SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN AGAINST RAPE
Newsletter & Annual Report 2011-2012

1973-2013: Celebrating 40 Years of Community, Resilience & Strength

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Design by Design Action Collective
A Letter from the Executive Director

Over the last eight months, the issue of rape has received wide-spread critical attention. Tragically, Missouri Republican Senate Candidate Todd Akin coined the term “legitimate rape,” noting that a woman’s body had the capacity to “shut down” a pregnancy in these cases, and underscores his erroneous belief that pregnancy is not a possible result of rape. Not to be outdone, Indiana Republican Senate Candidate Richard Mourdock followed-up Akin’s comments stating that “even when life begins with that horrible situation of rape, that is something God intended to happen.” Forcing women who experience rape-related pregnancies to carry them to term is Mourdock’s proposition. While the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was finally reauthorized today, February 28th, it took the U.S. Congress over a year to reauthorize this critical legislation and, until the end, the GOP mounted vehement opposition to the legislation based on its specific protections for native women, immigrant women, and LGBT communities. Considering the disturbing and outrageous opinions so freely expressed by Akin and Mourdock, perhaps it should not at all be surprising that VAWA, which has not been considered controversial in the 20 years since its inception, was mired in Congressional gridlock.

The multiple assailant sexual assault and murder of a 23-year old woman who was riding a bus in Delhi, India garnered international attention. Much has been made about the misogyny of East Indian culture that gave rise to this assault. But, not nearly the same level of attention and cultural critique has surrounded a Steubenville, Ohio rape happening around the same time. In this case a 16-year old unconscious girl was carried around to a series of parties; raped by at least two assailants; video-taped and photographed (by both those perpetrating the assault and witnesses); and then the videos and photos were posted on the Web. And, less than a month after the conviction of Frederick Dozier in December 2012 for the rapes of three women in the San Francisco Mission District came a very well-publicized attempted sexual assault in the same neighborhood.

2013 marks the 40th Anniversary of San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR). Clearly there is still much to do with regards to changing attitudes, behaviors, and culture to end rape and, at the same time, SFWAR, as part of the formidable U.S. anti-rape movement, has made tremendous strides toward raising awareness about sexual violence and supporting survivors. While I continue to be pleased with our core services (i.e. 24-hour sexual assault crisis line; individual counseling; support groups; medical, legal, and social service advocacy & accompaniment; adult & youth prevention education; training and technical assistance), I’m particularly proud of our more recent critical initiatives supporting Latina immigrant survivors, women who are marginally housed, and ‘high-risk’ young women of African and Latin descent. These groups of women and girls are not only underserved, they experience some of the highest rates of sexual violence.

In October 2013, SFWAR will hold our 40th Anniversary Celebration Event. We hope you will join us to celebrate the work SFWAR has done over these decades, much of which has only been possible thanks to your personal and financial support. In addition, this anniversary year provides us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to SFWAR’s mission of ending rape and to assess those areas where we need to shore up our work and concert our efforts. For example, while VAWA has been reauthorized extending first ever federal public housing protections for survivors of sexual assault; increasing and improving efforts to address the rape kit backlog; explicitly protecting LGBT victims; and fortifying tribes’ ability to hold offenders accountable, the sequestration looms and threatens to significantly compromise funding for violence against women services. In addition, the relentless attacks on women’s reproductive rights at both national and state levels significantly jeopardizes the access of sexual assault survivors to pregnancy prophylaxis and abortions. Yes, there is still much to do. And, at the same time, there is much that has been accomplished that can fortify our on-going efforts and much for us to honor and revere.

Yours in community,
Janelle L. White
Thank you Lisa Thomas-Adeyemo, Frolayne Carlos, Teresa Martyny, and Camille Bates for your dedication, strength and humility in the struggle to end rape. We wish you all the best!

