



Community Crisis Center, Inc.

Serving the Community since 1975

24 Hour Hot Line — 847-697-2380

We provide Safety, Hope, Advocacy, Respite and Education for those impacted by crisis and violence in the Fox Valley Region and Illinois.

Thank You for the “Spring Gala” Support

Our 28th annual auction fundraiser was held March 14 at the Q Center in St. Charles. The event, co-chaired by Dan & Karen Fox and organized by CCC Events Coordinator Karina Albert-Sheppard, was a celebration of long-awaited spring.

Over 300 guests enjoyed a much-needed spring décor and accompanying music while eating a delicious meal and viewing and bidding on hundreds of silent auc-



Harry Seigle opens the evening at the 28th Annual Auction

tion items. Terry Dunning again charmed us with his skill and elegance auctioning off 25 live auction items. Auction items included tickets to sport-

ing events, jewelry, specialty toys, fun getaways and entertainment packages.

Joining the “Wine Pull” this year was a “Beer Pull” which gave participants a chance at some great beers. Mitch Esterino again led the crowd in a rousing game of

“Heads or Tails.”

Many thanks to all who made this fun evening possible: committee members, staff, donors, and guests.

Inside this issue:

Auction Recap	1
Sexual Assault Awareness Month	2
Car Raffle	3
South Elgin H. S. Health Class Donation	3
Summer Needs List	3
Project Backpack	3
Spring Appeal	4
New Training	4
Olive Garden Grant	4
Coming Events	4

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Keeping the public aware of sexual assault and surrounding issues kept our staff busy. Activities included three days of showing short movies at ECC, the Clothesline Project at ECC, and sixteen days of public information tables at area libraries and at the Centre of Elgin.

Highlighting the month, on April 30th, Elgin Community College Theatre Department and the Community Crisis Center treated the audience of over 200 persons to an amazing presentation of Eve Ensler's play, "Emotional Creature". Written by the author of "The Vagina Monologues", the play invited each of us to discover, celebrate and embrace our own emotional creature.



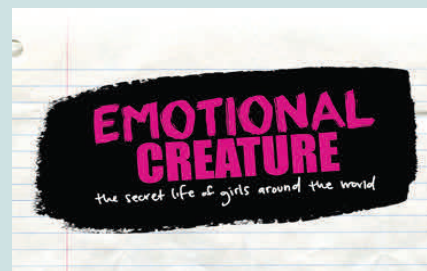
The cast of "Emotional Creature"

Front Row: Gwendolyn Madrigal; Mary Grace Martens; Dominique Green; Deanna Hynes; Alexis Park

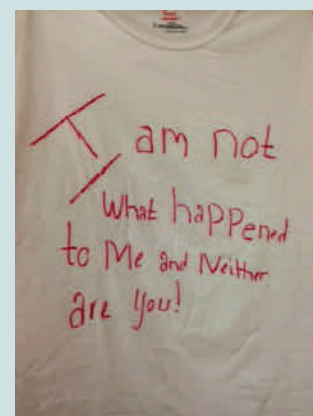
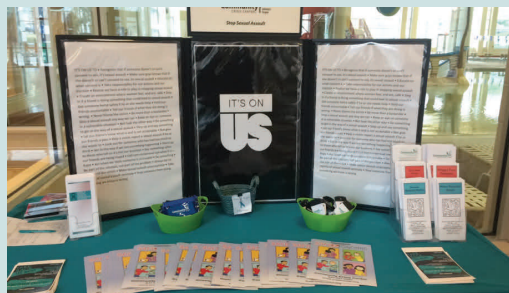
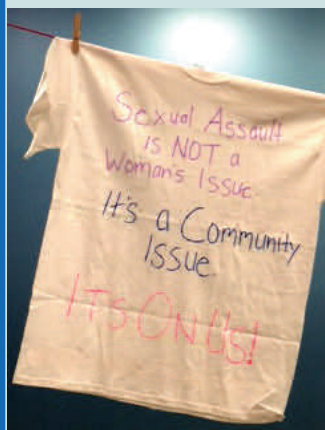
Back Row: Libby Harvey; Cynthia Esparza; Rachel Moore; Lexie Gruber; Sonya Madrigal; Eileen Gentile

"The cast worked really hard on this show. It was both flawless and impactful", said Community Crisis Center Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, Carolyn Karp. "I am proud of all the hard work the actresses put forth. I am also grateful to Susan A. Robinson, ECC Theatre Program Coordinator for the new partnership which has been created between the ECC Theatre Department and the Community Crisis Center."

Special thanks go to Cynthia Esparza and Rachel Moore, who directed and acted in the play, and to Sonya Madrigal who was both choreographer and actor.



Some examples of the T-shirts created during the Clothesline Project, and the Sexual Assault Display which was displayed in many area libraries, the Centre, and ECC during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Drawing for Car to be July 5

This year, the Community Crisis Center celebrates its 40th Anniversary. The doors opened to the house on Margaret Place, our first home, on July 5, 1975. As part of our celebration, Cucci Ford has generously donated a 2014 Ford Focus for a fund-raising raffle. For only \$20.00 for one ticket or 6 for \$100, you can have the opportunity to both support the Crisis Center and have a chance to win a new car. Tickets can be purchased on our website (www.crisiscenter.org), or by contacting Kari Albert-Sheppard at 847-742-4088.

