

North Coast RAPE CRISIS TEAM WINTER NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2024

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Two years ago, I left the Bay Area to move to Humboldt County and become the Executive Director of the North Coast Rape Crisis Team. I have learned so much from the amazing team of Advocates in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties; I am humbled by their commitment to the mission and values of our organization. Beyond the beauty of both the forest and the ocean, I have been struck by the sense of community and comradery that makes this place special. Through natural and other disasters, there is a sense of togetherness that I am proud to now call mine. Our agency, along with all Rape Crisis Centers in California, are facing a crisis not seen since 2008, outlined below.

Through all my years of service, I have witnessed survivors connect with their strength against extraordinary odds. As a team, we are dedicated to supporting survivors through what seems to be an unimaginable funding deficit; we need our community to come through to ensure survivors continue to have access to advocacy in the lean times ahead.

Amanda LeBlanc



THANK YOU

to our friends at **Eureka Natural Foods** for supporting our Mission and the work that we do! NCRCT was honored to be selected as one of the recipients for the ENF **Change4Change** round up program



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Del Norte
24 hour hotline: (707) 465-2851
983 3rd Street, Suite A
Crescent City, CA 95531

Humboldt
24 hour hotline: (707) 445-2881
425 I Street
Arcata, CA 95521

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FEBRUARY 2024

NCRCT FACES SEVERE BUDGET CUTS

-AMANDA LEBLANC

Rape Crisis Centers across California (including Humboldt and Del Norte Counties) are funded from a multitude of grantors, but none so largely as the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Cal OES, and specifically, pass-thru grants stemming from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) have accounted for approximately 75% of the North Coast Rape Crisis Team's budget for over 20 years. To date, these funds have kept the agency's doors open, directly allowing for our 24-hour in-person response to forensic exams, forensic interviews, and law enforcement reports. NCRCT, along with many other first responding agencies that rely on VOCA funds, have been advised to expect a severe 30-60% cut in VOCA funds, beginning in October of 2024, with no sign of when the funds might be restored or from where the funds could potentially be sourced.

Though VOCA funds are being ruthlessly cut, we are seeing a marked increase in the numbers of survivors and families who are reaching out, as well as more and more basic needs going unfilled within our communities, as well as increased costs to ensure a 24-hour in-person response. As an example, last year we received a total of 1525 calls to our office and crisis line. In the first quarter of our fiscal year, we have already received 957 calls.

Our Board of Directors, leadership team, and staff are working to spread the word about the national VOCA funding loss, as well as planning additional events to raise the funds necessary to continue to serve our communities. We implore you to please consider attending, making a monthly gift to NCRCT, and/or providing a sustaining gift to the agency. If you have ideas on how we can raise ongoing funding, please consider joining our Fundraising Advisory Committee or our Board of Directors, as our agency depends upon the generosity and direct input of the communities we have the privilege of serving.

We are grateful for your continued support and will fiercely endeavor to provide the trauma-informed, survivor-centered services necessary to HEAL our community.

 facebook.com/ncrct

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BY THE NUMBERS

OCTOBER-
DECEMBER 2023

We served **187** survivors

We served **24** loved ones

We responded to **957** crisis calls

We provided **66** peer counseling sessions

We provided in person Crisis Intervention **200** times

We provided criminal advocacy or accompaniments **404** times

We provided general advocacy or accompaniments **193** times

These numbers are combined to represent services provided across both Del Norte and Humboldt Counties

VOLUNTEER UPDATES

-MARIA SEPULVEDA

Our 70+ hour training gives volunteers the opportunity to become a California State Certified Sexual Assault Counselor and support survivors and loved ones while staffing our 24-hour crisis hotlines. Our training covers a wide variety of topics, including historical perspectives, intersection of discrimination/oppression and sexual violence, and crisis intervention and active listening skills.

During our first quarter, volunteers donated over **500 hours** on the hotline! Our current training cohort will join our team soon!

Our hotline operates in Humboldt and Del Norte County; we need additional help to cover the needs of survivors.

We are always taking applications for our program and keep a rolling list of interested individuals. If you or someone you know wants to take an active role in supporting survivors of sexualized violence, please consider applying to one of our future trainings!

ncrct.org/volunteer

Did you know?
We now offer a crisis text line
Available M-F 8:30-4:30
(707) 382-5174

CHECK IT CLUBS EXPAND

-KIRA MORSE

Over the last few years, our Education team has expanded our youth-led bystander intervention clubs at local high schools. We began in 2018 at our pilot school, Arcata High, and last year expanded to Hoopa Valley High School and the Del Norte Youth Opportunity Center (formerly juvenile hall). Each of our clubs meet weekly to discuss topics related to affirmative consent, bystander intervention, rape culture, human trafficking, and activism in our communities. Being a youth-led initiative has given students a voice in deciding what topics and activities they feel will reach the student populations at large. Club members create and organize events like poster campaigns for awareness months, movie nights discussing rape culture in media, and



