

# Partnership for Families, Children and Adults

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHATTANOOGA MEN WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES TO STOP RAPE

**Chattanooga, TN** – On April 16, 2011, Chattanooga Police Chief Bobby Dodd will lead men from all over Chattanooga in a one mile walk in Coolidge Park to protest rape, sexual assault & gender violence. The men will literally put themselves in women's shoes and walk in heels in a lighthearted effort to raise awareness about a serious issue. Student groups, church groups, and men from all walks of life are scheduled to march. Proceeds from sponsored walkers in the event will benefit Partnership's Sexual Assault Center violence prevention efforts and rape services in the Greater Chattanooga community.

"The prevention of violence is something I take very seriously as Chattanooga Police Chief," says Chief Dodd. "As a husband, father, and grandfather I am personally moved to support this effort. I encourage all men to come out to Coolidge Park on April 16<sup>th</sup> and walk with us to stop the violence." Male community members and leaders will proclaim their solidarity with the 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.

The march is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. at Coolidge Park in downtown Chattanooga. Men, women, and children are invited to participate and walk-on registrants are welcome. Men are encouraged to walk in women's shoes, which are available for rent, or men may bring their own women's shoes. The shoes are not required to be high-heeled shoes, but should be women's shoes.

"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."

Registration will be available online at [www.walkamilechatt.com](http://www.walkamilechatt.com) and is \$25 for men, \$10 for women, and children 12 and under are free. Shoe rental is an additional \$5. Men will receive a free, commemorative t-shirt with registration and they will also be available for purchase at the event.

Groups are encouraged to participate and awards will be given for the group that raises the most funds, the group that has the most participants, and the individual who raises the most funds. For more information, call Partnership at (423) 697-3827. Learn more about the international movement at [www.walkamileinher shoes.org](http://www.walkamileinher shoes.org).

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**About the Partnership:** Partnership is a community impact agency that has been empowering people to build better lives through counseling, crisis intervention, prevention and education programs for over 130 years. Last year, our services touched the lives of over 74,000 people in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. Partnership is a United Way Member Agency and is accredited by the National Council on Accreditation.

**About the Sexual Assault Crisis & Resource Center:** Each year, the Partnership provides crisis intervention services, emergency hotlines, counseling, shelter, advocacy and referral services to more than 3,000 individuals and families in our community. These services include the Family Violence Center and Sexual Assault Center. Many of these services are staffed 24 hours a day and are prepared to assist a client or victim in a moment's notice. 300 individuals received services at the Sexual Assault Center last year alone. Victims seeking assistance can call Partnership's 24-hour hotline at (423) 755-2700 for help. All calls to the hotline and services received at the Center are free and confidential.

# Partnership Sexual Assault Center Fact Sheet

## About the Center

- Generous local donors helped open Partnership's Sexual Assault Center in Chattanooga in 1995 at the request of many community leaders. **It is the only rape center in Chattanooga** for victims ages 13 and older.
- Partnership's Sexual Assault Center **served 300 sexual assault victims** in 2010. The Center serves both men and women. Our reporting rate is usually over 90%.
- **90 forensic exams** were given to rape victims during the same time period. Forensic exam services are available to victims of sexual assault. Most forensic exams are conducted within 72 hours of a sexual assault in order to retrieve potential evidence.
- Victims are eligible to receive a wide array of free and confidential services at the Center, including: forensic exam to document the assault and provide evidence for prosecution, counseling and support, court advocacy, and even support services for family members struggling with the trauma.
- Partnership's Sexual Assault Center receives generous operational support from individual donors, government funding and corporate grants. Ongoing support is always needed and donations can be made online at [partnershipfca.com](http://partnershipfca.com) or by calling Partnership's Development Department at (423) 697-3827.
- Partnership operates a **24-hour Hotline at (423) 755-2700** where victims of rape or their concerned loved ones can call to receive services and information.

## About Rape

- **1 out of every 6 American women** has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed rape; 2.8% attempted rape).<sup>1</sup> 9 of every 10 rape victims were female in 2003.<sup>2</sup>
- About **3% of American men** — or **1 in 33** — have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> In 2003, 1 in every ten rape victims were male.<sup>2</sup>
- **Victims of sexual assault are:**
  - **3 times** more likely to suffer from depression.
  - **6 times** more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
  - **13 times** more likely to abuse alcohol.
  - **26 times** more likely to abuse drugs.
  - **4 times** more likely to contemplate suicide.

## Available for Interview

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**Bobby Dodd**, Chattanooga Police Chief & Event Spokesman  
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(Source: <http://www.rainn.org>, retrieved 1/31/11)  
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1. National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. *Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey*. 1998.  
2. U.S. Department of Justice. *2003 National Crime Victimization Survey*. 2003.  
3. World Health Organization. 2002.