



GUAM COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT & FAMILY VIOLENCE

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Announcement: Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation & Resolution Presentation and Awareness Wave

[Hagåtña, Gu] – April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month (SAAM/CAPM). In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (GCASAFV) aims to encourage the island community to embody this year's theme, "Embrace Your Voice", by using their voices to raise awareness about sexual assault and sexual assault prevention. In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM), the Department of Public Health & Social Services – Bureau of Social Services Administration (DPHSS – BOSSA) aims to encourage the island community to embody this year's theme, "Strong Communities Strengthen Families," by raising awareness for child abuse prevention and keeping the community informed about what it takes to prevent child abuse and neglect.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives. Additionally, 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls will experience sexual assault before age 18. Locally, according to Healing Hearts Crisis Center, in 2016, statistics show that 87 sexual assault cases were reported.

Whereas, according to the National Children's Alliance, Neglect is the most common form of maltreatment. Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, three-quarters suffered neglect; 17.2% suffered physical abuse; and 8.4% suffered sexual abuse. Locally, according to DPHSS – BOSSA, 2,205 children were subject to CPS referrals; 1,589 were cases of neglect; 609 were cases of physical abuse; 371 were cases of sexual abuse.

GCASAFV and DPHSS – BOSSA will join the Lt. Governor, representatives from the 34th Guam Legislature, military and faith-based organizations; advocates, and the island community to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event will be on April 3, 2018, 11:00 am, at the Guam Community College Multi-Purpose Auditorium.

On April 4, the public is welcome to join GCASAFV and DPHSS-BOSSA at this year's SAAM/CAPM Awareness Wave. Showtime is at 4:00 pm, and the wave will be from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm along Marine Corps Drive, across Chamorro Village. Bring a banner and join the wave.

This year's events were made possible in part by the Governor's Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office (GCO-FPO) and the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice (OVW-DOJ).

For more information call the GCASAFV office at 479-2277, or email info@guamcoalition.org.

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ABOUT GCASAFV:

Established in 2006, the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (GCASAFV) is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that aims to address sexual assault and family violence on Guam with one united voice.

GCASAFV's mission is to identify and address the community needs and access to services for victims of sexual assault and family violence by raising community awareness and building the island's capacity through education, outreach and training. Membership is comprised of service providers, government allies, and community partners. To learn more about GCASAFV, visit www.GuamCoalition.org; for a listing of island resources, visit www.PacificRegionResources.org