



SARC

COMING TOGETHER

TO END ABUSE

35th Anniversary
1978-2013

Message

From the Executive Director



In this, SARC's 35th Anniversary year, I invite you to join with the Board of Directors, employees and volunteers who work so hard every day to bring about an **end to domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse and stalking; to aid its victims and to create a society free from abuse and fear.**

SARC began as an all volunteer organization with a helpline directing women to resources. The organization

has since grown to serve over 2,000 victims a year with 32 employees and over 50 dedicated volunteers and offering a 24 Hour Helpline, a 28 bed Safehouse, Legal and Counseling Services, a Companion Program and an Educational/Outreach Program. Clients now include men, women and children.

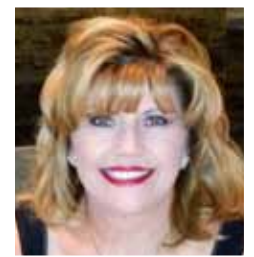
A woman once told me that she didn't even feel like a person after the abuse she experienced...that she hesitated outside SARC's doors because her thought was "I'm not worthy of help." SARC is bigger than the organization; it is about ensuring that there is always a place to reach out for help...a place where someone will believe you...a place where human dignity, which we are all entitled to, is restored. Every day SARC team members partner with victims of violence in the fight to get back something that was taken from them—HOPE. They are warriors in a fight against the darkness....against the hopelessness. This battle has been fought every day since the organization was founded in 1978... that's 35 years.

SARC is fortunate to be supported in these efforts by so many: the law enforcement community, State's Attorney's Office, and Harford County Government who continue to be integral partners in the work done each day; the generosity of the business community which has helped to keep our costs down... in media promotion, IT support, human resources, and donations of a variety of goods and services. The financial support received from you has been critical to the survival of the organization in a time of increasing government funding cuts. We are grateful to each and every one of you who have rallied around throughout the years to ensure that the vital lifesaving services SARC provides continue. This short history does not just belong to SARC, it is a story of how each one of us are making the world a better place...starting right here in Harford County! Together we are one step closer to creating a society free from abuse and fear.

Luisa Caiazzo-Nutter

Message

From the President, Board of Directors



The people who have come together over the years to bring SARC along is awe inspiring. It is my hope that this anniversary book will inspire you to volunteer, donate or re-engage with the organization and join the community's efforts to end domestic violence.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served and continue to serve on the Board of Directors of SARC. SARC's 35th Anniversary Committee has searched high and low for documents which chronicle the beginnings and the growth of the organization. Unfortunately much has been misplaced over the years as the organization relocated many times. So, please let us know if you are not listed and forgive me if your name has been omitted. We want you to be a part of SARC's future!

Sandra Linkous

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Answering the Call

"Can you help me?" the woman's voice quivered as she spoke softly. The call came to the country home of Joan Henderson Hodous—on the phone in her kitchen. She and her husband, Dr. Frederick W. Hodous and their three children lived outside the incorporated town of Bel Air. Joan's phone number was the first help-line for battered women as it was stated in *The Aegis* newspaper article. It was 1976.

Mrs. Hodous and many other women formed the Coalition for Women, a group of deeply concerned women whose combined efforts were for the betterment of Harford County's women and families. The needs of county citizens were obvious in areas such as the lack of services and support for victims of sexual violence. The word rape was not understood to be an act of anger or control—not at that time. Rape was seen as the result of a woman or girl enticing the man to commit the act of intercourse, and rape within a marriage was not considered to be a crime.

The Coalition for Women was the fore-runner of the Harford County Commission for Women. It included women whose names would play other roles in county government: for example, future County Executive Eileen Rehrmann. Within the year then-County Executive Charles B. Anderson appointed Joan Hodous Chairperson for the Harford County Commission for Women along with fourteen other members.

The political stage was being set by the national women's movement and the goal of equality for everyone, everywhere. Harford County would never be the same.