Christina Arguello,
Director of Counseling

Christina Arguello is a Bay Area native and has been involved in the Rape Crisis Movement for 8 years. Upon graduating with her Bachelor’s in Psychology and Behavioral Sciences from San Jose State University, Christina worked at the YWCA of Silicon Valley Rape Crisis Center as a counselor, case manager, and educator. Christina believes that healing is a life-long process that allows us to find incredible strengths in ourselves.

Kristie Chan,
Office Manager

Kristie received her B.A. in History with a minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies at San Francisco State University. An Angeleno at heart, she started community organizing in the San Gabriel Valley area in a social justice organization addressing topics such as sexual assault and post traumatic stress disorder in the military, immigration rights, and budget cuts to public education. She is thrilled to be a part of SFWAR’s organization as the Office Manager.

Alicia Maldonado,
Community Educator

Alicia was born in San Diego, California and raised just up the coastline. She attended the University of San Francisco (USF) and graduated with a degree in Communications Studies. While at USF, Alicia ran a queer student group and motivated community building in the LGBTQ community for 5 years. Alicia was also active in the modern abolitionist movement by mapping slavery in San Francisco. This work gave her a global perspective of the interconnectedness of oppression and inspired her interest in social movements. As the Community Educator, Alicia is committed to promoting safety and empowerment for all individuals and communities healing from violence. She is honored to be at SFWAR in the struggle to end sexual violence.

Bhavana Manchanda,
Hotline & Volunteer Associate

As our Volunteer and Hotline Associate, Bhavana assists the Director of Volunteers and Hotline in coordinating the SFWAR Hotline and Sexual Assault Counselor Certification Training, which occurs 3 times per year. Bhavana also assists with planning of annual volunteer appreciation event; providing counseling on 24-hour crisis hotline and advocacy/case management services for clients.
San Francisco Women Against Rape hosted its 14th biennial Artists Against Rape on October 26, 2012 at Mission High School, featuring spoken word and art by local poets, artists and activists speaking out against and healing from sexual violence. The 14th Artists Against Rape showcased work by youth and work making connections between youth culture, sexual violence and social issues.

With a community altar created by Mission Girls, the creative vision of Curator and Creative Director Indira Allegra, the participation of 13 artists, emcees Erika Viviana Céspedes of Youth Speaks and Tonilyn A. Sideco of QWOCMAP, DJ AGANA, volunteers from City College and Young Asian Women Against Violence—a program of the Community Youth Center of SF, local business support, and fierce community presence, we enhanced our community strength to support services for survivors and end rape!

Funding from the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women made the 14th Artists Against Rape possible.

Indira Allegra shares her experience as the Curator and Creative Director of Artists Against Rape.

It was my honor this year to be Curator and Creative Director of the 14th Artists Against Rape (AAR). AAR has always had a special place in my heart. In 2008, I screen Blue Covers there and was overwhelmed with how respectfully and lovingly the work was received. Blue Covers is an experimental short video based on a poem I had written about surviving childhood sexual abuse.

It is fitting that I would care for the artistic vision of AAR five years after the birth of the poem Blue Covers—contributing to a creative reciprocity between this women-of-color led organization and myself. I feel deeply honored to have worked with SFWAR this year on an event that was a healing program for youth and adult artists from the Bay Area and Toronto. It is my hope that the careers of each of the artists involved will benefit from the work they have done this year. In other performance and fine arts contexts, space isn’t always opened to speak on survival in a direct and explicit way.

It is important to me that AAR be a stage where the range of a survivor’s experience can be expressed and it is equally important that AAR be a nurturing space for both the artists and the viewers. To this end, we incorporated the music of DJ AGANA and self care stretches and massages by Ana Maria Agüero Jahannes, C.M.T. throughout the evening. This year’s presentation also included two experimental video works by Jadelynn Stahl and Olive-or-Oliver and opened and closed with powerful vocal performances by Larissa and duo Enajite Loicy Pela and Allysa Evans.

I’m deeply grateful to painter Maren Slobody and illustrator Sue Williams for lending their talent to us this year, as well as to our guest textile artist Margarita Herrera whose woven and printed pieces demonstrated an enormous degree of skill.

