husband, Michael Morley, also a Deputy Inspector, became the first married couple to graduate.

They may also be the first couple to both hold the rank of Deputy Inspector of the NYPD at the same time. Being first seems to come naturally to Susan Morley. One of 10 children brought up in Queens, she was the first cop in this family of Irish descent. She took the police exam after her husband had joined the NYPD because he encouraged her to do the same. "This means he can't complain about my job," she laughs. On the contrary, they are a very supportive team. "We have each taken a back seat at different times when it was his or my turn to move ahead."

Four years ago, another first occurred when the Morleys had their first child, a son. Susan's mother lives with them, and after raising 10 children of her own, provides expert child care. Still, Michael Jr. wishes his mother would come home before the sun goes down.

She would like to make his wish come true. "I would like nothing more than to shut down the Special Victims Unit because it becomes obsolete." But she will continue to help victims of sex crimes, child abuse and domestic violence, both through her work at the NYPD and the assistance she gives groups like SAVI. "It's all God's work," she says philosophically.

## Lifetime Television Poll Shows Concern— and Misunderstanding—Over Violence Against Women

Excerpted from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape Spring 2002 Newsletter

In March 2002, Lifetime Television released the results of a nationally representative poll that indicated Americans are concerned about violence against women, but stereotypes, misinformation, and false assumptions cloud the public's understanding of the nature and scope of the problem.

According to the poll, 95 percent of Americans are concerned about violence against women, and 71 percent say they are very concerned. Nearly all (92 percent) believe the issue is not getting enough attention. Despite their concern, most Americans underestimate the extent of violence against women, are unaware of the factors placing women at risk, and underrate the incidence of sexual assault and domestic violence.

More disturbing is the finding that 2 in 5 Americans (43%) indicate that they have had personal contact with a woman who was a victim of a sexual assault.

The American public also does not understand that most perpetrators avoid punishment — only 30 percent of Americans know that just 10 percent of rapes result in a conviction and jail time for the perpetrator.

"We've finally moved beyond the time when no one would admit that the problem even existed," said Meredith Wagner, executive vice president of public affairs, Lifetime Entertainment Services. "But we also see how far we need to go to make people understand what the problem is, grasp how pervasive it remains in society, and once and for all distinguish the victims from the abusers."

## Candle Light Vigil to be Held in Honor of Victims' Rights and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

On Sunday April 6th, the office of the Attorney General will be hosting a Candle Light Vigil at West End Collegiate Church, located at the corner of West End Avenue and 77th Street in Manhattan. The vigil, which starts at 2:00 pm, bears the theme of "Victims' Rights: Fulfilling the Promise." It will feature survivor and co-survivor artwork, performances and poetry readings. A SAVI volunteer, who is also a rape survivor, will be sharing parts of her journey as well. A spokeswoman for the Attorney General's office notes that there will be extra emphasis placed on "diversity and unique expressions." She also stresses that the event, while bringing to the foreground difficult, heart-wrenching realities, will "strive to empower and move" all present, rather than focusing solely on the morbidity and sadness that enshrouds this issue. All are invited to attend, and a strong public showing is encouraged to deliver the message to elected officials and the public in general that this is a topic that affects and concerns us all. For more information, please call 212-416-8839.

Many Americans believe that . . .	But in Fact . . .
10 percent or less of women have experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault.	One in four women has been the victim of sexual assault.
Women are more likely to be raped by someone they don't know.	68 percent of women who are raped know their assailant.
The majority of rapists are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.	Less than half of rapists are drunk or high when they commit their crime.
The majority of rapes take place in a public area or in a parking garage.	Only 25 percent of rapes take place in these public areas.

## Queens Community Awareness Day

On May 3rd, York College will sponsor a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Community Awareness Day. The event will take place from 10am – 2pm at York College, 94-20 Guy Brewer Boulevard in Jamaica, NY. Free babysitting services will be provided for those individuals with children who might otherwise be unable to attend the events. The event will feature a resource fair to explain and describe the kinds of community services available to survivors of these crimes and their families. Also, there will be several workshops on sexual assault and domestic violence. SAVI staff will facilitate a workshop on the Sexual Assault of Adolescents. Please call the York College Women's Center at (718) 262-2008 for additional information.

