



The Listening Ear's Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 03-02
2nd Quarter 2003

Does your company offer a program that matches your donations to community non-profit organizations? Ask your employer's personnel/human resources department and if they do, let them know each time you make a donation to The Listening Ear. You will double your support of our mission, for free!



I'm All Ears

Crystal Award Winner

Crystal Awards honor East Lansing volunteers

EAST LANSING — East Lansing is a city supported by volunteers. They help their fellow residents — often from behind the scenes — in countless ways. On April 28 at a reception in the Hannah Community Center, some of East Lansing's outstanding volunteers were honored at the 16th Annual Crystal Awards.

The event included refreshments from Lou & Harry's, music by the East Lansing High School String Quartet and an award ceremony.

Mayor Mark Meadows welcomed guests at the start of the ceremony.

"This is the night when as a community we come together to recognize those in our community who make East Lansing what it is," said Meadows.

City council member and former Crystal Award winner Beverly Baten was Master of Ceremonies at the event.



One of the three awards given this year went to the Listening Ear Crisis Intervention Center, recognized as one of the four oldest crisis intervention centers in existence in the U.S. and as the only all-volunteer crisis center operating in this country. In a recent survey of MSU students, the Listening Ear was rated the "most valuable service" the City of East Lansing funds.

"In a typical year, a staff of 70 to 90 volunteers will respond to over 10,000 client contacts," said Baten. "These contacts are anonymous, confidential, and without cost to clients. The large majority of contacts are by telephone, making help available to people who might have transportation difficulties or who might not seek help for fear of exposure or embarrassment."

Several volunteers from Listening Ear came to the podium to accept the award for their organization.

*Volunteer
Crisis
Counselors
answer calls
24 hours a
day, 365 days
a year.*

Other Crystal Award winners included Elizabeth "Beth" Schwarze and Friends of the East Lansing Public Library.

Ms. Schwarze is a former council member who has served as president of both the Glenclairn Elementary Parent-Teacher Association and has been active in a large number of neighborhood and city projects.

The Friends of the East Lansing Public Library was honored for promoting community awareness of the library's resources, stimulating its development and raising funds to enhance its facilities and services.

By Ann Russell
Editor, The Towne Courier

Permission to reprint this article (dated May 4, 2003, Vol. 40, No. 16) was given by Lansing Community Newspapers.

Honor your family and friends with a gift to The Listening Ear

Is there someone special that you would like to remember or thank?

Honor them with a gift to The Listening Ear.

Your information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

Please send a card of acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please return to: The Listening Ear, 313 W. Grand River Ave, East Lansing MI 48823

I want to make a difference in my community with a gift of:

¡\$90	¡\$ _____	Remember, it costs \$60 to keep our crisis hotline open for 24 hours!	Please Charge my Visa/MC \$ _____ Exp. Date: ___/___/___
¡\$60	¡\$180		Charge me: Monthly / Once (please circle one)
¡\$30	¡\$120		Signature: _____
			Card #: _____

If charging to a credit card, please complete the below information using your credit card billing address.



Thank You!

The Listening Ear
Crisis & Referral Center
313 W Grand River Ave
East Lansing, MI 48823

517.337.1717

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Interested in supporting "I'm All Ears"?

Your small advertisement could do just that! Contact the Listening Ear's business office at (517)337-1728 for information regarding sponsorship and advertising. You can reach out to over 1, 500 Listening Ear supporters and enable the Ear to continue reaching out as well.



Suicide is the third leading cause of death among males and females between the ages of 15 and 24.
Source: 2001 National Vital Statistics Report

Every Two Minutes

Every 2 minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted. These numbers are devastating and when people see these numbers I know of no one who says rape is not a crime that must be stopped.

When I talk to people about rape no one speaks out and says they want to see rape continue or don't want to help bring it to an end, but then when things come out into the public venue or the accused is a public figure or someone they know, example Kobe Bryant, then the tone of the conversation changes. People say, "No, she must be lying, he would never do something like that." Or statements like, "he seems so nice, that's not possible."

