

The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education
Annual Report FY 2010
(July 1, 2009– June 30, 2010)



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education at the University of Minnesota is committed to the belief that all people have the right to live free of violence and of the fear of violence. We recognize that sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking are not isolated incidents, but rather the individual expressions of a pervasive cultural attitude that tolerates violence. We believe that sexual and relationship violence can best be addressed through social action, education, and advocacy. The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education was formed to:

- Ensure the delivery of quality services to all segments of the University of Minnesota community by The Aurora Center and other offices that the victim/survivor may need to contact for assistance;
- Ensure the inclusion of the wide diversity of people of the University as staff, volunteers, and constituents of The Aurora Center;
- Ensure effective communication between The Aurora Center and other people who are concerned about sexual and relationship violence;
- Eliminate, eradicate, or in the very least, identify and reduce the existence of violence against women and other forms of oppression at the University of Minnesota and of the community as a whole;
- Provide meaningful volunteer and leadership opportunities to the students who join in this mission as volunteers.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation. In adhering to this policy, the University abides by the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute Ch. 363; by the Federal Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e; by the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; by Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; by Executive Order 11246, as amended; by 38 U.S.C. 2012, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1972, as amended; and by other applicable statutes and regulations relating to equality of opportunity. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 419 Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, (612) 624-9547. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please call The Aurora Center at (612) 626-2929. The Aurora Center is wheelchair accessible.