Our experiences as survivors are rich and varied with room for tears as well as laughter, stillness as well as moments of intense creative production. Ultimately, it is my hope that AAR will continue to be an opportunity for cultural creatives to deepen their artistic practices as well as a professional development platform for emerging artists to experience new opportunities for collaboration and art making. I know it is a privilege for me as an artist to do this work.

Indira Allegra is a Lambda Literary Fellow, Banff Centre Writer and interdisciplinary artist poeting through performance, video and handwoven textiles. She has contributed work to the Yellow Medicine Review: A Journal of Indigenous Literature, Art and Thought, Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two Spirit Literature, Konch Magazine and Make/Shift Magazine among others. Indira has performed and screened work with Queer Rebels of the Harlem Renaissance, Mangos with Chili, The Yellow House Project and Peacock Rebellion. Her experimental videopoems Weep Willow: The Blues for Lady Day and Blue Covers have screened both nationally and internationally. In the Bay Area, Indira’s textile works have shown at the Alter Space and College Avenue Galleries.

In 2012, she was the Curator and Creative Director for Artists Against Rape and was a member of the artistic core of Sins Invalid in 2008. A VONA alum, Indira has taught digital storytelling and poetry workshops at Intersection for the Arts, Geneva Car Barn and Powerhouse and project PRO:JECT. She is currently completing her first collection of poems entitled Indigo Season.
During 2011–2012 fiscal year, SFWAR reached over 8,827 people through our Annual Events, Direct Services, and Prevention Education Programs.

24-hour Crisis Line
SFWAR served 2,753 people on the crisis line during the 2011–2012 fiscal year, providing crisis intervention support to 520 survivors of sexual assault and 169 family members and friends of survivors. Certified counselors are available 24-hours a day to offer crisis counseling and community referrals. Multi-lingual counselors are also available to provide services in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian.

Volunteers and Interns
SFWAR is alive and thriving because of the commitment of 70 volunteers. Volunteers staff the sexual assault crisis line, provide medical accompaniment to survivors at San Francisco General Hospital, offer in-person peer counseling, support prevention education initiatives, join committees to assist with special events like Artists Against Rape, and provide administrative office support.

During the 2011–2012 fiscal year, 33 volunteers graduated and became state-certified sexual assault counselors. After an intensive 72-hour certification training, volunteers are required to participate in continuing education via counselor support meetings held monthly. In 2011–2012, SFWAR offered 11 counselor support continuing education meetings. In addition, throughout the year 21 interns offered support to the Volunteers & Hotline, Counseling, Community Initiatives and Development Programs.

Counseling
The SFWAR Counseling Program provides free and confidential short term in-person peer counseling to survivors, their friends, and family members. In 2011–2012, 87 survivors received in-person counseling. We also offered 2 series of multi-week support groups to a total of 22 survivors. One support group was an 8-week community specific healing group comprised of 13 young women of Latin and African descent who are clients of Mission Girls Services; this group focused on healthy relationships, family and community violence, resilience practices, story-sharing, and building sisterhood. In addition, SFWAR provides survivors referrals for long-term clinical counseling and support groups. The Counseling Program continues building its capacity to offer survivors somatic healing modalities.

Case Management /Advocacy
Advocates act as a liaison between survivors and medical, legal and social systems, with the goal of supporting and empowering survivors of sexual assault. We provide community resources and advocacy related to sexual assault and offer accompaniments to legal proceedings, medical appointments, and meetings with social service providers. During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, SFWAR also had volunteer medical advocates on-call weekday evenings and weekends to provide medical accompaniment to survivors at San Francisco General Hospital. Our advocacy supported 19 survivors at the hospital and helped 94 survivors navigate complex legal and social service systems.
Community Initiatives

The Community Initiatives (CI) Program encompasses both our adult and youth rape prevention education efforts and adds the component of supporting communities in mobilizing to confront (and ultimately end) rape.