The Commission for Women, along with Harford Community College, held a "Women's Fair" in November 1977 at the Vo-Tech Center which allowed for organizations focused on women and women's issues to be represented in efforts to inform them of educational opportunities and much more.

The "In Support of Women" column published in *The Aegis* newspaper dated October 14, 1979, began: "Rape. Battering. Ugly words for abuse—abuse from strangers, abuse from loved ones. The tragedy of the present system is that abuse from strangers is readily punished, abuse from loved ones –tolerated." Mrs. Hodous documented SARC's existence in the same article: "with its own advisory board" and its offer of "psychological support as well as practical assistance in preparing the victim for court."

During the years 1976-1978 there were overlapping events and evolutions of women's groups such as the Coalition and Commission for Women at the county level. The first support group documented was "People Against Rape" (1976). Battering surfaced as an issue of state-wide concern in 1977 because of the need for assistance to women within the family nucleus. The societal changes culminated in the late 1960's when women began to speak out and others listened, but there were deniers of abuse in the home.

Yet, as the newspapers would print again and again since the establishment of that first helpline, Harford County did and does have battered women, rape, sexual assault, spousal abuse, and stalking in addition to murder. The victims of these crimes are mostly women; but men, too, are victims. The women often have a child or children who may have witnessed abuse and violence against their mother—heard awful, nasty, hurtful words or even saw her slapped or hit. In an instant their lives can be disrupted; their worlds turned upside-down. They, too, become victims after the fact.

SARC grew out of the need for more than a helpline to direct women to resources—resources such as a safehouse in which to live for a while without contact with the abuser. The word safehouse does not dismiss fear, but hopefully it provides for the victim's safety and allows time and space for her to make decisions. The safehouse has become the shelter which houses twenty-eight persons but now has a need for a larger space to serve more clients. In 2013, SARC and its services remain a necessary, vital link to Harford County's domestic violence victims. It is because of these victims: women, children and men—the families—that SARC has a story to tell.

1976

First Helpline established in the kitchen of Joan Hodous, Chairperson for the Commission for Women.



1978

SARC funded and chartered as Harford County Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center; volunteers trained.



Meeting the Immediate Need

From yellowing files in *The Aegis* in 1976 through 1978, the use of the words battered spouses and rape evolved into the name for the group at the forefront of the movement to protect women: "Battered Spouse-Rape Crisis Center". In 1978, Paula F. Valkenburg became the Director of the Crisis Center which was located at the Community Services Building in Aberdeen through a Maryland State grant of \$26,677 to establish the Crisis Center. At the time of the award, Harford County's Coalition for Women had transitioned to the Harford County Commission for Women with Diane Warnement as its Director. The funds were used to "hire a director and assistant, establish a 24-hour hotline, offer counseling, and start a preventative education program." Then, Governor of Maryland Harry Hughes' Commission for Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice approved the funds. As documented in an October 1979 *Aegis* article: "...a subsequent grant enabled the commission to set up SARC in July 1978."

The next evolution of the name was within a year of the grant award: The Harford County Sexual Assault/ Spouse Abuse Resource Center. It began the 24-hour emergency telephone counseling "with volunteers trained to deal with emergency needs of victims by telephone," said Ms. Valkenburg. "The counselor will offer follow-up services by the center to each victim. This is our first program to go into effect and will be the most crucial aspect of the Center's functioning." The *Aegis* article went on to give the telephone number and hours for each number; however, call-answering was not available for all seven days of the week. "24/7" coverage would come later.

Ms. Selena H. Gaskins, who served on the Board of Directors for the Center, became Administrative Coordinator assisting Ms. Valkenburg. At the same time, *The Aegis* reported in October 1978, Joan Traub (now Philippe) was appointed Administrative Assistant to the Commission for Women. She noted in an article: "The Commission office is a communication center between the women of Harford County and many organizations and agencies." She hoped the November 1978 Women's Fair would bring many of these women together. One of her goals was to see a shelter for the Battered Spouse and Rape Crisis Center established.

