A Note from the COMPASS Director

In June our state coalition, the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV), awarded the Excellence in Advocacy Award to COMPASS. We are so humbled and honored to have been recognized for our work with survivors! Thank you, OAESV, for this honor. We have always been motivated by our mission – to promote the healing of individuals impacted by sexual violence and to create social change. So, we promise to continue advocating for survivors and serving our communities through education and awareness.

A big thanks to all of the staff, volunteers and community members who joined us in September for the screening of the documentary Roll Red Roll. This was an amazing partnership with Canton Film and the Palace Theater. After the movie, we hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion.

We want to be a valuable resource in the community and provide services that will meet the needs of survivors. It is the only way to continue providing excellent services. In the coming year, we will be reaching out to you with a community needs assessment. I hope you will consider participating and sharing feedback with us!

Have a wonderful autumn season!

Molly MacMath

Prevention can never start too early

COMPASS offers an educational prevention program for elementary aged students grades K-5. The purpose of the Safer, Smarter Kids curriculum is to empower children to protect themselves in situations where someone could abuse them by arming them with protective principles such as:

Children's bodies are their own and they always have a right to say no to anything that makes them uncomfortable, “icky” or confused.

Children need to have a few adults they trust who they can go to whenever a situation arises that makes them scared or uncomfortable.

No one should ask children to indefinitely keep secrets from their trusted adults.

This curriculum is broken up into six separate lessons, each giving children the tools they need to avoid victimization without dealing explicitly with the issue of sexual abuse or scaring them.

If your school is interested in participating in the Safer, Smarter Kids curriculum, please contact our Prevention Educators at prevention@compassrapecrisis.org, or call either of our offices: Canton- 330-437-3705/ New Philadelphia- 330-339-2504.

24 HOUR CRISIS LINES
330-452-1111 Stark County
330-339-1427 Tuscarawas & Carroll County
It's back to school time for our college outreach advocates! The 2019-2020 school year is gearing up to be our most involved year yet! To kick-off the school year, we held a training at Malone University for the resident assistants and resident directors to learn more about Title IX and how to handle sexual assault disclosures on campus with their residents. Our campus advocates provided training for all the incoming freshman at Malone about safety on campus and how to utilize COMPASS services on and off campus. Our campus advocates will continue to host events with Malone throughout the year, including informative posters in the resident halls, interactive tabling for students and working with athletics and coaches on campus.

Coming up for Kent State Tuscarawas campus is Parking Lot Pandemonium, where our campus advocates will host an interactive table to introduce students to safe ways to start conversations around sexual violence. Our campus advocates will be attending many events the week of homecoming at Kent State Tuscarawas, including a rubber duck race that will provide an opportunity for awareness and education around sexual violence.

At Walsh University, students will have the opportunity to learn more about bystander intervention by participating in a specially themed escape room! Our staff has been busy preparing the clues and we can't wait for students to join us at this event. There will be more learning opportunity at Walsh University through Bringing in The Bystander trainings.

New this year, our campus advocates will begin working more consistently with Stark State College, which will include our staff hosting tables for students and attending their community fair. We are very excited for all the events this school year and plan to make this our biggest campus year yet!

COMPASS has received several donations of items to include in comfort kits that are provided to survivors at the hospital. These comfort kits include clothing, along with several hygiene items. These recent donations have helped COMPASS in meeting basic needs of survivors in their time of crisis.

We are so thankful for the support of the community in meeting these needs. If you are interested in donating, COMPASS is in need of bottled water for survivors coming to our office for appointments and support group.

Do you want to make a difference? COMPASS is currently hiring for On-Call Advocates. On-Call Advocates help to empower survivors. They provide support and resources that survivors need and deserve. Interested in learning more or applying? Log onto GoodwillGoodSkills.org/CAREERS.

Special thanks to Reedurban Presbyterian Church for their recent donation of sweat suits to COMPASS and area survivors.
High school students learning valuable skills

Last year for “Directions”, our violence prevention curriculum, we began to focus on building confidence in students’ willingness to intervene at all grade levels.

For the high schoolers, this involved teaching them different strategies they can use to safely help others and then breaking them into teams to discuss ways to intervene with practice scenarios. The scenarios were pulled from the news, so our students got to see how real-world bystanders stepped in and stepped up.

Students responded well and gained confidence in their own bystander skills. Our last class of high school students went from 38% of students strongly agreeing that they would be confident talking to a friend in an abusive relationship before the week with COMPASS up to 70% reporting the same after the week with COMPASS! We’re excited to build upon it even more this year!

If your school is interested in participating in the Directions curriculum, please contact our Prevention Educators at prevention@compassrapecrisis.org, or call either of our offices: Canton-330-437-3705/ New Philadelphia- 330-339-2504.

Prevention programming yield great results for middle school age

Power-based violence is an all too real problem for children and teens in the world today and we at Compass strive to equip our communities with the best tools possible to prevent and respond to these crimes. That’s why each summer we revisit “Directions”, our violence prevention programming, to ensure that we see marked improvements on the tests students take before and after each week with us. This allows us to adapt our programming to meet the needs of each grade of students to best serve them.

As a result, we have separate curriculum for grades 6th, 7th, and 8th which cover topics ranging from supportive friendships with the sixth graders to how technology and dating violence overlap with the 8th graders. Our lessons build upon each other to best equip students with the skills they need to be supportive partners and to stand up for those who are at risk of sexual and dating violence.

If your school is interested in participating in the Directions curriculum, please contact our Prevention Educators at prevention@compassrapecrisis.org, or call either of our offices: Canton- 330-437-3705/ New Philadelphia- 330-339-2504.
COMPASS Director Molly MacMath accepts the Excellence in Advocacy Award this summer from Rosa Beltre, Executive Director of Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. She was accompanied to the awards ceremony by COMPASS staff members Ashley Bichard, Tanya Clift, Ronda Phillips and Caleb Prange.

Pozzie loves COMPASS! The Canton Charge mascot Pozzie visited the COMPASS booth at the Canton Salvation Army’s Back to School Fair.

COMPASS in partnership with the Canton Palace Theater and Canton Film presented the documentary film Roll Red Roll on September 18 in downtown Canton. A panel discussion and Q&A was held following the movie.

COMPASS staff Ashley Bichard and Kris Drummer volunteered at the Goodwill Industries donor door in New Philadelphia.