
PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.
Kristen Detheridge, Communications and Marketing Coordinator
845-562-5365 x 101
kdetheridge@fearlesshv.org

RISE Program Moving to Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.

Sullivan County, NY / April 1, 2021 – Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc. is proud to announce that on April 1, 2021, the Rape Intervention Services and Education (RISE) Program is transitioning to Fearless!. Protecting the program from closure in 2010, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills (formerly Catskill Regional Medical Center) took over and supported the RISE Program to maintain its staff and grow a reliable volunteer base under the leadership of Debbie O'Malley, RISE Program Manager. This foundation informed the exciting decision to transition the RISE Program back to a strong, community-based organization, specifically one with an established history of effectively serving victims and survivors in Orange and Sullivan Counties.

The RISE Program, under Fearless!, will continue its longtime partnership and collaboration with Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills, supporting anyone suffering the physical, emotional, and medical impacts of rape and other sexual trauma. The program will remain in office space on the Harris, NY hospital campus and will continue to serve individuals of all ages in Sullivan County through the **24-hour rape and sexual violence hotline at 845-791-9595** and provide those who are or have been a victim of sexual violence or assault with:

- Individual Crisis Counseling
- Support Groups
- Advocacy
- Information and Referrals
- Accompaniment Services to the emergency department, police station, and court
- Comprehensive Prevention and Education to youth at local schools and other community groups

“We know that domestic and sexual violence are often overlapping: both are rooted in power and control and intersect with other forms of oppression. The ability to leverage existing programming and services within Fearless! will enhance and expand sexual assault services to victims and survivors throughout Sullivan County. This not only supports our mission as an agency, but it will also strengthen and streamline advocacy on behalf of all survivors and victims,” said Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier, Executive Director, Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.

MORE

Page 1 of 2

The transition of the program is aligned with the start of **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** (SAAM). The goal of SAAM nationwide is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. Sexual violence is an umbrella term that includes any unwanted sexual contact, either in person or online, including sexual assault, harassment, and abuse.

This year, SAAM is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the theme “We Can Build Safe Online Spaces”. Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere: as we increasingly connect online, we can learn how to practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content or behaviors, and ensure that online spaces—whether they be workspaces, classrooms, social media platforms, or otherwise—are respectful and safe. SAAM highlights the importance of prevention, intervention, and recognition of sexual assault to support victims and provide all of us with the information and resources to prevent sexual assault from happening in the first place.

Fearless! believes everyone has the right to live a life free from all forms of abuse and violence and will continue to ensure that victims, survivors, and those supporting their loved ones in Sullivan County know how to connect with RISE. Our dedicated staff and volunteer advocates are available to help and provide information 24/7.

Fearless! resources and communication avenues include:

- RISE rape and sexual violence hotline for Sullivan County: **845-791-9595**
- For victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other forms of crime victimization throughout Orange and Sullivan County: 845-562-5340
- Website: fearlesshv.org/RISE
- Facebook and Instagram: @fearlesshv

The mission of Fearless! is to build an informed, just, and accountable society so all people can experience supportive and safe relationships free from abuse, exploitation, and oppression. This mission is accomplished through education, prevention, advocacy, and providing comprehensive services, including shelter, to victims and survivors of interpersonal violence, human trafficking and sexual violence, and other types of crime victimization.

###