## SAVI To Set Up SAE

As announced in December, the Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI) Program has received a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for establishing a state-of-the-art Sexual Assault Examiner (SAE) program in the Emergency Department at Mount Sinai. Lina Nudo, MPA, will serve as the SAE Program Coordinator. Ms. Nudo will work closely with Dr. Barbara Richardson, who will serve as the Medical Director of the SAE Program, and with Laura Giles, the ED Clinical Nurse Manager. Together, they will collaborate with other ED staff to establish new ED protocols in the areas of forensic evidence collection and case documentation. Goals of the program include: improving the treatment of sexual assault victims by promoting effective coordination between medical, law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service agencies, as well as enhancing the availability of services to victims and to facilitate their participation in the judicial process.

SAVI is also pleased to announce that, Michael Brodman, MD, the newly appointed Acting Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will serve as SAVI's new medical director. Dr. Brodman has been a long-time friend of the program, as well as a trusted medical consultant and an expert resource and speaker for the training of SAVI Emergency Room Advocates in medical procedures.

In addition to Dr. Brodman's guidance, SAVI will share a close working relationship with the Ob/Gyn Department, while maintaining its long-established ties with the Department of Community Medicine. SAVI and the Ob/Gyn Department hope to collaborate on several projects, including participation in the education of medical students, residents, and the Attending Staff.

## What are SANE Programs?

Lina Nudo, MPA, SAE Program Coordinator

**C**enturies ago, a victim of rape was stoned to death, or worse yet she was forced to marry the rapist. These barbaric responses were meant to absolve the victim's family from the shame rape brought upon their honor. Little attention was paid to the medical and emotional needs of the victim, and none to punishing the perpetrator. Although some cultures still uphold these views, most medical and legal systems have recognized for years that rape is not a sexual act for which the victim is responsible and should be punished. But it wasn't until the 1970's when, thanks to the women's movement, professionals and volunteers realized that victims of rape needed special services, especially in hospital emergency rooms. Their work took two forms: the establishment of rape crisis centers with rape crisis advocates, and SANE programs.

What is a SANE program? First, let's explain the acronym. When originally established by a group of nurses, SANE meant "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner." Today, it is also referred to as SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) and SAE (Sexual Assault Examiner). No matter what the nomenclature, SANE is a collaborative effort to provide a team approach to meet the needs of rape victims. It offers timely, victim-centered services including health evaluation, evidence collection, and expert witness testimony. According to the Department of Health Protocol, the goals of SANE/SAFE/SAE programs are to:

1. Provide timely, compassionate, client centered care in a private setting that provides emotional support and reduces further trauma to the victim;

2. Provide quality medical care, including evaluation, treatment, referral and follow-up;
3. Ensure quality collection, documentation, preservation, and custody of physical evidence by utilizing a trained Sexual Assault Examiner to perform the exam, which may lead to increased rates of identification, prosecution and conviction of sexual assault perpetrators;
4. Utilize an interdisciplinary approach by working with rape crisis centers and other services providers, law enforcement, and the prosecutor's office to effectively meet the needs of sexual assault victims;
5. Provide expert testimony when a survivor decides to press charges; and
6. Improve and standardize data regarding the incidence of sexual assault victims seeking treatment in the hospital emergency department.

According to a 2002 press release from NY Senator Charles E. Schumer, only 750 SANE programs exist around the country and in only 35 out of the 62 counties in New York State.

Therefore, the SAVI Program at Mount Sinai is very excited to announce that it is in the process of establishing a Sexual Assault Examiner Program. Medical staff will be trained in providing victim-centered, timely and sensitive care that includes a comprehensive assessment and evaluation. Additionally, the training will include forensic evidence collection and case documentation, decreasing the time victims of sexual assault spend waiting for treatment and dramatically improving the quality of evidence available to prosecutors for use at trial, should the victim decide to report.

