

Partnership for Families, Children and Adults

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CHATTANOOGA MEN WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES TO STOP RAPE

Chattanooga, TN – On April 17, 2010, men from all over Chattanooga will walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes through Coolidge Park to protest rape, sexual assault & gender violence. Student groups, church groups, and men from all walks of life are scheduled to march. Proceeds from sponsored walkers in the event will benefit the Partnership's Sexual Assault Center violence prevention efforts and rape services in the Greater Chattanooga community.

WHO: 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.

WHEN: 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 can be provided for them, 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. Registration is \$25 per person for men requiring a shoe rental, \$20 for men bringing their own shoes, and \$10 for women who wish to participate. Children 12 and under are free. T-shirts will be available for purchase at the event.

"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 a mile in women's high-heeled shoes. Registration forms are available for download online at www.partnershipfca.com. Registration fees can also be paid online. Participants who need shoes rentals must register by April 1st to guarantee shoe availability. 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, the individual who raises the most funds, and the group with the most spirit on event day.

For more information, call the Partnership at (423) 697-3829. Learn more about the international movement at www.walkamileinher shoes.org. Special thanks to event sponsors 96.5 The Mountain, Unum, and Jessica Tucker Design.

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About the Partnership: The Partnership for Families, Children and Adults is a nonprofit agency that has been empowering people to build better lives through counseling, crisis intervention, prevention and education programs for 133 years. Last year, our services touched the lives of over 50,000 people in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. The Partnership for Families, Children and Adults 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 Shelter 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. Nearly 300 individuals were served at the Sexual Assault Center last year alone. Even with the wide reach and range of our offerings, the Partnership continually seeks to collaborate with partner agencies to provide the best possible care for our clients.