It would be several years before the residential safehouse would be realized. In about 1980-1981, Patricia Scott, former Board member, was responsible for finding a place for the offices - a safe place for

victims to come for counseling and referral services—because the county building SARC was currently occupying in Aberdeen was to be torn down. After about two weeks, SARC offices were moved to a building at Thomas and Bond Streets. Ms. Scott's company, A Better Answer, fielded calls for SARC for many years until the organization could answer its own dedicated line.

What happened after the initial contacts with a SARC volunteer counselor twenty and thirty years ago? Not very much, sad to say, as the Women's Law Center booklet admits. Legislation to protect victims of assault and rape had to be fought for by women in the Maryland State Legislature beginning in the 1980's. Eileen Rehrmann recounted that SARC, since its inception, has always been a leader and a pathfinder. Battered women were limited in housing choices and sometimes skill sets—how to find a place to live, feed their families, and find employment.

Ms. Rehrmann was a Harford County delegate in the Maryland State Legislature from 1980-1990. With the help of other legislators they worked on funding the budget for raped and battered women and their children in the areas of health services, training of counselors, and for assisting women in learning the why's of abuse. Some years later, SARC would introduce the pattern—the Cycle of Violence—so women could learn how to recognize symptoms of pending trouble in their relationship.

Because SARC continuously strives to educate the public, the medical community is more aware, especially physicians, of how to handle rape victims. In the 1990's there weren't rape kits available or an advocate to help a woman get through the whole experience. Services weren't there; court protection wasn't there, and the core police protection wasn't there.

1978

At left, Diane Warnement and Paula F. Valkenburg, first director of SARC.



1981

SARC receives its tax-exempt status and sets up its first office on Thomas Street in Bel Air to serve as a walk-in Crisis Center.



1987

First Safehouse services available through support from Episcopal Social Ministries.



Fulfilling the Mission

Throughout the 1990's, SARC continued to seek funding for a permanent safehouse for its clients who were in immediate danger. In 1997 the current 28 bed safehouse was finally opened.

Detective L. Jesse Bane was invited to sit on SARC's Board of Directors during this time to bring not only his law enforcement perspective but his construction expertise as the Shelter Committee geared up to provide a safe haven where victims could rebuild their lives and be protected from their abuser. Under his leadership, SARC received financing to renovate an old building to use as a Safehouse for victims of domestic violence. This shelter opened in 1997 and continues to serve the community though it is woefully inadequate for the number of victims seeking shelter today.

Detective Bane served on SARC's Board until he became Sheriff in 2004. During his tenure, he became committed to developing protocols to protect victims of domestic violence. There is now a Domestic Violence Unit within the Sheriff's Office and they work closely with SARC and the Family Justice Center which was established in 2006. Bane states, "Educating law enforcement officers about The Cycle of Violence in domestic relationships has made a difference in how victims are cared for on domestic violence calls."



As Harford County grew, other services were identified that SARC could provide free of charge to the community. The Community Outreach Program, which provides professional training, presentations, and community education on domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking as well as volunteer training, began in 1996. SARC's Legal Program, which provides free legal representation, information, advocacy, and court accompaniment to victims also was added to the list of services a victim could find at SARC during the 90's.

Thank You

JoAnn Macdonald, "What's Your Story"
joannmacd@comcast.net

For conducting interviews and documenting the history of SARC. Those interviewed for the project: Noreen Anderson, L. Jesse Bane, Gloria Barnhart, Stacie Beard, Dorothy Stancill Cernik, Mary F. Chance, Joan H. Hodous, Hazel U. Hopkins, Shirley Klein, Marlene Lieb, Joan Traub Philippe, Eileen Rehrmann, Patricia Scott, Judi Walkley; SARC Staff: Luisa Caiazzo-Nutter, Amber Guthrie, Sandra Linkous, Kelsey Luchey, Stephanie McAtee, Ian Stump and Gwendolyn Tate.

The SARC 35th Anniversary Committee: *Standing left to right:* Hazel Hopkins, Kathy Casey and JoAnn Macdonald. *Seated left to right:* Joan Hodous, Marlene Lieb, Judi Walkley and Kelsey Luchey.



