



Russell House

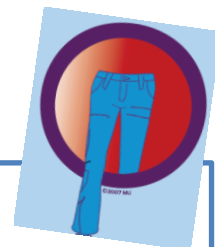
A Safe Place for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence



The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

This April, the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign centers on promoting healthy sexuality to prevent sexual violence.

April 26th is Denim Day



This event was created when in 1997 a teenage girl in Italy was picked up by her 45-year-old old driving instructor for her first lesson. He took her to an isolated location, pulled her out of the car and forcefully raped her. Despite threats that she would be killed if she told anyone, the girl reported the incident, and the case is prosecuted. The driving instructor was convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

Months later, the perpetrator appealed the sentence, and the case made it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court. The case against the driving instructor was overturned, and the perpetrator was released.

In a statement released by the Head Judge, he stated, "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans, it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Outraged by the verdict, the women in the

Denim Day Logo Pin

The **circle** has been a symbol of *protection and healing* throughout history. The **forward movement** of the jeans symbolizes how important it is for a survivor of rape to leave the pain and violence behind and move forward gaining *power and strength*. The **mandala** or shading within the circle is associated with healing. By placing the pain in a circular design and then destroying the design, one can destroy the pain. The color **blue** is associated with *wisdom and peace*. The color **red** symbolizes the unwanted pain brought into the victim's life. The color **violet** is associated with enduring undesirable situations with *inner strength*.

If you would like a Denim Day pin to show your support, contact Jennifer Verreault at 573-364-0579 ex. 11

Italian Parliament began what started out as a protest against the court case by wearing jeans to work. It began an annual international demonstration known as Denim Day. The wearing of jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

People are encouraged to show their support by wearing jeans on April 26. It will serve as a visible means of protest against myths that surround sexual assault. If you are unable to wear jeans, you could also wear teal- the color of sexual violence. Together, we can stamp out ignorance by awareness.

When is a victim of sexual assault at fault? Never.

Famed denim designer, Paige Adams-Geller, has launched an exclusive new jean color, RAINN Blue, which will benefit RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. Always on the forefront of cutting edge design, Paige's new line debuts in time for National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month in April. For more information visit RAINN.org

What's Going on at Russell House



Health
&
Wellness

Our Health and Wellness group brings information on diverse topics to the residents of Russell House. Every Friday, Bethany Horna has a scheduled speaker from the community come and present on a topic of interest. There have been groups with topics focusing on weight loss, healthy eating, couponing and physical fitness.

Volunteerism at Russell House

Knowing how much better people feel after a good haircut and style, Lauri Mankin of Studio K Salon of St. James has been graciously offering her services to the residents of Russell House. In addition to volunteering her own time, Lauri coordinated with other stylists to come to Russell House to volunteer their time to cut and style the hair of the residents. They have also gathered and donated many hair care products. These events have been greatly appreciated by our residents. It adds so much to the normalcy of life to have your hair done!



We always need volunteers. If you are willing to provide a service for our residents please do not hesitate to call Russell House and talk to our Volunteer Coordinator!

We are currently in need of volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- **Shelter Relief:** assisting staff by answering the phone and assisting residents over weekends
- **Transportation:** to doctor's visits, The Partnership, and job interviews.
- **Childcare:** Providing childcare while moms attend group meetings and counseling
- **Maintenance and Grounds:** Assist with facility repairs, yard work, moving heavy items
- **On Call:** Provide transportation for new residents from pick-up point to the shelter
- **Interpretation Services:** Assist with translating for non-English speaking victims

TOP 10 MOST WANTED:

1. TOWELS
2. BLANKETS
3. PILLOWS
4. TWIN SHEETS
5. BODY WASH
6. SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER
7. LARGE DUFFEL BAGS
8. DEODORANT
9. ETHNIC HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
10. SOCKS

Social Networking

Russell House is now on Facebook! You can find us at The Russell House PCFCS. By liking our page your Facebook wall will be automatically updated on the happenings at Russell House. You can also access our website at www.russellhouse.info.