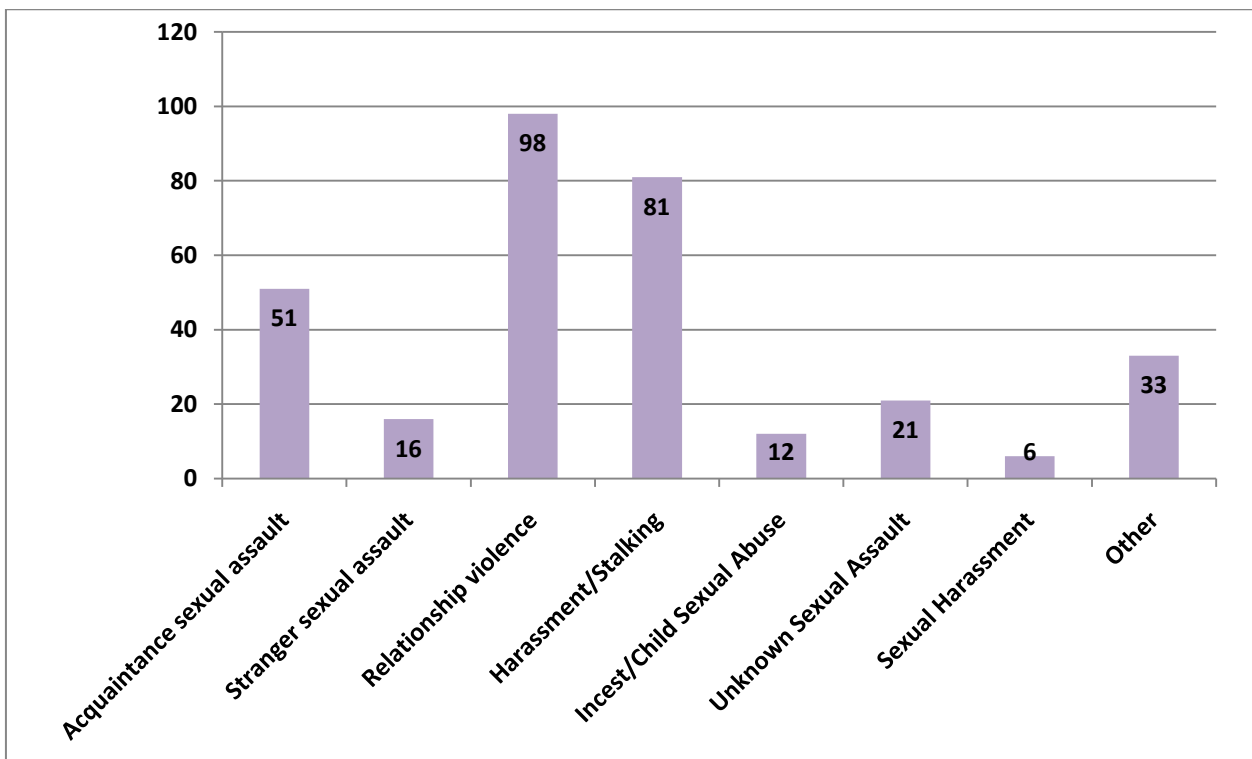
CLIENT SERVICES

Total Clients Served = 319

About 27.5 percent of Aurora Center clients (88) came to the program due to an experience of sexual assault. Of these assaults, 57.9 percent were committed by someone known to the victim and 31.4 percent were committed by a stranger. Just under one third (30.7%) of Aurora Center clients (98) had concerns about relationship violence and 25.4 percent (81) sought services for concerns related to harassment or stalking. Approximately 3.8 percent of clients contacted the Aurora Center for reasons related to child sexual abuse. Finally, 10.3 percent of clients had “other” concerns such as pregnancy, therapist exploitation, prostitution, and sexual health issues.

Approximately 24 percent of Aurora Center clients (78) made reports to the police.

Reason for Contact, FY 2010



Orders for Protection: Total = 16

Aurora Center advocates wrote and filed **16 orders for protection**. Of these, **37 percent (6)** were domestic violence orders for protection and **63 percent (10)** were harassment restraining orders.

Gender of Clients

Women = 254

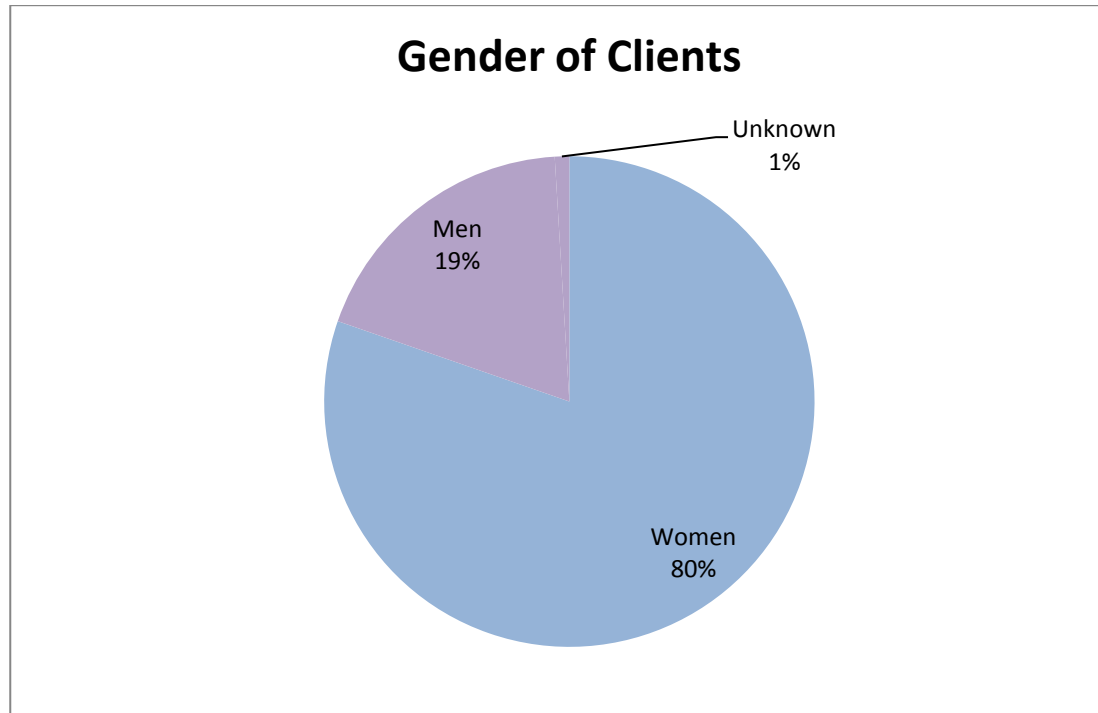
Men = 60

Unknown = 3

None = 2

Total = 319

The Aurora Center serves clients of all gender identities. In FY 2010, 80 percent of those served were women and 19 percent were men. None of The Aurora Center clients self-identified as transgender.



