



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARCC Announces Speak-Up Speak-Out Event, Thriver Walk Activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month (#SAAM). In observation of this event, the SARCC has partnered with local students, businesses, healthcare providers, and others to hold a Speak-Up Speak Out event at Monument Park on April 27, beginning at 3 pm.

Crimes of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and human trafficking are common. Survivors have a voice & healing is possible. Community members can attend to speak and share their stories or words of support. They may also listen to the featured speakers. Local counseling options & support resources available from 3 pm until 6 pm.

Featured speakers will include nationally recognized author and speaker, Marty Barth, and 2022 Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Student Activist Awardee, Amaya Rodriguez. Each will speak at the event, beginning at 4 pm. In addition, SARCC sexual assault advocates will be present to meet with community members for support, and to share information on healing services, practical tools, and resources.

Marty Barth has spoken at various retreats and conferences for 20 years. Her goal is to bring a message of healing to the broken and shattered. As a speaker she has spoken to college Criminology and Psychology students; for the University of Hawaii; to State Social Services programs involving advocates and foster parents; to addiction and recovery centers; and at child advocacy venues. She speaks with state and national leaders to bring awareness, prevention, and the importance of knowing the joy of overcoming--going from "Victim to Victor".

Amaya Rodriguez is the 2022 recipient of the Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award for Student Activism. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency honored Amaya in November for her

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A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free: 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

efforts to plan last year's student speak-out, talk with school and community leaders, and develop educational materials for high school students on getting support after sexual assault.

Volunteers and community members from HACC and other social service and mental health organizations will provide information and resources beginning at 3 pm. Thanks to the support and sponsorship of UPMC, Fulton Bank, and others, #Thriver Activities Stations will be available to visitors and participants at no-cost.

Thanks to the support of Are & Be Café, a private space will be available to meet with a sexual assault counselor for no-cost, confidential support during the event. Sexual violence survivors in Lebanon and Schuylkill County can connect with no-cost advocacy, counseling, and therapy services by contacting SARCC at 717-272-5308. To learn more about this event, or to request information on services or prevention programs for both children and adults, visit sarccheals.org.