Those statements sadden me. The fact is that 66% of all rape survivors know their assailant (2000 NCVS). This means that they, too, thought they "knew" their perpetrator. When people say that they knew the person and they could not commit a crime like this, that statement is preposterous. The train of thought to bring people to this conclusion is taking the safe road. If you could recognize a rapist just by

their look or the fact that they seemed nice, then no one would ever be raped.

If all rapists were anti-social people who no one was friends with, then we could stop rape, and say, don't be around these particular people and give out criteria for who would be a rapist. The tragedy is that that is not possible. Everyone has someone that loves them and doesn't think that they are capable of such a nefarious crime. If you were to approach the loved ones of people who committed the crime and ask about their friend, parent, spouse or partner they will almost always say that they never thought their loved one was capable of something so horrible.

So, I guess the point is for people to realize or at least begin to acknowledge that just because the person is someone that you know and care about don't absolve them, allow them to be held responsible, and don't blame their victims for ruining their lives. The perpetrator made that choice when he acted.

Tamika, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator

Wish List for The Ear

- Office Supplies
- Volunteers
- 2 Couches
- Laminator
- Conference Tables & Chairs
- Laptop Computer
- Building/Home
- Gift Cards/Certificates

Items need to be in good condition. We are a 501(c)3 agency. Any and all donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Receipts are willingly provided. To make a donation, please contact our Office Manager at 337-1728.

Bob's Run 2003

The sixth annual Bob's 5K run/walk drew over 340 competitors to the starting blocks Sunday, June 22nd, raising approximately \$8,000 in support of the Listening Ear Crisis Intervention Center.

This event served both as a tribute to Bob Forsythe and as a fundraiser for the day to day expenses of the Listening Ear. Prior to his death six years ago from brain cancer, Bob Forsythe was both a volunteer and a board member for the center.

The race brings friends and community members together each year to get reacquainted, which was the essence of Bob's life, according to Louise Forsythe.

"He was a real people person," Forsythe said. "He loved listening to people and trying to help them. He just really enjoyed trying to connect with people so it's a great way to honor his memory."

The event began early Sunday morning at the Listening Ear's original

(Continued on page 5)

*Last year
volunteer
crisis
counselors
answered
over
11,000
calls.*

Thank You to the sponsors of Bob's Run 2003!

*The
Listening
Ear would
like to thank
the thousands
of volunteers
who have
dedicated
their time,
energy, and
money to our
cause over the
past 34 years.*

7-Eleven-Grove Street
Alliance Obstetrics & Gynecology
Andrea G. Johnson, DO, MS
Anne Lange, ACSW
APCapital
Arlene Hecksel
Chesters Nuts
City of East Lansing
Classic Wines
Deborah Lincoln, RN, MSN
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Dewitt Pharmacy
Dr. George Meluch, Chiropractor
Dr. Leonard Silverman
East Lansing Food Co-Op
European TanSpa
Evergreen Grill
Farmer Jack
Foods For Living
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, Attorneys at
Law
Goldenrod Music
Grand River Counseling Center
Helen Schneiderman and Daniel Vivian
Ingham Regional Medical Center
Jackson National Life Insurance Company

Kroger
Law Office of Julie H. Reincke
Mackerel Sky
Marilyn Viera, DO
Mary Ann Olson, Certified Financial Planner
Mary C. Fairgrieve, ACSW
Matt Wojack, ACSW
Meridian Screen Printing & Design
Michigan Athletic Club
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Okemos Optometry, PC
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Playmakers
Priscilla VanDussen
Prudential Securities
Richard Coelho, PhD
Saper Galleries
Sheraton Lansing Hotel
Spotted Dog Café
Starbucks Coffee
Sundance Jewelry
The Rehmann Group
The State News
Two Men and a Truck

Embezzlement Update

As many of you have likely heard by now, the Listening Ear discovered in April that its Office Manager embezzled nearly \$13,500 over a period of 15 months. This was a crime not just against the organization, but against clients, supporters, and the entire community.

