Dear Colleagues and Friends of FRIS,

With June 22, 2012 marking the 30th anniversary of the incorporation of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, this report overviews the work that begins a new decade focused on preventing sexual violence while ensuring the best possible services for victims.

Thirty years ago FRIS was formed through a collaborative effort of four rape crisis centers (with one founding member, Judy King, still an active member of the FRIS board). In 2012-13 FRIS provided seed money to begin expanding services to a 10th area of the state. Although expansion is slow, we are still committed to outreach efforts.

Although we do not “celebrate” that the need for this work continues, we celebrate and recognize the passionate and compassionate individuals who are committed to staying on this journey with us for as long as it takes to end sexual violence and stalking in West Virginia.

With thanks and appreciation,
Nancy

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.

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www.fris.org

FRIS would like to thank the following funders who supported our work in 2012-2013, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, U.S. Department of Justice through the Office on Violence Against Women, the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services (DVSP) Violence Against Women and SAFP Fund, the State of West Virginia and the Benedum Foundation,

RAPE CRISIS CENTERS
CONTACT Huntington, Inc. Huntington 304-399-1111 / 304-523-3447
Family Refuge Center Lewisburg 304-645-6334
HOPE, Inc. Fairmont 304-367-1100
Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center Morgantown 304-292-5100
REACH Family Counseling Connection Charleston 304-340-3676
Shenandoah Women’s Center Martinsburg 304-263-8292 / 304-725-7080 / 304-258-1078
Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center Wheeling 304-234-1783 / 304-234-8519 / 1-800-884-7242
Women’s Aid in Crisis Elkins 1-800-339-1185 / 304-636-8433
Women’s Resource Center Beckley 304-255-2559 / TTY 1-888-825-7836

MISSION:
To promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors and their loved ones; foster collaborative relationships; and create attitudinal and behavioral changes around sexual violence and stalking through education, victim services, and social change.

VISION:
To eliminate sexual violence and stalking and to alleviate the suffering of those who have been victimized.
NEW RESOURCES LAUNCHED

Sexual Assault Services Training Academy (SASTA)—an online training for first responders currently with 28 training modules on key topics such as crisis intervention, safety planning, WV laws, accommodations for victims with disabilities, and assessing program accessibility

New Data Base for Rape Crisis Centers—for the first time all of the rape crisis centers are electronically linked to submit expanded data on both services and prevention programs

Stalking Resource Kits—1,500 kits designed to document and prevent stalking were compiled and distributed to law enforcement and advocates

West Virginia Prevention and Interpersonal Violence Intervention Training Toolkit: Law Enforcement and Security—This extensive resource assists law enforcement agencies in training campus law enforcement officers and security staff to identify and respond to domestic violence and爱情

West Virginia Sexual Violence and Prevention Resource Toolkit—A series of comprehensive, multilingual resources provides extensive information on sexual violence and includes a rape crisis self-assessment tool, a compilation of training and prevention resources, and sample policies

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In the 2013 legislative session, the following bills that passed that impacted victims of sexual violence and stalking:

Personal Safety Order Modifications. Harassment was removed as an eligible offense under this protective order, repeated credible threats of bodily injury were added, and the venue for filing was clarified.

Stalking Rules. Extensive rules for law enforcement responding to investigations of stalking incidents were developed.

Seating. This new statute provides a pre-petition diversion and informal resolution option in advance of a filed petition for juveniles.

COLLABORATIONS

FRIS is fortunate to have many stakeholders in this work. Partnerships that FRIS facilitates include:

- Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention
- Rural Advocate Network
- WV Intercollegiate Council Against Sexual Violence
- WV Medical Response to Children
- WV SANE Advisory Board
- WV Sexual Assault Response Technical Team

Other collaborations on which FRIS participates include:

- Abuse in Later Life Project
- Children’s Justice Task Force
- Teen Dating Violence Project
- WV Violence Against Women Collaborative
- West Virginia Anti-Slavery Coalition

AWARDS

Visionary Voice Award Recipient. West Virginia’s 2013 Visionary Voice Award Recipient (a recognition sponsored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center) is David Miller. David Miller has been a true ally in this field. In his role as supervisor of the Evidence Processing Section at the State’s Forensic Crime Lab, he has been tireless in his efforts to ensure that sex crime kits in the State are tested as thoroughly and expediently as possible. Although his work requires long hours both at the lab and in testifying in court, he still finds the time to assist our coalition with trainings of sexual assault response teams (SARTs) in the State, participate on the WV SANE Advisory Board, and continuously update the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit components and documentation. He worked with FRIS in updating the Sexual Assault Kit Tracking Application (SACKA)—a resource that can help identify training needs regarding evidence collection. West Virginia is fortunate to have such a compassionate and dedicated person in the role of supervisor of the lab’s Evidence Processing Section, one who is sensitive to the needs of sexual assault victims and committed to providing them with the best services possible.

Vagina Warrior Award

FRIS was honored to be the recipient of the 2nd Annual Ruth Kershner Vagina Warrior Award presented by West Virginia University’s V-Day and Gender Equity Movement ‘in recognition of [our] ongoing commitment to stopping violence against women and girls.’

GRANT NEWS

Two new grants were secured, with funds invested in the following West Virginia projects:

Benedum Foundation: FRIS is developing an in-state SANE training program. It will include 24 hours of online training and 16 hours in a classroom setting presented in West Virginia. Having, for the first time, the availability of in-state SANE trainings will increase the accessibility of the training for the State’s nurses. The target implementation date is January 2014.

Campus Grant: This office on Violence Against Women grant partners nine college campuses: Fairmont State University, Concord University, Davis and Elkins College, Glenville State College, Marshall University, Shepherd University, the West Virginia Osteopathic School of Medicine, West Virginia State University and West Virginia Wesleyan College as well as the Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services. FRIS is coordinating the project for the West Virginia Intercollegiate Council Against Sexual Violence, This three year grant will strengthen training for campus law enforcement/security and judicial staff on responding to reports of sexual/sexual/domestic violence and stalking as well as enhance prevention programs for all incoming students.