

APRIL 2010

Frontlines

‘Sexting’ Strike a pose. Press send. Regret it Forever.

Posting. Texting. Chatting. Blogging. With school out and summer ahead, teens are finding more ways to let their fingers do the walking through cyberspace to stay connected. But if you think they’re actually *talking* on their cell phones or sending silly photos from band camp, think again. The new trend among our ever-connected (or over-connected) teens is “sexting.”

“Sexting refers to the posting or sending of sexually suggestive messages or images, usually naked pictures of oneself or partially naked pictures,” says Melissa Fleschler Peskin, PhD, assistant professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at The University of Texas School of Public Health. And, it’s not just other people’s children who are sending and receiving nude self portraits. New research suggests that sexting is considered yawningly common among teens.

“According to a recent survey conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and Cosmogirl.com, one in five teens reports sending sexually explicit images, and almost 40 percent of teens report sending sexually suggestive messages,” Peskin says. “The limited data suggests that this behavior is relatively common among both sexes.” Texting sexy messages and even sexier photos is easy for teens who are downright experts at using technology to communicate with their peers. In fact, for teens, communicating with a computer or handheld device is almost preferred over talking face-to-face. “This form of communication provides constant access to friends and dating partners, and it reduces barriers that might be introduced by in-person communication,” explains Susan Tortolero, PhD, associate professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the UT School of Public Health and director of the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research. “Flirting and sending sexually explicit messages is easier by texting as it can eliminate embarrassment of in-person flirting. Teens also are willing to push boundaries and take more risks using technology.”

New twist on an old reputation buster

Posing nude in a photo isn’t exactly “new” behavior. Nor is the act of passing that photo around, once it lands in less-than-honorable hands. After all, the ancient Polaroid camera was the first “instant” messaging we had.

“What makes sexting different is the potential for the technology to transmit these images to thousands of people,” Peskin says. A single nude image sent in a text message can be forwarded to everyone in his or her web address book with just the click of a button. Next stop: [MySpace](#) or [Facebook](#) – the gathering place for millions of winks and nods. Once in cyberspace, the photo and the consequences that come with it are out of anyone’s control. Peskin and Tortolero say that sexting can put teens at risk for cyberbullying and sexual harassment. “We know that young people who are involved in cyberbullying may be more likely to experience mental health problems like depression and also to experience decreased quality of life, such as missing school,” Peskin says. “We can probably expect that sexting, which is done in the context of making fun of others, also will be associated with such negative outcomes. The consequences of sexting with someone you meet online that you do not know also can be potentially dangerous.” Just as ominous are the potential charges of distribution of pornography. A 19-year-old college sophomore was charged with pornography offenses, branded a sex offender then expelled from school after he sent nude photos of his ex-girlfriend (that she had sent to him) to her entire e-mail address book. The charges can escalate to child pornography when one of the parties is under age.

Talk to your teens before they press ‘send’

Before you confiscate that cell phone or activate the parental controls on your teen’s laptop, talk to your son or daughter about the dangers of sexting. Teach them to have respect for their bodies and respect for their partner. Tell them what it’s like to

(Continued on page 6)

April is Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

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Sexual Assault Closet Wish List:

Men's and Women's Drawstring Type Pants & Jogging Suits (S-XXL)
 T-Shirts, Slide-On Shoes, New Underwear, Shorts, Socks, Bras
 Flip-Flops, Mouthwash/Rinse, Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste
 Combs & Hair Brushes, Children's Books



Auction For A Cause

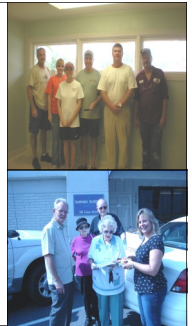
The Uptown Sertoma Club and the many folks who contributed their time, talent, donations, and support raised \$16,189 for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!