We will be drawing the winning ticket on our anniversary, July 5, 2015. Be sure to get your ticket before then. You do not have to be present to win.



40th Anniversary Car Raffle

Tickets: \$20 Each or 6 for \$100
Tickets can be purchased online at www.CrisisCenter.org



Special Thanks to Cucci Ford



South Elgin High School Health Class brings in a \$300 donation in only one week!

In early spring we received a check accompanied by this letter:

My name is Alison Clement and I am a Health teacher at South Elgin High School in South Elgin, IL. Every semester I assign my health classes an argumentative essay on a foundation or charity of their choice. Every student submits an essay and I choose the top three of the class to read aloud to the entire class. The students then vote on which essay they felt was the most convincing and that

becomes our classroom fundraiser. The students decorate containers with the name of the charity and statistics concerning the issue it stands for. Each class raises money for a week and it is a competition among all of my classes.

My smallest class of the day chose to raise money for the Community Crisis Center in Elgin! I was so proud of these 20 students for raising over \$300 for such an amazing organization in just one week! Please accept this check from my students at South Elgin High School.

It is support like this that keeps us going.

A special Thank You to this Health Class from South Elgin High School!

Summer Needs List

As we prepare for summer, here are the things on top of our needs list:

- ◆ Swim suits (new or lightly used)
- ◆ Beach towels
- ◆ HE Powdered Laundry detergent
- ◆ Dishwasher tablets
- ◆ Dish washing liquid
- ◆ Liquid hand soap
- ◆ Antibacterial wipes
- ◆ Sandwich size zip lock bags
- ◆ Toiletries — men's and women's
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Summer PJ's for women — NEW ONLY
- ◆ Summer clothing for children — NEW ONLY

Project Backpack is Taking Donations for August 8 Backpack Giveaway

Community Crisis Center is one of the drop-off points for donations to Project Backpack. You may bring us your donations of: **Folders** (Two pocket, solid colors only); **Spiral Notebooks** (one subject, wide ruled, solid colors only); **Packs of Loose Leaf/Filler Paper** (150/200 count, wide ruled); **Packages of Pencils** (10 count, standard #2, yellow wood); **Black pens**; **Scissors** (gender-neutral color); **Glue Sticks** (0.21 oz.); **Rulers** (wood or gender-neutral color); **Packs of crayons** (24 ct./Crayola preferred); **Gender-neutral backpacks** .at any time..

For more information and how to make a financial donation [click Here:](#)

Community Crisis Center

Spring 2015 Appeal

If only you could sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself you leave at every meeting with another person. Fred Rogers (1928 – 2003)

May 2015

Dear friends:

You are important to the people we serve at Community Crisis Center, Inc. You can make a difference.

Share what you can—a donation; a gift; a thought; a blessing; a word of encouragement—and we will pass it on.

Peace,

Gretchen S. Vapnar,

Executive Director

[Click here to donate](#)



COMING EVENTS

Ongoing:

Drop-In Domestic Violence Support Groups
Tues. 6:30-8:00 pm: English
Wed. 6:30-8:00 pm: Spanish
Fri. 9:00-10:30 am: Expressive Art—English

Check These Dates Out:

Look for us at Elgin's Harvest Market!
June 23-July 28: Parenting With Love & Logic

**July 5 — It's our 40th Birthday!!!
Car Raffle Drawing!**

July 15, 16, 17: Partner Abuse Intervention Training

August 4-September 8: Parenting with Love & Logic

August 8: Project Backpack

August 17-21: 40 Hour Domestic Violence /Sexual Assault Advocacy Training

August 28: Benefit Concert — Danny's Pizza

August TBA: Serving refreshments for movie at Festival Park

New Options for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy Training

There have been several important changes in the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy Training which is offered three times a year at the Community Crisis Center for professionals, new staff, interns and hospital advocates.

Previously if one wanted only Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence Training, they would still have to sit through the entire 56 hours of classroom training and would receive both certificates. Now we are able to offer a choice of one or the other, or both.

We have been able to do this with the implementation of 20 hours of on-line training for Domestic Violence and independent study for Sexual Assault, which is completed prior to the in-person training. This allows the actual classroom training to be more interactive since the academic portion has already been covered.

[For more information on Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocacy Training, Click here.](#)

West Dundee Olive Garden provides \$1,000

Community Crisis Center has been selected by the Olive Garden in West Dundee to receive a \$1,000 grant as part of the Restaurant Community Grants program from the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants. The annual grants program empowers each of the Olive Gardens' locations to help award a \$1,000 grant to support local community programs. The donation will enable us to purchase nonperishable groceries for the Emergency Food Pantry Program which last year provided 26,104 meals to 1,564 households.

"People in crisis cannot move forward in their lives if they cannot meet their basic needs such as food, shelter and safety. This grant from the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation allows us to provide groceries directly to families in need allowing them to work towards self-sufficiency," said Gretchen Vapnar, Exec. Director of the Crisis Center.

"We're proud to be able to support Community Crisis Center, Inc. through our Restaurant Community Grants program," said Stephanie Ghertner, Director of the Darden Foundation. "Our team members are incredibly passionate about getting involved in their local communities, and this program enables them to do just that."