Gender of Perpetrators

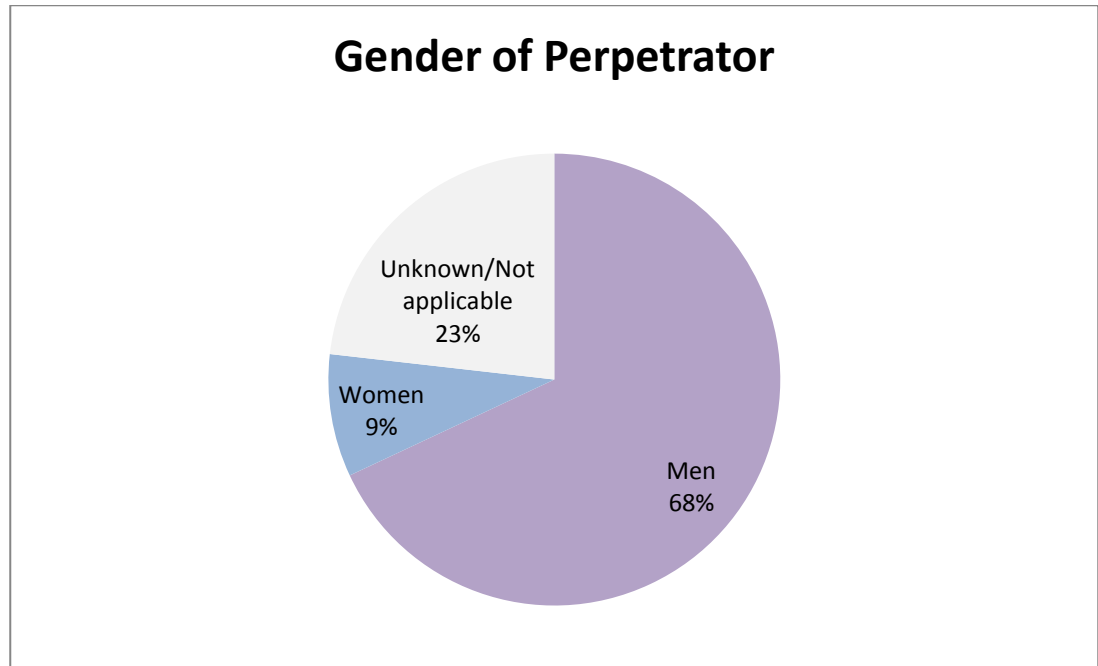
Women = 28

Men = 217

Unknown = 74

Not applicable = 22

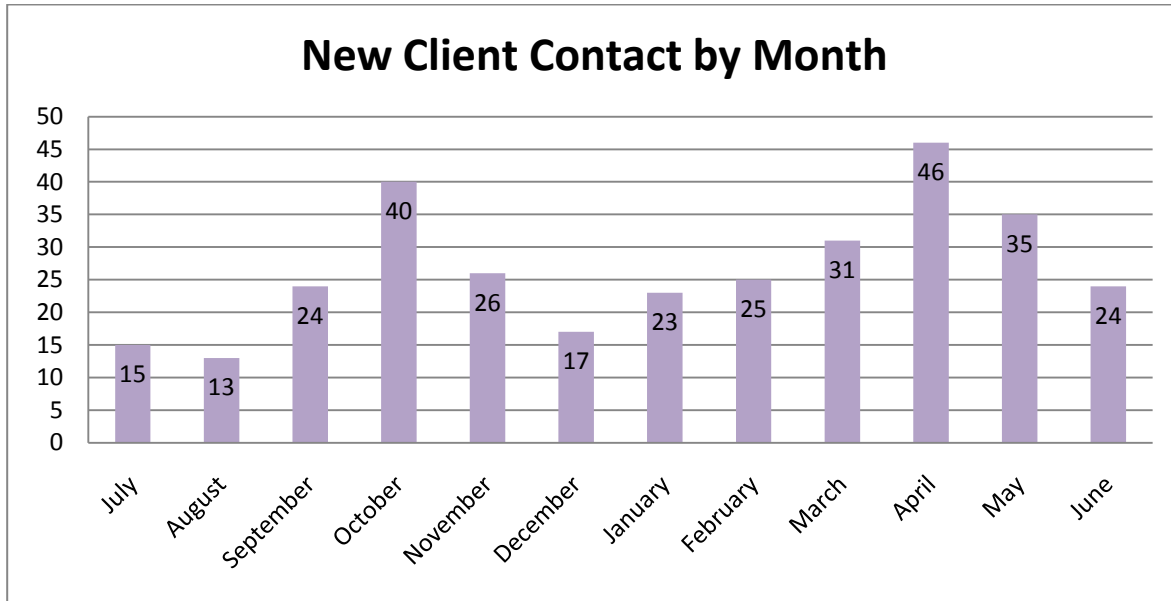
Total = 341



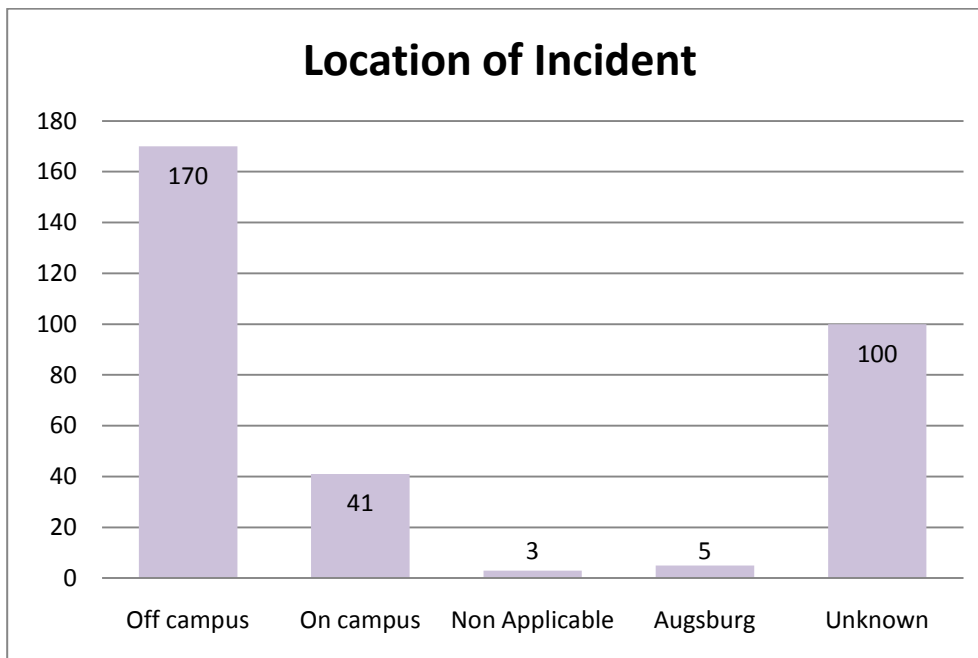
The gender of the perpetrator was reported in 72 percent of cases. Of these cases, 89 percent of the perpetrators were reported as male and 11 percent were reported as female. Of the *total* cases, approximately two-thirds of the perpetrators were male, 2 percent were unreported, and 8 percent were female.

New Client Contact by Month

The number of people contacting The Aurora Center for assistance was highest in the months of October, April, and May. Although these months represent only one-quarter of the time period for which data are reported, the number of clients seen during these months represents 37.9 percent of the total number of clients served. The summer months (June, July, and August) and winter break typically have the fewest number of clients, a pattern that generally holds true for the current fiscal year.



