

Passaic County Women's Center

P.O. Box 244 * Paterson, N.J. 07543 * 973-881-0725 * fax: 973-881-0938

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

CONTACT:
Theresa Bivaletz, DVRT Specialist
Passaic County Women's Center
973-881-0725, ext. 16
24-hour Hotline: 973-881-1450
tbivaletz@njaconline.org

www.walkamileinhershoes.org

pcwcf.passaiccountywomenscenter.org

Men "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" to Stop Gender Violence

(Clifton, NJ) On September 25, 2010, men from all walks of life will walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes through Jubilee Park to protest rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. Staff from the NJ Coalition for Battered Women and the Prosecutor's Office, among other dignitaries, are scheduled to march, and will address the participants at a pre-march rally. Proceeds from sponsored walkers in the event will go to Passaic County Women's Center, the county's lead domestic violence and sexual assault agency.

WHO: Male community members and leaders will proclaim their solidarity with the domestic violence and rape prevention movement by marching in high heels, with women and children marching at their side. Educators, students, law enforcement officers, elected and appointed officials, and others are expected to participate.

WHEN: The march is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., with registration starting at 10:00 a.m. at Jubilee Park. Men, women, and children are invited to participate and walk-on registrants are welcome. Men are encouraged (but not required) to walk in women's shoes and participants are being asked to obtain \$50 (for adults) and \$25 (for students) in sponsorship. Each participant will receive a free T-shirt. A limited amount of women's shoes will be available the day of the event.

WHERE: Jubilee Park, corner of Clifton Avenue and Allwood Road. Adjacent to Richfield Village Apartments and across from RiteAid Pharmacy on Clifton Avenue.

"One in three women has experienced gender violence in her lifetime. A woman is raped every 90 seconds in America," said Frank Baird, Founder of the March. "That means someone you know, someone you care about has been the victim of sexual violence. This violence does not just affect women. Men are hurt and angered when women they care about are raped. Men are hurt and angered when they try to develop relationships with women in an atmosphere of fear and mistrust and blame. And the same violence that targets women also targets men because rape isn't about sex, it's about power, control and violence."

Inspired by the old saying, "You can't understand a person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes," men will literally walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes.

The Passaic County Women's Center (PCWC), a non-profit organization, is a division of the New Jersey Association on Correction. PCWC was established in 1986 with a mandate as the only shelter in the county exclusively servicing battered women and their children. Since the center's inception, the services have expanded to include a variety of programs addressing the complex problems of both domestic violence and sexual assault, regardless of ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status.