What is Abuse?

Dating or domestic abuse occurs when one partner uses different types of abusive behavior to gain POWER and CONTROL over the other partner.

Dating or domestic violence is a learned pattern of behavior that can include emotional, mental, verbal, financial, physical, sexual and social abuse.

Abuse can happen to anyone! Both teens and adults experience abuse in their relationships. Dating abuse can happen to anyone, no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, income level, educational or national background.

It is important for victims/survivors of abuse to find local resources and to have trusted friends or family members who can give them nonjudgmental support. Leaving an abusive relationship can be dangerous, so if you or anyone you know is being abused, please contact SARC to help plan for safety.

If you think you may be in an unhealthy relationship, or are a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, incest or molestation and would like to speak to someone, please call our 24 hour helpline at **410-836-8430**.

Violence

Bringing SARC into the 21st Century

In 2006, assessment revealed that only four SARC staff had access to the internet through a dial-up service; the website was antiquated; multiple flawed databases were being used to gather statistical information, and use of financial software was burdensome. The donor database was limited resulting in poor communication with donors. This impacted business operations on multiple levels, most notably productivity and morale. By 2007, the organization was networked and operating on a server system. This meant for the first time in SARC history all staff was able to access the internet and had been issued email addresses. With guidance, the management team worked diligently to establish written procedures that would ensure consistency and quality of services. During this time the organization transitioned to a data collection system that allowed staff to track services to clients as well as communicate information between programs thereby reducing the number of times a client must retell his/her story. These technical updates allowed for better communication among staff members and eliminated the need to count statistics manually. Subsequently, greater staff time could be focused on client services. During that same year, a new website was launched and valuable donor information was transitioned to a system that allowed for online donations and enhanced communication with donors.

Through an assessment of all fundraising efforts, the organization was able to eliminate events that were no longer viable and it established SARC's two largest fundraisers: Walk a Mile In Her Shoes (2008) and a two-day event (2010) centered around hot air balloons: SARC's First Annual Rising Above It Hot Air Balloon Festival Weekend which included a Hot Air Balloon Glow Gala and a Family Fun Day. Last year's Third Annual Rising Above It Balloon Festival Weekend attracted over 3,700 attendees. Not only has the weekend-long event assisted with the organization's financial stability but also it has helped raise awareness of SARC's presence in the community. The number one referral sources for those in need of services are friends and family members. So, the more people that are aware of the free services offered to those affected by domestic violence, the better chance someone in need will reach out and seek help. In a tight economy, there are no funds for marketing, so events have a secondary purpose which is to raise awareness of the problems and the services offered to the community.

Continuing to implement best practices throughout the organization is a top priority. A Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team was organized in 2009 as a method to engage a multidisciplinary team of community agencies to review domestic violence related homicides, explore potential gaps in services, and make recommendations for future policy changes. In 2010, SARC, in collaboration with the Upper Chesapeake Health System, initiated a Harford County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).

This is a multidisciplinary interorganization team of individuals working collaboratively to provide services for the community by offering specialized sexual assault intervention services. In 2011, SARC transformed its 28-bed safehouse through the implementation of the best practice model, Trauma Informed Care. This model explains that, "often women find that caring individuals and a safe environment yield the greatest benefit. It is not so much what people do to help, but how they do it." SARC is increasing positive outcomes for clients by offering services that are trauma informed. In that same year, the counseling program implemented the best practice approach of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Being the best at what we do not only enhances services to clients but also builds confidence in those that invest in the organization. Systems are now in place to measure the effectiveness of the entire program and the leadership team is constantly seeking to improve and evolve.

Efforts over the past seven years have focused on the creation of a positive and professional work environment with the tools in place so that each SARC employee can focus their time and effort on fulfilling the mission of the organization. Through networking within the community and increased visibility of the organization, the organization has been able to leverage donations of goods and services thereby offsetting funding cuts and maintaining crucial lifesaving services.