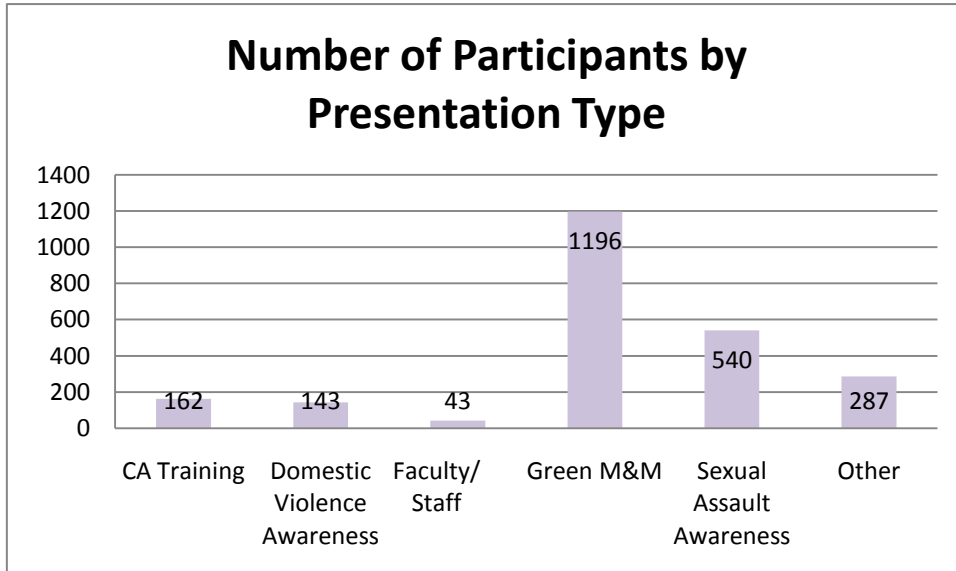
Location of Incident



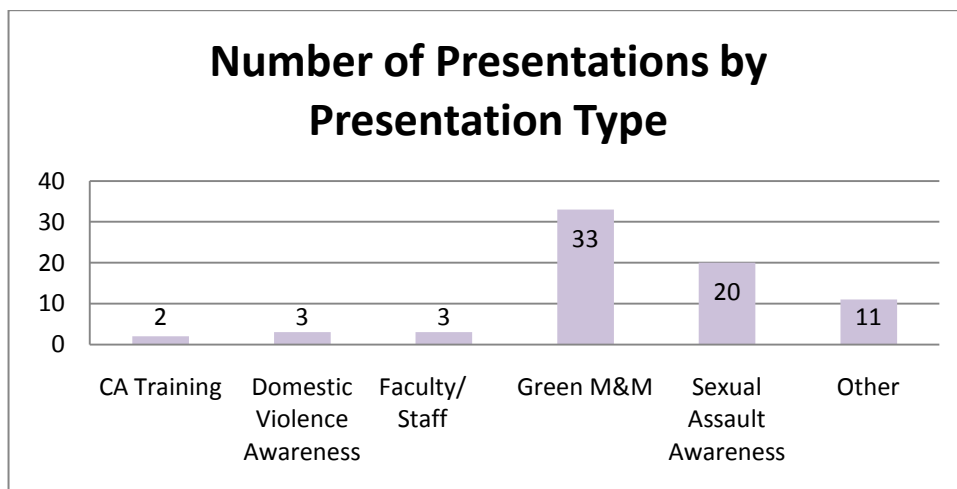
Seventy-nine percent of the incidents for which location was reported occurred off-campus. On-campus incidents account for 19 percent of cases where the location is known. The Aurora Center contracts with Augsburg College to provide advocacy services for survivors and concerned persons who are students at this neighboring institution.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Aurora Center provided education and training through 77 presentations made to 2,418 students, faculty, and staff during FY 2010. Participants included members of fraternities, sororities, ROTC, athletic teams, and students of other universities including St. Thomas University, Augsburg College, and Hamline University. The Aurora Center educated/trained students in classes, both at the University of Minnesota and other universities in the area, ranging from physical therapy, to sociology, to public health, and staff members such as Community Advisors, Housing and Residential Life directors, academic advisors, and human resources personnel. Twenty-six presentations were facilitated by Aurora staff, 34 presentations were facilitated by student Violence Prevention Educators and 17 presentations were facilitated by staff and students together.



