

For Immediate Release

Grant County SART Announces Start By Believing Campaign

Marion, IN (March 31, 2023) If someone's home was burglarized, most likely no one would ask what the victim did to cause the burglary. Yet too often, a sexual assault victim is asked what they did to cause the assault.

It is time instead that we as a community, stop asking why and START BY BELIEVING.

To change the narrative around sexual violence, the Grant County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is partnering with local businesses in April to promote the importance of believing when a victim says they have been sexually assaulted.

The Grant County SART consists of professionals from local law enforcement, medical, school, victim's advocates, prosecutor and Department of Child Service. SART provides a competent, coordinated and compassionate community response to sexual assault meeting monthly to discuss best practice. SART members recognize the need for collaboration in their efforts to respond to the needs of investigating the serious allegations surrounding the report of sexual assault.

Nationally, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and locally, members of the Grant County SART will be providing an opportunity for the public to talk to law enforcement, victim's advocates, nurses, prosecutors and other SART members. There will also be resources available at the following Hear and Believe coffee hour sessions.

The public is encouraged to participate by stopping by one of the six sites, as well as signing a pledge that individually you will Start by Believing. The pledge cards will be available at each location. Attendees will be encouraged to take a selfie and post it on @INHandsofHope's Facebook page.

Everyone is also encouraged to wear TEAL on TUESDAYS in April, take a selfie and post that on @INHandsofHope's Facebook page to show support to victims of sexual violence.

No registration is needed, just show up at one of these locations:

8 a.m. to 9 a.m., April 6: Jackie's Restaurant, 105 N. Harrisburg Ave., Gas City

9 a.m. to 10 a.m., April 11: Sweetser Café, 114 N. Main St., Sweetser

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. April 13: Starbucks, 3101 S. Western Ave., Marion

9 a.m. to 10 a.m., April 18: Kammy's Kafé, 117 E. Fourth St., Jonesboro

9 a.m. to 10 a.m., April 20: Midwest Coffee Roasting Co., 1321 W. Spencer Ave., Marion

11 a.m. to Noon, April 25, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana, Marion Campus

For additional information contact one of the following members:

Contact

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