Based on an extensive community mapping process conducted in 2006, we have focused community organizing efforts on one geographic community—the Mission District. Moreover, we prioritized five identity-based groups based on this community assessment; these groups were prioritized based on both the high rates of sexual violence they experience and because, so often, they are underserved. These groups are youth, immigrants of Latin descent, women who are marginally housed or homeless, queer/LBT women of color, and formerly incarcerated women.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, 3 marginally housed women worked as organizers with the SFWAR Peer-2-Peer Outreach & Organizing Project (P2P). Through this effort, SFWAR supports women who are homeless or marginally housed undertake sexual assault prevention outreach and organizing efforts with their peers. P2P organizers conduct outreach and facilitate popular education sessions in SRO (Single Room Occupancy) hotels, emergency shelters, and on the streets making the link between rape, poverty, and other social problems; provide information on risk reduction, post-assault medical care, legal resources, counseling, and other needed social services; assist in developing bystander intervention strategies to sexual assault; and stand with their communities in advocating for policy change to increase safety on the streets, in shelters, and SROs. From July through December 2011, P2P organizers, in partnership with the Women’s Community Clinic, provided weekly outreach in Mission District SROs, including the Prita, Star, Westman, and Radha hotels. Starting in February 2012, P2P organizers provided twice monthly outreach in Mission District hotels and also provided outreach at Ladies Night twice monthly. Ladies Night is a weekly drop-in event hosted by the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center providing a range of services and support for women who are homeless or marginally housed.

Adult and Youth Education

Our CI Program provided prevention education to over 5,852 people last year. We organized 31 rape prevention presentations reaching 363 people; provided 1 Spanish language self-defense classes for 15 Latina immigrants; tabled at 29 festivals, fairs and community events reaching over 2,140 people; and conducted 10 presentations for 193 professionals serving diverse communities.

Through STAND (Student Talking about Non-violent Dating), SFWAR conducted 78 classroom presentations to 1,946 youth and 27 adults; facilitated 2 student assemblies for 1,000 young people and 10 adults; held 2 eight-week support groups reaching—one at June Jordan High School for young women of African descent and a second Spanish language group for pregnant and parenting young women at Hilltop High School—for 23 total young women. Additionally, we provided technical assistance to 6 schools and community based organizations serving youth attended by 135 total students, school staff, and service providers.

Coalition and Community Building

In order to address all aspects of sexual violence, SFWAR works in collaboration with multi-disciplinary organizations. Examples include the San Francisco Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Expect...
Respect San Francisco (ERSF), and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA).

Toward our goal of organizing to end sexual violence with prioritized communities of the Mission District, we continue to strengthen our collaborations with communities of Latin descent, queer/LBT women of color, organizations serving homeless/marginally housed women, advocates of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, along with expanding vital rape prevention education provided to youth. We continue our collaboration with Mujeres Unidas y Activas to provide Spanish language rape crisis hotline services to Latina immigrants and with the Center for Young Women’s Development and Mission Girls Services to expand direct services to ‘high risk’ young women of African and Latin descent who are survivors of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. These two collaborations are supported by federal funding through the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

A specialized and intensive series of 7 sexual assault prevention education sessions were provided to El/ La Para Trans Latinas. In addition, 3 series of multi-session rape prevention education workshops focusing on healthy relationships were provided to the male and female clients of the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, an organization serving individuals who are homeless and marginally housed. SFWAR also provided rape prevention education to Central City SRO Collaborative Seneca Hotel residents and for members of their Sisters Rize! program.

Over half of all SFWAR rape prevention education presentations continue to be conducted in Mission District, Tenderloin, and Bay View schools; these three neighborhoods in San Francisco experience the highest rates of violent crime. These schools include Balboa High School, Burton High School, O’Connell High School, and Marshall High School.