Presentations were conducted on a variety of topics related to sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. Nearly a half of the presentations during FY 2010 were based on the curriculum of The Green M&M Project: a reality-based examination of myths and messages about sex, power, and a culture of confusion. This presentation is an interactive peer-led inquiry into the attitudes and images that form and maintain a culture which perpetuates and normalizes sexual and relationship violence. All of the Aurora Center presentations include information on how to respond if someone you know discloses that they have been hurt by sexual or relationship violence, or stalking.



2010 HIGHLIGHTS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In October 2009, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Aurora Center again displayed The Silent Witness project during an evening vigil in front of Coffman. The Silent Witness project honors the women and children killed by domestic violence during the previous year in the state of Minnesota. Twenty life-sized painted red wooden figures have been made by The Aurora Center as part of this national remembrance to graphically display the stories of the victims and the circumstances of their deaths. Six new figures have been added to replace some that have been damaged and to accommodate to the need for more figures because of the growing number of deaths by domestic violence in Minnesota. Other events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month included a showing of a film during the Social Justice Film Festival. Bonnie B and Tara K were the Aurora Center student coordinators for these events.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Events during SAAM 2010 included an evening exhibit in the Whole of Coffman Union of the Clothesline Project, a display of T-shirts made by survivors of violence, with space available for people who desired to make a shirt to add to the collection, some music performance and poetry reading and the viewing of the film “No! Confronting Sexual Assault in the Black Community”. A training Advocacy in Community: Taking a Stand Against Sexual Assault was presented for first year athletes and CESP Scholars, a campus wide distribution of 300 t-shirts. There was an initial program March 29th “Kristen’s Story”, sponsored by the Alpha Phi Sorority which TAC co-sponsored and was made available to first year athletes. The speaker, Andrea Cooper told of the death of her daughter by suicide after a sexual assault. Over 1200 students attended. Along with the help of a fraternity member, Paint Back the Night included the painting of fingernails in TAC’s colors of purple and teal done by Aveda students in exchange for a donation. About \$90.00 was raised in a couple of hours that was contributed to the Women Indian Shelter in St. Paul where volunteers also did a service project. All SAAM publicity included invitations to participate in several other events on campus; From Vices to Verses: A new Era of Hip Hop and Action, Frames of Violence (conference about world-wide violence) and Take Back the Night. The goal of coordinators Rose H and Christina S were reach-out to populations yet unreached. All events were co-sponsored by The Women’s Center.

Men Against Gender Violence

The Aurora Center continued to provide an opportunity for students on campus to get involved in ending men’s violence against women. The Men Against Gender Violence group is for men to discuss and educate other men about the socialization of masculinity and its connection to sexual violence and relationship abuse. With the guidance of three staff members who served as mentors, TR Corey (Housing and Residential Life), Brett Chin (Housing and Residential Life), and Ross Neely (GLBTA Programs Office), the weekly discussions were led by the coordinator Keith Behrman, a senior in Physics and Chemistry, and volunteer at Aurora. The men’s group received a TCF grant for \$1,500 to fund the group and provide the means to host a workshop facilitated by guest speaker Keith Edwards (Macalester College) on March 4, 2010. The event was attended by 40 students and staff on campus.

DOJ Visit

In March 2010 The Department of Justice visited The Aurora Center as part of a nationwide visit to 12 college campuses that have been identified as outstanding for their programs, services, and prevention efforts in ending violence against women on campus. A panel discussion titled *Violence Against Women on the College Campus* was held in Coffman Union following the visit. Panel members included the U.S. Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, and members of the U of M Sexual Assault Response Team that included Vice Provost Jerry

Rinehart, Dr. Harriet Haynes of UCCS, Dr. Ed Ehlinger of Boynton Health Service, and Jamie Tiedemann of The Aurora Center.