A huge **THANKS** goes out to everyone who helped out during the holiday season! **The Shop**, a local non-profit group of motorcycle Davidson enthusiasts, held their Eleventh Annual Toy Run raising almost \$6000.00 and donating loads of toys and bikes for us. Special thanks to FedEx, Hilltop Fire Dept., and the Spartanburg City Police for their escort during the parade and to the 300 motorcyclists that continue to support the work we do. **We couldn't keep doing what we do without you!**



Several businesses and groups that have reached out and assisted victims of domestic and sexual violence are the AARP & Young's Office Supply who provided school items to our children in the shelter. Carolina Foothills Credit Union & Barnett & Sons painted rooms in our new shelter & Carolina Foothills Credit Union also provided our clients with toys and goodies at Christmastime.



Shelter Wish List

Deodorant * Small Plastic Cups & Bowls
 Baby Bottles * Baby Wipes
 Diapers (all sizes)
 Velcro Diapers (for potty training)
 Canned Vegetables, Meats & Fruits (in natural juices)
 Cleaning Products * Combs & Brushes
 Toothbrushes Toothpaste * Boys' & Girls' Underwear * Boys' Clothing (all sizes) * Pillows
 Paper Towels & Toilet Paper
 Laundry Detergent * Shampoo & Conditioners
 Towels & Wash Cloths * Ladies' Panties (size 7-12)
 Twin Bed Linens

School Items Needed

Book Bags * Erasers * Protractors
 Children's Scissors * Pencils (No. 2) * Calculators
 Poster Board * White-Out * Glue Sticks
 Highlighters Colored Pencils * Dividers * Rulers
 Markers Crayons Portfolios * Notebooks
 3-Ring Binders Graph Paper * Pens (Black)
 Permanent Markers
 Notebook Paper—wide/college ruled
 Children's Games (for 11-15 yr. olds)

The Cherokee County SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition

location expanded their office space and hired a therapist who is available two days a week. The location now has a cozy waiting room, an office for the victim advocate and therapist, and easier access and confidentiality for clients.



2009 STATISTICS
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition:

Assisted 3,710 families traumatized by domestic violence and sheltered
 300 adults and children

Assisted 325 direct and 268 indirect victims of sexual assault

Provided 2,507 individual and 1,118 family therapy sessions for 483 individuals

Provided 428 therapy groups, which were attended by 207 individuals

Accompanied 76 victims of sexual assault to the hospital

Assisted 447 victims with filing order of protection petitions and attended 2,170 hearings
 with domestic violence and sexual assault victims

Provided 424 education/prevention programs reaching 84,524 individuals

695 volunteers contributed 32,342 hours

NPR News Examines Failure of Colleges to Protect Women from Sexual Assault

NPR'S JOSEPH SHAPIRO REPORTS THAT STUDENTS GUILTY OF ASSAULT ARE RARELY EXPELLED, VICTIMS RECEIVE LITTLE HELP FROM COLLEGES OR GOVERNMENT

February 24, 2010; Washington, D.C. – One in five women will be sexually assaulted while at college, according to a study funded by the U.S. Department of Justice – a startling statistic that begs to question how colleges are working to curb assault on campus. In a multipart NPR News Investigation beginning today, NPR correspondent Joseph Shapiro, in collaboration with the Center for Public Integrity, examines why colleges and universities fail to protect women from this epidemic of sexual assault. The investigation finds that even the best-intentioned of colleges are ill-equipped to investigate rape on campus, and mete out adequate punishments. As a result, it's rare for students to be expelled, even after they've been found responsible of sexual assault, creating a culture where victims cannot count on their schools or the government oversight agencies for help.

Through interviews with victims of sexual assault and their families, and research from the Center for Public Integrity investigation <http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/campus_assault/articles/entry/1945> , Shapiro reports of systemic problems with the campus policing system, and with the government's oversight of campus safety. The U.S. Department of Education regulates campuses under the Jeanne Clery Act, which forces schools to disclose all crime that happens on campus. But Shapiro reports that when victims of assault on campus turn to the Department for help, which very few students know to do, it rarely acts. Between 1998 and 2008, the Department ruled against just five universities out of 24 complaints, and there was no punishment in those cases, simply guidance on how to improve campus procedures.