**Fundraising**
In 2011–2012, SFWAR continued working to expand our grassroots fundraising approach. We raised $12,005 through our annual Phone Bank and Canvass, reaching over 2,600 people. In December 2011, we sent a Holiday Mailing to approximately 3,645 people. This effort, coupled with the mailing of our Newsletter and Annual Report, raised $12,067 to support our crisis intervention services. Private Foundations donated $9,500. She Who Laughs Lasts, a night of healing through comedy, raised $3,794 through entrance donations and silent auction. Our newly launched Benefit Party Campaign along with our long-standing Major Donor Campaign raised a total of $7,336. SFWAR held on our 7th annual WALK Against Rape in April 2012, which raised $44,472. Over $14,820 was donated by individuals and groups who held Special Events benefiting SFWAR. Finally, we want to thank our faithful Monthly Sustainers who donated $11,754 this year. SFWAR thanks everyone who has given so generously this year. Your support allows us to provide critical services to survivors of rape and sexual assault, while we simultaneously work to end sexual violence.
Thank you for all your support!

SFWAR would like to acknowledge the Volunteers, Interns, Corporations, Foundations, Businesses, Organizations, Donors & Grantors who supported us during the July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012 fiscal year.

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS
Aaron Clement * Alexis Tachiavin * Anna Filipshena * Cesia Portilla * Denise Gainous * Djoke Steen * Emilia Martinez * Erica Hernandez * Genevieve O’Gara * Guillermo Sanchez * Hoa My Au * Jenell M Lester * Jessica Leventhal * John Weiss * Jose J. Gamiño * Jose Gomez * Katheryn Koppler * Kendra Westlake * Manar Abughannam * Michael Baldwin * Patricia Cartagena *

CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS

DONORS
Thank you to our donors, continued

Foundations, Organizations & Businesses
- A Safe Place (SFSU)
- Air Traffic Control Education Fund, Inc.
- Andalu Arizmendi Bakery (Sunset & Mission)
- Arriba Juntos
- Asian Women’s Shelter
- Bank of America Foundation, Inc.
- Bay Area Legal Aid
- Beretta
- Bi-Rite Market
- Bissap Baobab
- Brava Theatre
- Brass Liberation Orchestra (BLO)
- CalEMA
- Cabot Cheese Co-Op
- California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP)
- California Department of Public Health
- Castro Patrol
- CCSF Project Survive
- Center for Independent Documentary, Inc.
- Center For Young Women’s Development
- City College of San Francisco
- Clorox Employee Giving Campaign
- Code Pink
- Community Thrift Store
- Community United Against Violence
- Crixa Cakes
- Donate For Charity, Inc.
- GG Tukuy
- Genentech
- Givingstation
- Girls on the Run Bay Area
- Give With Liberty
- Employee Donations
- Good Samaritan
- Goodsearch
- Google Matching Gifts Program
- Horizons Foundation
- Ike’s Place
- Jay’s Philly Cheesesteaks
- Kasa Indian Eatery
- Katz Bagels
- L’s Caffé
- La Casa de Las Madres
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- LYRIC
- Laborer’s International Union of North America- Local 261
- AFL-CIO
- LGBT Historical Society
- Loco Bloco
- Mavataj, Inc.
- Med Thrive Cooperative Inc.
- Mills College
- Mission Girls
- Mission Minis
- Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
- Mujeres Unidas y Activas
- Napa Valley Bike Tours
- Network for Good
- Network on Women in Prison
- Office on Violence Against Women
- Papalote
- Phat Philly
- PG&E Corporation Campaign for the Community
- Philanthrofund Foundation
- Phyllis Klein of Women’s Therapy Services
- Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific
- Pro Transport
- Qumbia Qrew Collective
- QWOCMAP
- Rainbow Grocery
- Rodger’s Coffee
- Roxie Food Center
- Roxie Theatre
- San Francisco Department on the Status of Women
- San Francisco Women’s Center
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Semi-Freddi’s Bakery
- SF LGBT Community Center
- Sistahs of the Drum
- Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc.
- Skate Like a Girl
- Sports Basement
- Students for a Safe Campus (SFSC)
- Surviving and Thriving
- Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP-SF)
- Tartine Bakery
- Tea Cake Bakeshop
- The University Corporation, SF State
- The William G. Gilmore Foundation
- The Women’s Building
- Toeniskoetter Development
- Trader Joe’s (9th Street & Masonic Ave)
- University of San Francisco
- Valencia Whole Foods
- Voila! Juice
- Whole Foods (24th St)
- Women Organized to Make Abuse Nonexistent, Inc (WOMAN, Inc)
- Xiuhcoatl Danza Azteca