Volunteer Training

In September 2009 The Aurora Center facilitated a Special Projects Volunteer training that resulted in 15 new volunteers. In February 2010, The Aurora Center facilitated another volunteer training that focused on Violence Prevention Educators and On Call Advocates that resulted in 10 new On Call Advocates and 17 new Violence Prevention Educators.

GRANT AWARDS AND GIFTS

- \$1000 SUA Coca-Cola: Initiative Grant to fund Sexual Awareness Month (SAAM)
- \$1100 The Women's Center: funds to make 6 new Silent Witness figures and stipends for coordinators of both events.
- University Dining Service provided \$250.00 towards food for the Recognition Event
- \$1500 TCF Bank: Men Against Gender Violence Group
- \$1,000 Coca-Cola: Development Initiative Grant to fund the Commonwealth Terrace Stepping Stone Project

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Each year The Aurora Center recognizes all of its volunteers for their service and commitment. In 2010, several outstanding volunteers also earned special recognition. Along with good food and warm words of gratitude the following awards were presented at the annual Aurora Recognition Event on April 23, 2010 that was held in the Mississippi Room in Coffman Union and attended by 50 people including volunteers, staff, and Advisory Board members.

Rising Star Award

"In recognition of your increasing dedication and commitment to the work of The Aurora Center"

Awarded to: Matt Nichols and Laura Battaglia

Anne Caton Award

"For extraordinary and dedicated service to the victims of violence in our communities...for your compassion and commitment to the programs and services of The Aurora Center"

Awarded to: Michelle Joseph and Lauren Siegel

Megan Alama Award

"For your exemplary service in more than one position as a volunteer at The Aurora Center and for your continued dedication and leadership towards ending gender violence in our community"

Awarded to: Kaoru Kinoshita

Excellence in Leadership

"For your compassionate leadership in Violence Prevention Education, this is a symbol of your courage and understanding. Your work validates the dreamer's hope, the activist's outcry and the survivor's strength"

Awarded to: Rose Hennessy

Outstanding Volunteer Award

“In recognition of your energy and commitment to the work we do and your uncanny ability to go above and beyond the call of duty. This award symbolizes the hard work and dedication you have put forth as a volunteer at The Aurora Center”

Awarded to: Keith Behrman, Christina Smith, Jillian Miller

The Larry Anderson Partnership Award

“For outstanding and compassionate service to all crime victims. In appreciation of your commitment to partnership within the University community”

Awarded to: Dr. Ed Ehlinger

STAFF

Director: Jamie C. Tiedemann, M.S.

Associate Director: Roberta Gibbons, Ph.D

Violence Prevention Education Coordinator: Jill Lipski Cain, M.P.P.

Legal Advocacy/Direct Services Coordinator: Becky Redetzke Field B.A.

Volunteer Coordinator: Jerie Smith, M.A.

VOLUNTEERS

Advocates

Ami S.
Autumn C.
Betsy O.
Bonnie B.
Brittany W.
Cassie M.
Christina S.
Dominica C.
Dorothee T
Ellen M.
Hnuchee V. (Advocate Intern)
Ilanit K. (Advocate Intern)
Jake D.
Jenna E.
Jessica S.
Kaoru K.
Kayla P.
Laura B.
Lauren S.
Melissa M.
Michelle J.
Nicole M.
Rachel E.
Sarah E.
Skylar K.
Stacey T.
Susanne G.
Sydna C.
Tom J.

Violence Prevention Educators

Anya C.
Behiye K.
Ben B.
Cherese A.
Christina P.
Dan H.
Dunstan P.
Gina C.
Heather D.
Jackie C.
Jamie C.
Kate M.
Keith B. (MAGV Coordinator)
Kelly G.
Kit A.
Kristen K.
Krystal C.
Matt N.
Meghan W.
Meredith M. (VPE Intern)
Rose H.
Tara K. (VPE Intern)
Taylor S.