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## Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assaults—The New Crime

By Lina Nudo, MPA, SAE Program Coordinator and Rochelle Frounfelker, MSSW, MPH, ED Coordinator

Recently there has been a heightened awareness of the prevalence of drug-facilitated sexual assaults (DFSA) in the New York City area. Drug facilitated sexual assault involves the use of drugs, both legal and illegal, by a perpetrator to sedate his victims. As the American Prosecutorial Research Institute states, “victims are usually unconscious during their sexual assault and have anterograde amnesia upon gaining consciousness, similar to the effects of a surgery patient coming out of anesthesia.”

Although there is no statistical data available as to the exact number of cases, anecdotal evidence suggests that this is an ongoing, and growing, problem. In the past few years, SAVI advocates and staff members have noted an increase in requests from survivors to be tested for DFSA in hospital emergency rooms. SAVI data indicates that in 1998, six percent of the total sexual assault cases seen at the Mt. Sinai Hospital Emergency Department requested testing for DFSA. By the end of 2002, DFSA test requests rose to 29

percent. To address this issue, the DA’s office introduced an official Drug-Facilitated Assault Kit at the end of 2002, to be used in a pilot study in Manhattan hospitals.

There are a variety of factors that make DFSA a complex issue. Perhaps the most important is the loss of consciousness often induced by drugs such as GHB and Rohypnol. The effects of Rohypnol may begin within 30 minutes of ingestion and persist up to eight hours. Many individuals have no memory of regaining consciousness during this time. This makes it difficult for the victim to act quickly and seek help. Rohypnol and similar drugs also stymie medical and legal personnel attempting to gather evidence of DFSA since these drugs remain in the body for a short period of time.

How can you help? Below is a list of signs that may indicate a person has been a victim of DFSA (taken from the DOH Protocol for the Acute Care of the Adult Patient Reporting Sexual Assault):

- If she remembers taking a drink but cannot remember what happened for a period of time after she consumed the drink.
- If she feels as though someone had sex with her, but she cannot recall any or all of the incident.
- If she feels a lot more intoxicated than her usual response to the amount of alcohol she consumed.
- If she woke up feeling very hung over or “fuzzy,” experiencing memory lapse, and cannot account for a period of time.

While an increasing number of perpetrators are slipping victims drugs, a larger percentage of survivors are raped while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs they had voluntarily taken for recreational purposes. Therefore, the victim should be informed that testing blood or urine for rape drugs may also indicate substance abuse on the part of the victim. So it is important to obtain specific patient consent for testing.

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## Economic Costs of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

By Meaghan Morelli, PR and Development Associate

The U.S. Department of Justice indicates that 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual assault. Yet, when we try to educate people about the pervasiveness of rape and sexual assault, we are met with disbelief, indicating that many continue to refuse to acknowledge how this epidemic of violence touches all of our lives.

Yet it does affect everyone. Whether or not it happens to us or to someone we know, we all bear the financial burden of these heinous crimes.

The total costs of sexual assault in the U.S. are estimated to be \$127 billion annually.<sup>1</sup>

Researchers have estimated the annual cost of domestic violence to the nation at \$67 billion in labor force, child well-being, housing, social services, health care and criminal justice.<sup>2</sup> While it is not currently possible to get a clear picture of the exact financial impact of this kind of violence, it is possible to look at the myriad of ways that it impacts us all financially: Here’s a partial list:

- The U.S. Federal Government, through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), dispenses millions of dollars each year for victim services. The total expenditure for victim services exceeded \$537 million in

2000. Most of these funds are for programs dealing with sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse.<sup>3</sup>

- The National Institute of Justice Research Report estimates that economic costs of domestic violence on victims (i.e. medical bills, property losses, reduced productivity, fear, and non-monetary losses) are \$11,000 per victim.<sup>4</sup>
- The total annual cost of mental health care for adult survivors of child sexual abuse is estimated to be \$2.1 billion.<sup>5</sup> Adult survivors of child sexual abuse may

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## Economic Costs

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also experience long-term effects of the abuse, and are at higher risk for depression, anxiety, insomnia, eating disorders, and self-destructive behaviors such as drug or alcohol abuse which affect their physical health.

Perhaps these estimates are high. Let us assume that they are, and cut them by half. They are still overwhelming.