2008

Established the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event.



2010

Established the Rising Above It Hot Air Balloon Festival Weekend event.



Leaving Your Legacy in Support of SARC

Below are ways you can help support SARC to create a society free of abuse and fear.

VEHICLE	DESCRIPTION	ADVANTAGES	POINTS TO CONSIDER
Direct Donation	Cash or property donated to a public charity or community foundation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate benefit to charity No associated costs of set up Current income tax deduction normally allowed* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donor needs to research and choose specific charities to benefit Deduction is subject to Adjusted Gross Income restrictions* Donor receives no income from gift
Donor-advised Fund	Public charity pools donations with other donors' gifts and invests them; fund makes grants to charitable recipients upon recommendation of donor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions usually fully deductible in current year* Flexible giving in future years Can give anonymously Consolidated charitable giving Can establish legacy with successors to direct grants from account Relatively simple to establish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deduction is subject to Adjusted Gross Income tax restrictions* The fund's trustees have final authority over grants May be less flexible than a trust or private foundation Donor receives no income from gift
Charitable Bequest	Instructions in a will or creation of a beneficiary designation for an asset or insurance policy can provide a gift to charity upon the donor's death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revocable or changeable prior to death Gives donors access to assets until death May give anonymously May provide tax deduction for the estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No immediate tax benefit* The bequest must be paid from the estate Probate may add costs, delays and complexities
Private Foundation	A private, nonprofit grant making organization that receives most of its funding from one source, usually an individual of family. 5% of assets must be distributed each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a customized plan for the person or family establishing it Foundation has full control over the distributions to charities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot give anonymously Full liability for IRS filing and compliance Tax treatment is complex Setup and maintenance costs may be substantial Donor receives no income from gifts Strict operating rules
Charitable Remainder Trust	An irrevocable trust that provides payments to income recipient(s) during the term of the trust and the remainder to charity at the end of the trust term. May be Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) or Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A portion of contribution may be deductible any year a gift is made* Income for the donor or other non-charitable recipient The charity receives remaining assets when trust ends Can be for lifetime or for term of years not to exceed 20 years Additional gift to trust may be allowed for CRUT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deduction is subject to Adjusted Gross Income restrictions* Income to income recipient is generally taxable according to the complex 4-tier accounting system* Must identify a competent trustee CRATS cannot accept additional donations More complex to establish
Charitable Gift Annuity	In exchange for gifted assets, a charity guarantees to pay a specified life income payment to beneficiary. The charity receives the remainder at death of the beneficiary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed annual income for life Part of the income may be a tax-free return of principal* The charity receives remaining assets at donor's death. A portion of contribution may be deductible in year of the gift* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charity liable for the annuity; if the charity has financial difficulties, the income beneficiary might not receive income Deduction is subject to Adjusted Gross Income restrictions* Transfer of long-term appreciated assets may give rise to tax liability to donor
Pooled Income Fund	Allows irrevocable gifts from donors to be commingled for investment purposes. Income beneficiary receives a prorated share of the net income earned by fund each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A portion of contribution may be deductible in year of the gift* Income for the donor or other non-charitable beneficiary Relatively simple to establish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deduction is subject to Adjusted Gross Income restrictions* Income is variable and taxable as ordinary income* Less flexible than a trust
Charitable Lead Trust	An irrevocable trust that provides payments to charity during the term of the trust and the remainder to non-charitable beneficiaries at the end of the term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets may be passed on to heirs Generates income for charity during donor's lifetime or over a specified number of years May provide gift, estate and generation-skipping tax advantages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax treatment is complex* More complex to establish and fees are generally higher than some alternatives Must identify a competent trustee

For more information please contact the Development Director at SARC at 410-836-8431 or development@sarc-maryland.org.

*Please consult with your legal and tax advisors on which strategy is most beneficial to you.



SARC provides hope and resources to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and stalking.

www.sarc-maryland.org

P.O. Box 1207 Bel Air, MD 21014

410-836-8431



Coming Together to End Abuse