Contact Briana Shewan at brianashewan@s夫ar.org or (415) 861-2024 ext.305 about Benefit Parties!
SAN FRANCISCO’S 8TH ANNUAL

END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

WALK AGAINST RAPE
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013

Register NOW and join the movement to end sexual violence
www.SFWAR.org | 415.861.2024

Special appearances by Rupa & The April Fishes and Loco Bloco

10AM Registration
The Women’s Building
3543 18th St, between Valencia & Guerrero Sts

1PM Finish Line & Festival
La Raza Park/Potrero del Sol
Potrero Ave & 25th St
5.6 Kilometers - 3.5 miles

Organized by San Francisco Women Against Rape as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Proceeds benefit SFWAR services.
40 YEARS OF WORKING TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES: 1973-2013

Highlights from the past 40 years SFWAR has provided crisis line services, individual peer counseling, support groups, advocacy, prevention education, and community programs in the San Francisco Bay Area.

- SFWAR is founded as a 20-hour per week rape crisis hotline — 1973

Early 1980s — SFWAR expands services to include a 24-hour hotline, in-person individual counseling, and support groups.

- 1990 — SFWAR becomes a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- 1991 — SFWAR is invited to join the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women Domestic Violence Committee.

- SFWAR begins its rape prevention and education program, producing first video for teens and publishing first Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese brochures.
- SFWAR establishes its medical and legal advocacy program. The first Poets Against Rape is held and becomes Artists Against Rape, encompassing all forms of cultural expression, in 2004.
- SFWAR becomes a member of the City of San Francisco’s Adult Sexual Assault Task Force and Sexual Assault Response Team.
- SFWAR becomes a majority women of color organization at all levels (i.e. volunteer, staff, ED, and board).
- SFWAR begins its Community Initiatives Program to develop and support community-based primary prevention approaches to ending sexual violence.
- SFWAR holds its first WALK Against Rape.
- SFWAR affirms its commitment to women of color leadership and develops working principles to sustain the leadership of women of color at all levels of the organization.
- SFWAR partners with the Center for Young Women’s Development and Mission Girls to enhance and expand direct services to young women.
- SFWAR celebrates 40th Anniversary in October 2013! Please join us! For more information visit the SFWAR website at www.sfwar.org.

- SFWAR initiates collaboration with Mujeres Unidas y Activas to launch ALMA (Ahora! Llame a Mujeres en contra al Abuso), a Spanish language sexual assault crisis line. SFWAR launches its SRO (Single Room Occupancy) Outreach & Organizing Project. Through this program marginally housed women are trained and supported to engage in rape prevention efforts in Mission District SROs and at community-based groups.
- SFWAR celebrates 40th Anniversary in October 2013! Please join us! For more information visit the SFWAR website at www.sfwar.org.
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH 2013
- **March 21:** Volunteer Training Program begins
- **March 26:** SFWAR Phone Bank begins

## APRIL 2013
- **Saturday, April 27 10AM**
  - **8TH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST RAPE**
  - **START:** The Women’s Building, 3543 18th St.
  - **FINISH:** La Raza Park, 24th & Potrero
  - 3.5 mile walk, with rally and festival at finish!
  - More info: www.sfwar.org
  - Contact: Alma Muñoz, almamunoz@sfwar.org

## OCTOBER 2013
- **SFWAR TURNS 40! Date TBA**
  - **SFWAR CELEBRATES 40 YEARS** of providing services to survivors of rape and sexual assault, providing prevention education to the community, and being a leader in the movement to end sexual violence.
  - More info: www.sfwar.org
  - For more SFWAR events please check out: www.sfwar.org/events.html