Sexual assault and domestic violence continue to devastate our communities, financially, spiritually and intellectually. It is evident that our work is not finished. It is time to redouble our efforts, for we will be making far more than a financial investment. We will be investing in human potential, and financing the success of the human spirit.

<sup>1</sup> Miller, Cohen, & Wiersema, 1996, and Hopf, Ted. "Russia and the U.S.: Growing Cooperation?" *Great Decisions: 1997*. Foreign Policy Association, New York, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Laurence, L. and R. Spalter-Roth, *Measuring the Costs of Domestic Violence Against Women and the Cost-Effectiveness of Interventions: An Initial Assessment and Proposals for Further Research*. Washington D.C.: Institute for Women's Policy Research, 1996.

<sup>3</sup> Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault Website, [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org).

<sup>4</sup> National Institute of Justice. *Research Report—Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look*. Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, February 1996.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> UCLA, Center For Women and Men Website, [www.thecenter.ucla.edu/](http://www.thecenter.ucla.edu/)

## SAVI Volunteer Awarded

We are proud to announce that Joyce Edwards, Mount Sinai Clinical Nurse and long-time SAVI Volunteer, is the recipient of the "Black Achievers and Industry Award." We at SAVI have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Joyce for well over a decade and could not be happier for her. Joyce's devotion to making the world a better place for those in need is unparalleled. Congratulations Joyce!



Facilitators for the 2002 Advocate Training: (from left) Audrey Leigh-Nightingale, Nereida Rodrigues, Lauren Moran, and Gisselle Vagge

## Fall Advocate Training Produces 108 Graduates

By Lauren Moran, Volunteer Coordinator and Shaireen Islam, MPH, Outreach and Training Coordinator

**W**eeks before the actual training began, you could hear the excitement in the trainees' voices. They couldn't wait to take the training to be a Volunteer Advocate. This level of excitement stayed with them, and they radiated positive energy during each week's training sessions.

Completed in November 2002, the 40-hour training prepared volunteers to provide crisis intervention in the emergency room to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Research has shown that survivors who receive sensitive intervention and care following an assault have fewer long-term health consequences, including lower levels of post traumatic stress disorder. Although the degree of understanding and compassion on the part of hospital and law enforcement personnel has increased significantly over the years, survivors still experience a high degree of discomfort when they interact with medical staff and/or the police. To counteract this, Advocates' non-judgmental approach provides emotional and informational support that make the E.D. stay less stressful.

During their training, volunteers learned to improve their communication skills in dealing with survivors and worked on diplomacy and assertiveness to make them effective liaisons with emergency room staff and the

police. By the end of the course, they knew how to ask questions to give back control, address simple and immediate needs, listen to feelings, and help survivors organize options and navigate through medical and legal procedures. Although most of the volunteers were very nervous about being on call, they felt completely prepared by all they had learned.

SAVI's team of volunteer facilitators, recruiters and training coordinators made this year's training successful. Thanks to them, SAVI graduated 108 new volunteer Advocates—57 from Manhattan and 51 from Queens. Our volunteers now number over 250, insuring every survivor arriving in the emergency room has an Advocate.



2002 Volunteer Advocate Trainees in their processing group.

# Mount Sinai Rape/Sexual Assault Profile, 1998-2002

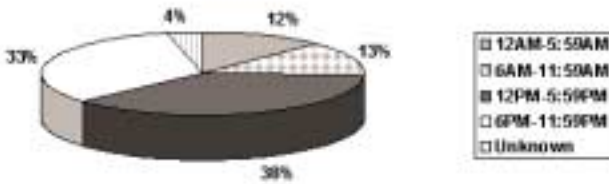
By Rochelle Frounfelker, MSSW, MPH, Manhattan ED Program Coordinator

SAVI is excited to announce the completion of a study analyzing rape and sexual assault cases seen in Mount Sinai's Emergency Department (ED) over the past five years. Between January 1998 and the end of December 2002, 164 survivors came to the ED for medical care following a rape or sexual assault. The information gathered by reading the medical charts, advocate report forms, and staff notes for these cases will be used to improve the services provided to survivors both during and following their ED visit. SAVI will share this information, gathered by reading medical records, advocate report forms, and staff notes, with readers in this and subsequent newsletters.