Presented with these findings, Russlynn Ali, the assistant secretary for civil rights, says her office is stepping up outreach to students, so they know their rights, and to schools, so they know their responsibilities. Ali tells NPR: "We want them to get training, we want to provide some help so that the adults and the students alike can ensure that this plague – it's really has become a plague in this country – begins to diminish."

In a two-part report, Shapiro explores the story of one university student who was sexually assaulted, and her struggle to get justice and feel safe again. After telling campus police she'd been raped by a student who lived down the hall, she and her family found the school's policing system unable to handle her case. The campus police hadn't collected evidence or formally questioned the man accused of rape, and discouraged her family from getting an order of protection

(Continued on page 7)

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Honors Outstanding Volunteers

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition's staff and clients have all been touched in a unique way by the spirit of volunteers. It was therefore appropriate to recognize those whose service in 2009 were deemed to be exceptional at our Annual Volunteer Banquet held on March 25, 2010.

LEADERSHIP AWARD - Bobby Jackson, Bill Jackson

This award is not presented every year. It is presented to individuals who display leadership through actions above and beyond the ordinary. This award comes with a "Purple Heart", in recognition of their outstanding leadership in this community.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Paul Brown

This award recognizes the superior achievement, commitment and support of a volunteer to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR - Ginger Davis

This award recognizes outstanding leadership and service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by a member of SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition's Board of Directors.

CORPORATE SERVICE AWARD - Johnson Communications, Inc.

This award is presented to a local company in recognition of outstanding corporate support and service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD OF THE YEAR - Mattress Connection, LLC

This award is presented to individuals and organizations that have exemplified outstanding community service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Terrell Jones, Tameka Hughes

This award is presented to outstanding student volunteers in recognition of superior achievement, commitment and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ANN KEARSE AWARD - Nancy Kirby Crocker

Ann Kearse was the kind of volunteer every group wishes they had. Her death in 1998 was a huge loss for us. In honor of her volunteer service, an award was created and is given to the volunteer that epitomizes that ongoing volunteer spirit and commitment in large and small ways.

DEDICATION AWARDS - Shelly Spars, Kathy Mabry, Chauntee' Aiken

These volunteers have been truly dedicated in their long-term and consistent commitment to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition and the victims we serve.

HELPING HANDS AWARDS - The Shop, Veronica Gentry, Heartwarmers

This award is presented to organizations in recognition of exemplary service and dedication to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

SHINING STAR AWARDS - Sertoma Club, Betty Thompson, Bruster's Ice Cream

This award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of stellar support, and commitment to promoting awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ANGELS OF LIGHT AWARD - Liberty United Methodist Church

This award is presented to faith-based groups in recognition of their dedication and ongoing commitment to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

KELLEY AWARD - Little Caesar's of Inman

Donna Kelley was a much loved friend and staff member. Her death in November of 2002 was an incredible loss for us and the victims she served. In honor of her unparalleled commitment to underserved victim populations, an award was created and given to the volunteer that exemplifies that enthusiasm and dedication to empowering those who would otherwise have no support or guidance.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS - Tangie Roseboro, LaTanja Brown, Allison Jones, Lasonya Webb, Elizabeth York

This award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of their outstanding service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in this community.

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(Continued from page 1)

be in a healthy relationship. If you are in a healthy relationship with a spouse or a partner, use that as an example. “Parents should be talking to their children early and often about healthy sexual development and healthy relationships,” Tortolero says. “While it’s important to tell them about the risks of sexting, it is equally important to provide them with the information and tools to have healthy dating relationships. For some parents, this may be easier said than done. If the mere thought of speaking to your son or daughter about sex makes you queasy, then wait for the right moment. Just don’t let that moment pass. “As long as parents continue to avoid talking to teens about sexual health, healthy boundaries and healthy relationships, teens will continue to find unhealthy ways to engage in relationships,” Tortolero adds. No matter how young your child is, if he or she is curious, then it’s the right time to talk about sex. Christine Markham, PhD, assistant professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the UT School of Public Health, advises parents to speak to their children in an age appropriate way. “When their preschool child asks, ‘How do babies get made?’ parents can say something like, ‘It’s when a man and a woman love each other and want to have a baby together,’” Markham says. If your child never asks or simply just grows up, Markham says to use “talkable or teachable moments” – like watching a TV show with intimate scenes or listening to suggestive lyrics on the radio. “They can talk about how important it is to really like someone and to have a good relationship with someone before they think about sex,” she says. “It’s also important to let them know that they should never be pressured into doing something sexually that they don’t want to do or don’t feel comfortable about.”