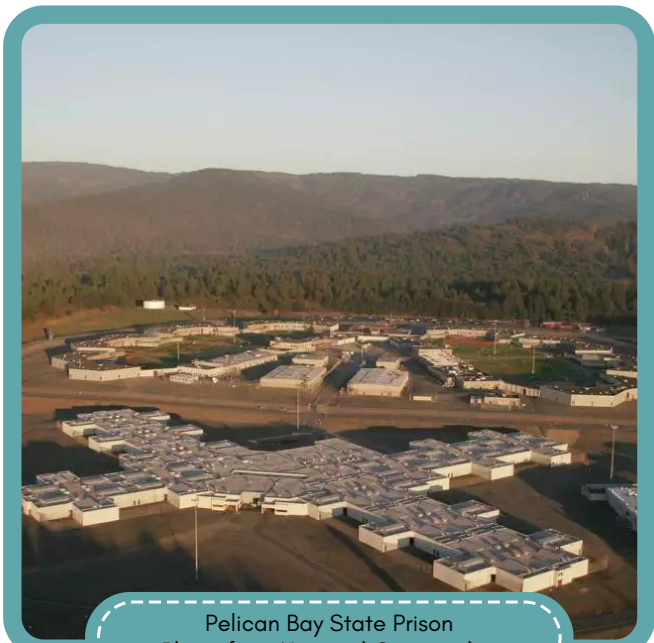
Arcata High Check-It! Club members participate in dessert decorating at a movie night held on campus in November

bracelet-making to share affirmative consent and self-love with their high school. Our Educators act as an anchor in these spaces, not only impacting the schools where the clubs are active but reverberating to the surrounding communities. Educators work closely with student leaders and club faculty; we are honored to be a part of the solution to end sexualized violence.

PREA FIRST YEAR

-MAKHI BESSINGPAS-HAMOR

October 2023 marked our first full year of funding to serve incarcerated survivors in our juvenile halls, County jails, and at Pelican Bay State Prison through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) grant. Our program goal is twofold; reduce the occurrences of sexualized violence within detention facilities, and to maintain the rights of survivors of sexualized violence while incarcerated. Our PREA Advocate spent 2022 fostering relationships with the appropriate staff at the detention facilities. Since then, NCRCT advocates have provided in-person support services to survivors in all detention facilities within Humboldt and Del Norte County. (Pelican Bay State Prison, Del Norte Correctional Facility, Del Norte Youth Opportunity Center, Humboldt County Correctional Facility, and Humboldt County Juvenile Hall). Each of the named facilities has been outfitted with updated NCRCT service flyers and access to our 24-hour hotline has been maintained. While services for incarcerated survivors are more limited, we honor their rights by providing confidential crisis intervention services. As relationships have grown, we have increasingly collaborated with facilities to better provide services and training and look forward to continuing our work in detention centers.



Pelican Bay State Prison
Photo from National Geographic

WHERE WERE WE LAST QUARTER?

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 10/25 College of the Redwoods Consent Halloween Party
- 10/26 CR Violence Prevention Summit
- 11/2 Dia De los Muertos in Old Town
- 11/9 Paso a Paso
- 11/9 Cal Poly Humboldt-Consent Project
- 11/15 CPH-Kink on Campus
- 12/21 Rio Dell Commodities event

WE ALSO...

- Provided Rape Prevention Education 19 times
- Facilitated 11 Check It meetings at Arcata High
- Facilitated 10 Check It meetings at Hoopa Valley High



NCRCT Advocates attend a MMIP Educational Awareness Event presented by Tolowa Dee-ni Nation
11/15/23

**Cal Poly Humboldt
Campus Advocate Team
Drop In Hours:**

Wednesdays 1-5

**Located in
The Feuerwerker House
131 Mill Street, Arcata
Entrance is on LK Wood
Boulevard
excluding holidays and school
breaks**

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16th - April 30th at Murphy's Markets

Find donation jars for NCRCT located at the checkout stands at both Arcata locations!

785 Bayside Road & 100 Westwood Court



3/12 Chipotle Fundraiser

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

2626 Broadway Street, Eureka

NCRCT will receive 33% of sales when patrons mention our fundraiser!

In store-Present our flyer or reference the North Coast Rape Crisis Team when ordering

Online-Enter code **PGB64ZM** at checkout
(For pickup only, does not apply to delivery)



April - June at Wildberries Marketplace

Wildberries shoppers can donate to NCRCT using the Community Boxes located at checkout

747 13th street, Arcata



5/12 MOD Pizza Fundraiser

NCRCT will receive 20% of sales when patrons mention our fundraiser!

In store-Present our flyer or reference the North Coast Rape Crisis Team when ordering

Online-Enter code **MODGIVES20** at checkout
(For pickup only, does not apply to delivery)

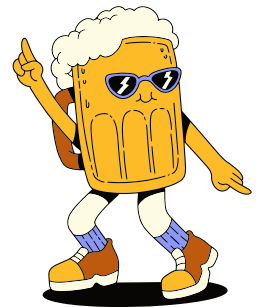


5/23 Pints for Non-Profits at Humboldt Bay Social Club

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

\$1 from every draft beer sold will be donated to NCRCT! Keep an eye out on our social media accounts for updates!

900 New Navy Base Road, Samoa



WE WILL BE PARTNERING WITH MORE ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ADDITIONAL UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS!

Want to help but don't have time to volunteer? Please consider making a tax deductible donation to help our agency provide resources to survivors.

For more information or to donate online, go to NCRCT.ORG/DONATE





Educators Makhi and Kira tabling at CR's Consent Halloween Party



Arcata High Check It members hand out hot chocolate and positive affirmations



Check It table featuring information on consent and custom made buttons

Winter 2023 Memories



Check It members table at a club event



NCRCT was honored to receive the profits from American Legion 274's Murder Mystery event in November 2023



NCRCT Advocate Maria created custom logo cookies for our annual winter staff/board lunch