The charts seen below indicate the time of day survivors came to the ED and the number of hours that elapsed between the

crime and the survivor's arrival at the hospital. Over 80 percent arrived within 96 hours of the assault, with an overwhelming 53 percent coming in some time the day after their attack. This encouraging statistic means that most survivors had the option to complete the evidence collection kit, which can only be done up to 96 hours post-assault, if they so desired. Also of interest is the time of day that survivors reached the ED. The majority (71%) came between 12 noon and 12 midnight. Expecting to see that most survivors came to the ED late at night, SAVI staff was surprised to find that 38% arrived at the ED between noon and 6 pm. This certainly illustrates the need to have trained ED staff and SAVI advocates available around the clock to provide medical care and emotional support to survivors.

Time of Arrival 1998-2002 (n=164)



Hours From Rape/Sexual Assault 1998-2002 (N=164)



## Crazymakers

You birthed the child  
Never to touch  
Tossed without defense  
Onto the raw and ravaged  
Sewage pile of  
Uncaring humanity

I am a child of crazymakers  
I'll run the race  
I'll pass the test  
I will triumph.

You touched the child  
Who longed for love  
No love or caring came  
Held so close as secrets grew  
Cast aside when secrets knew  
Buried in guilt and shame

I am a child of crazymakers  
I'll run the race  
I'll pass the test  
I will triumph.

You taught the child  
Crippled and wounded  
With no and don't  
With can't and won't  
A creation unrevealed  
A dream gone wrong

I am a child of crazymakers  
I'll run the race  
I'll pass the test  
I will triumph.

You married the child  
You feared her sane  
A bird confined  
Wilted in pain never to fly  
Wanting to die  
Until she flew away  
I am a child of crazymakers  
I'll run the race  
I'll pass the test  
I will triumph.

You harbored the child  
In grown up clothes  
Afraid to be afraid  
You coaxed the words  
That freed the mind  
And tears that touched the soul

I am the child of crazymakers  
I'll run the race  
I'll pass the test  
I will triumph.

You loved the woman  
You soothed the fears  
You wiped the tears  
Time took it's toll  
But she's made whole  
A spirit free to fly

I am the child of crazymakers  
I've run the race  
I've passed the test  
I have triumphed.

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## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Meaghan Morelli, PR & Development Associate

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a policy instituted in the 1980's to educate the public about the prevalence and complexity of sexual violence in our society. Historically, it has been a time dedicated to helping communities support survivors of rape and sexual assault, as well as their friends and families, along with the agencies that provide services to these individuals. It is also a time to encourage the public to take steps toward ending sexual violence.

The history of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is rooted in the rape crisis movement itself. Many veterans of the New York City rape crisis movement, including Dr. Eileen Treacy, court consultant, psychology professor and community educator, places the first official Sexual Assault Awareness Month somewhere in the early 1980's, though it did not seem to catch on nationally until the end of that decade. Dr. Treacy, who helped to create the first rape crisis program in the Bronx in 1977, says ruefully that while the climate of awareness surrounding this issue has changed in many ways, "I didn't think back then that we'd still need to be talking about rape myths in '03."

The fight to raise public awareness and to end this violence altogether is far from over. Throughout the month of April, activities will be held throughout the city. To find out more about what is going on throughout the city, log on to [www.mssm.edu/SAVI/](http://www.mssm.edu/SAVI/) or [www.nycagainstrape.org](http://www.nycagainstrape.org)

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Do you have something to say about an article in this newsletter, or an opinion, poem or story you would like to share with us? We would love to hear from you. Please email opinions, articles, suggestions etc. to [SAVIProgram@hotmail.com](mailto:SAVIProgram@hotmail.com), or mail them to 1 Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1670, New York, NY 10029. You can also fax them to 212-423-1021, attention: Newsletter.

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Visit SAVI's web site at [www.mssm.edu/SAVI](http://www.mssm.edu/SAVI)

The Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI) is dedicated to assisting sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. SAVI provides free and confidential emergency room crisis intervention in nine hospitals in Manhattan and Queens, individual and group counseling at four sites, and a variety of public and professional education and outreach programs.

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### SAVI

#### Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program

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