Healthy relationships by definition foster respect and regard between the participants. The pressuring of a boyfriend or girlfriend to send compromising photos or messages is a violation of boundaries. Blasting those photos or messages out to the world is a first-degree violation of privacy and trust. The damage can last a lifetime. So can the photo. In her research on the sexual behaviors of middle school students, Markham says she defines a healthy dating relationship as, “when two people trust, respect and listen to each other, and both people support each other’s right to say yes or no at any time for any reason.” *(See healthy and unhealthy relationships.)* If you’re unsure if the information you’ve given your teen about healthy relationships and establishing healthy boundaries has really sunk in, then turn the tables. Markham says to ask your teen how he or she would want to be treated in a dating relationship. Above all, she says, let them know it’s important to respect themselves and their partner in a healthy relationship. Encourage your teen to ask him or herself this simple question: What would your criteria be for saying “yes”? “Teens can make healthy decisions about their sexual health if given the tools,” Tortolero adds. “However, we need to start the conversation about what healthy relationships are like and how to make decisions about their own boundaries while respecting themselves and their partner. “We should, as adults, take responsibility for what is going on with our youth and open the conversation about sexual health and healthy relationships, so youth can make better choices for their lives.” © Tortolero, Markham, Peskin, Shegog, 2008.

- In unhealthy relationships, one or both parties**
1. Don't care about each other
 2. Don't feel safe to talk about personal things
 3. Don't respect each other
 4. Doesn't accept a "no"
 5. Are not supportive of each other
 6. Feel they can't trust him/her
 7. Always decides
 8. Blames others
 9. Hits
 10. Is controlling
 11. Puts the other down
 12. Is jealous
 13. Angry all the time
 14. Yells at the other
 15. Have a big difference in age

- In healthy relationships, both parties**
1. Care about each other
 2. Feel safe to talk about anything
 3. Respect each other
 4. Accept that "no" means "no"
 5. Are supportive of each other
 6. Trust each other
 7. Make decisions together
 8. Take responsibility
 9. Are patient with each other
 10. Do not feel pressured
 11. Don't try to control
 12. Are close in age


- Therapy Team Wish List**
- Bags of play sand
 - Crayons / Magic Markers
 - Small bags of marbles
 - Smooth glass bits or Stones
 - Colored gel pens, Coloring books
 - Self-drying clay (air dries in kiln)
 - Oil / Chalk pastels
 - Children's safety scissors
 - Construction paper
 - Art paper - all colors/sizes
 - Tempera paints & brushes
 - Glue sticks

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.
Alice Walker

Consent is Sexy!
Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign

Come show your support with SAFE Homes – Rape Crisis Coalition on April 30th, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. for the **Consent is Sexy!** Party hosted by Lil' D'z Food and Spirits. There will be a live performance by local band, Product of Critics, formerly known as GTA. There is a cover charge for the band and SH-RCC will be present to accept donations.

Remember: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Wearing teal (Sexual Assault) and blue (Child Abuse) ribbons promotes awareness of the issues.



Lil' D'z
 1059 Fernwood-
 Glendale Rd.
 Spartanburg, SC
 864.253.9151

(Continued from page 3)

for their daughter. A campus judicial hearing found the man responsible for “inappropriate sexual conduct” but gave the man just a mild suspension. The woman and her family asked the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights to investigate, but the office found that the university had acted appropriately.