Upon discovery of the situation, the employee was suspended without pay and the Board of Directors sought counsel. In addition, an investigation was conducted to determine the extent of the damages. The individual's employment has since been terminated and financial controls are being put into place to prevent actions like this from happening in the future.

Recently, a couple of events have occurred that you may not have heard about that we'd like to update you on.

First, we have received \$13,500 in restitution from our former employee. Secondly, by plea bargaining with the prosecutor's office, the former office manager plead guilty to a misdemeanor and was assessed court fees and a fine.

Throughout this crisis, the Listening Ear has continued to provide services to the Greater Lansing community at full capacity. The Listening Ear has provided over 34 years of service to the Greater Lansing Community and is the nation's oldest all-volunteer crisis center. The center houses a free, 24-hour, confidential and anonymous crisis line. Crisis counselors are available to offer support and referrals on a wide range of topics, including sexual assault, suicide, depression, grief and loss, and relationship issues. The Listening Ear also provides short-term counseling and advocacy for survivors of sexual assault and their significant others.

**Call 337-1717 for
counseling & referral services**

98 and Counting...

The Listening Ear held its summer training for new volunteers May 29 to June 8, 2003. All nineteen people who completed the program joined the Listening Ear staff and are volunteering for shifts during the months of July and August when the number of staff has been low in previous summers.

Always a major event for the Listening Ear, training gets underway weeks before the actual program begins. Everyone on staff contributes by working their shifts, participating in recruitment and orientation, attending the selection meetings of trainees and trainers, volunteering to facilitate exercises or give lectures, acting as greeters, or serving as role players to provide skill practice opportunities throughout the program. Ten training staff in each half donated their time and offered their skills as group facilitators and consultants. Many professionals in the community also gave their support to the training program by providing lectures in their area of expertise.

For nearly thirty five years now, two or three times each year, the Listening Ear has been training new crisis intervention counselors, who, upon successful completion of the program, volunteer their time and energy and considerable resources in service to the community. Training represents the Listening Ear at its very best. It reaffirms our purpose and values and strengthens us as a helping organization, rebuilding and adding to our sense of community.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who contributed, and especially congratulate our newest volunteers.

Congratulations

**To the 19 new Crisis Counselors who
completed the 98th New
Volunteer Training Program!**

(Continued from page 4)

location, 423 Albert Ave., and consisted of a 3.1-mile loop through downtown East Lansing, which people alternately ran and walked, times ranging from 15 to 45 minutes. This year, the fastest female runner was Nikki Norris Smith with a time of 17:53, and the fastest male runner was Ryan Kelly with a time of 15:59.

People from all segments of the community came out to volunteer with setting up, passing out water, and blocking traffic. Fred Jaeklein, a Crisis Counselor at the Listening Ear was glad to see all the people.

"I came basically to see all the new and old Ears," he said, "and I feel very validated that the community is so supportive of us."

To get involved with next year's run, please call Lousie Forsythe at 517.349.8728, or watch www.theear.org for updates next year.



The Listening Ear
313 West Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823

Crisis Line: 517-337-1717
Business Line: 517-337-1728
E-mail: theear@msu.edu

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Permit No. 106

We're on the Web!
www.theear.org

Board Members

Community Members

- Louise Forsythe (Treasurer)
- Lou Hekhuis
- Cynthia Alderson (Secretary)
- Sarah Shaw
- Russell Britton

Staff Members

- Alyssa Baumann (Chair)
- Fred Jaecklein
- Shauna Matten
- Rebecca Low
- Sarah Hopkins
- Kevin O'Donohue
- Sandy Amble

Staff:

- Office Manager
- Over 90 volunteer crisis counselors.

If you are interested in joining The Listening Ear, Please call (517)337-1717!

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.”

—MARGARET MEAD

From time to time the Listening Ear may share addresses of supporters with other community service organizations. If you do not want your address to be given to another organization please call us at 337-1728.

The Listening Ear Crisis Intervention Center extends our thanks to the community, individuals, and businesses that allow us to continue to serve as a helpful, supportive presence to those in need.