



## April Newsletter

### April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Today is the first day of Sexual Assault Awareness Month or **#SAAM**. This year's theme is building connected communities. You might already be preventing sexual violence by supporting survivors, understanding consent with your partners, and not participating in harmful rhetoric, like victim blaming, but NSVRC helps us to understand how community change can go beyond that.

"Community-level prevention means making changes to larger-level factors and conditions to reduce the likelihood that people will perpetrate sexual violence. These broader conditions that can impact an entire community include the physical environment and surroundings, predominant community attitudes, norms, standards, and policies and rules such as a code of conduct. Community-level prevention refers to more than just communities of people within a town, it can also mean workplaces, campuses, organizations, or any space (online or otherwise) with their own policies, rules, and norms that impact others (NSVRC, 2021)."

What are some ways that you can inspire change within your communities?

[Learn More About Building a Connected Community](#)

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Activities

**Tuesday, April 2 - SAAM day of Action** - Wear teal to support survivors of sexual harassment and violence. Don't forget to share pictures on social media, tag @AwareShelter, and use #SAAM2024.

**Wednesday, April 10 - Campus Day** - AWARE sexual assault advocates will be at Baker College for a community table event regarding SAAM. Stop by and say hi!

**Wednesday, April 24 - National Denim Day** - Dress comfortably and support survivors by wearing your favorite denim. For the history of Denim Day and what it represents, visit <https://denimday.org/why-denim>

**Tuesday, April 30 - Sexual Assault Team (SART) Training** - For more information and to register, visit <https://www.awarshelter.org/sart-training/>

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## AWARE Advocacy: Collaboration in Practice!

AWARE was contacted by an advocate working in another state who filed for an ex-parte custody order in Jackson County. The agency was seeking assistance with an attorney referral for their client. AWARE's legal advocacy team was able to provide support in locating an attorney in Jackson County.

AWARE advocates assisted another client with both locating and providing financial resources for process service of an out-of-state domestic violence protective order.

AWARE advocates collaborated with Legal Services of South Central Michigan to help a survivor of domestic violence avoid eviction using VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) housing protections.

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**KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY**

**AWARE**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 5-9 P.M.  
Veritas Ballroom - 151 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson, MI 49201

Orbitform  
American CREDIT UNION  
TRUE Community CREDIT UNION  
VERITAS  
Southern Michigan BANK & TRUST  
ASA  
Edward Jones  
Jamia Dittenber  
Nevermore  
Tito's  
Handmade  
JTV  
105.3  
EMERGENCY AUTHORITY

Saddle up for a night of elegance and excitement! Indulge in southern fare, cheers with mint juleps, try your luck with raffles and games, and witness the thrill of the Kentucky Derby from Jackson. Dress to impress to win big in our 'best hat' and 'best tie' showdown.

[Tickets & More Info](#)

[Sponsorships Available](#)

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### Thank you for your Support!



We are so grateful to Aeroquip Credit Union for several popcorn drives and for volunteering to tidy up around the shelter!



Survivors were elated to receive lots of Easter goodies in loving memory of Erica Brenner, who was a wonderful woman with a caring and generous heart.

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## Sexual Assault DNA Evidence Collection & MDT Best Practices Training

### DATES

Sexual Assault DNA Evidence Collection  
4/30/2024 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
In person - Henry Ford Jackson Hospital

Providing Trauma-Informed Services to Sexual Assault Survivors With Complex Needs  
5/07/2024 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Virtual

The Responsibilities of SART Members in the Criminal Justice Process  
5/14/2024 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Virtual

This is a free training.  
*\*Participants must attend all three dates\**

### Presented By:

**Shalotta Sharp & D'Michelle DuPre**  
*Office for Victims of Crime Training  
& Technical Assistance Center*

### More Info and Sign Up

 [hhunter@awareshelter.org](mailto:hhunter@awareshelter.org)

 [www.awareshelter.org/sart-training](http://www.awareshelter.org/sart-training)



[More Info & Registration](#)

## Welcome to the AWARE Team!



**Allie Jensen**  
AWARE Legal Advocate

## Have You Seen Our New Donation Page?

Make a donation in just one click without leaving the website or signing in to PayPal! Your tax-deductible donation helps us to make a tangible difference in the lives of survivors. AWARE does not believe in a one direction approach. We help survivors get to safety through our emergency shelter and hotel stays program and then help them build a life independent from their abuser through counseling and legal remedies. We set survivors up for success by partnering with other local organizations to help survivors get health and dental care, employment, housing, and more.

### More Ways to Donate:

- AWARE can accept stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Designate AWARE as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy
- Employee matching gifts – many employers offer this option to its employees
- Gift certificates or gift cards, such as prepaid phone cards, gas cards or grocery cards
- Sponsor an event

[Donate Now](#)



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