The NPR/CPI investigation found that colleges almost never expel men who are found responsible for sexual assault. Reporters at the Center for Public Integrity discovered a database of about 130 colleges and universities that received federal grants because they wanted to do a better job dealing with sexual assault. It shows that even when men at those schools were found responsible for sexual assault, only 10 to 25 percent of them were expelled.

All excerpts are credited to “NPR News.”

SH-RCC Thrift Store!!

Your tax-deductible donations are needed for SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Thrift Store. Our clients shop there for free and profit sales from the public goes to support SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition programs and services. Donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Store, Monday thru Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding donations or sales, please call our Manager, Arnette Aiken-Brown at 864.583.9803. Pickup is available only for furniture and large household items. If you need to schedule a pickup, please call Steve Hames at 864.583.9803. Be sure to stop by and visit our store.

**SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
would like to
WELCOME....**

**New Staff:
Sherry Stevens
Laura Mason Hall**

**New Board Members:
Caroline Broyles
Troy Hanna
Kim Land
Francie Little
Kathy Merlino
Reggie Rogers
Mary Jennie White**

**Right at this moment you have all the
resources you need to make a
difference.... Please VOLUNTEER!!!!**

There are various opportunities in our programs where you can take time to give. Volunteers assist with special projects, clerical duties, our thrift store, educations, fundraising, the emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and our 24-hour crisis line. SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition will also be offering a special volunteer training program for domestic violence and sexual assault crisis counselors March 29, 2010 - April 20, 2010. If you are interested in more information, please contact Karen Martin-Wilkins at 864.583.9803.

SAVE A TREE...GO GREEN

Are you receiving multiple copies of *Frontlines*?
Would you like to be removed from our mailing list?
Do you know a friend or co-worker who would enjoy receiving the newsletter?
Have you moved?
Would you like to receive Frontlines via e-mail?

If any of these apply, please contact us:
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
236 Union Street • Spartanburg, SC 29302
Phone: 864.583.9803 • Fax: 864.583.9611
SHRCC@aol.com

Yes, I want to help.

- \$95 to provide shelter for one night
- \$190 to provide shelter for two nights a week's shelter
- I wish to make a gift of my own choosing _____
- I would like my gift to be made in honor/memory of:
 - In honor of _____
 - In memory of _____
- I would like more information about volunteer opportunities

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
Mail to: 236 Union Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Donations are tax deductible according to the tax regulations regarding 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 29-April 20, 2010** **SHRCC Volunteer Training**
236 Union Street ~ Spartanburg, SC
- April 18-April 24, 2010** **National Crime Victims' Rights Week**
25 years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act
- April 20, 2010** **Sexual Assault Awareness Month Day of Action:** *Prevent Sexual Violence...on our Campuses*
- April 21, 2010** **Victim's Rights Week - Day of Prayer**
12 Noon at Spartanburg City Hall
- April 28-30, 2010** **South Carolina Victim Assistance Network 23rd Annual Victims' Rights Week 2010 Conference ~ Greenville, SC**
- April 30th, 2010** **Consent is Sexy! Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign @ Lil' D'z ~ Spartanburg, SC**
- September 24, 2010** **An Interpersonal Violence Conference**
Registration: 8:30am / Program 9:00am - 4:15pm Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park
- October 1, 2010** **Auction For A Cause: Silent & Live Auction:** *Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium Lower level*

For more information or services,
please call 1.800.273.5066 or 864.583.9803

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition (SHRCC) provides services to victims of domestic violence in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties and victims of sexual assault in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Mission

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition is a collaborative effort that exists to end sexual and domestic violence.

The Objectives of SHRCC shall be:

- To build community awareness by providing Information on the dynamics and prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Abuse;
- To provide treatment and supportive services to child and adult victims of Sexual Assault/Abuse or Domestic Violence;
- To provide temporary emergency shelter to victims of Domestic Violence and their dependent children;
- To advocate at local, state, and federal levels on behalf of victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Abuse and to coordinate community resources to alleviate the suffering of these victims.

Frontlines

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
236 Union Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302

A United Way Funding Partner



United Way
of the Piedmont

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