## North Coast RAPE CRISIS TEAM NEWSLETTER



#### A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the holiday season ends, my teammates and I reflect on the resilience of the survivors we serve. The bravery shown by a child who discloses abuse to a teacher so they can be safe over the school break; an adult who returns to their childhood home where abuse occurred to re-establish their autonomy and control over the space; a young man who is assaulted by friends on New Year's Eve, reports to law enforcement and goes to the hospital to have evidence collected. Each of these citizens of Humboldt or Del Norte County are connected to a sexual assault counselor and advocate who believes them, supports them, provides help to meet their basic needs, and walks beside them in their healing journey.

For over 40 years, these services have been provided free of charge to survivors, funded through federal and state grant monies, and contributions from community members. NCRCT has never had an overabundance of funding; a lean, efficient machine of staff and volunteers have creatively found solutions to meet the needs of survivors over the decades.

Humboldt and Del Norte, I write to you to from a place of trepidation and controlled panic. I am ringing the bell loudly and clearly to say that we are in a crisis state. If the looming funding cuts from the Victim of Crimes Act and the threatened federal freeze of grant funds and applications (as ordered by President Trump last month) occur, it will become impossible for the North Coast Rape Crisis Team to function. It is imperative that our community be heard, that we say this is unacceptable, and we come together to honor our survivors. Please reach out to our elected officials (instructions are included in this newsletter). Please purchase a ticket to our upcoming gala, and spread word about it on social media, your community contacts, and loved ones. We are counting on you and appreciate any help you can give.

# BY THE NUMBERS

### OCTOBER -DECEMBER

We served 202 survivors

We served 58 loved ones

We responded to 832 crisis calls

We provided 49 peer counseling sessions

We provided in person Crisis Intervention 178 times

We provided criminal advocacy or accompaniments 396 times

We provided general advocacy or accompaniments 466 times

We provided education at 12 professional events to 224 people

We tabled at 20 community events and provided information on our services to 476 people

We held 7 meetings with student leaders at various schools

We facilitated 2 prevention campaigns/events on high school campuses

- \*We provided Rape Prevention Education to 661 students and
- 5 teachers
- \*The North Coast Rape Crisis Team believes that you **cannot** change culture without education. Our Prevention Education team has created curriculum that is age-appropriate, engaging, and informative for over twenty years. Funding a prevention education team has always been difficult, and it is nearly impossible to overstate what education prevents!

As of December 31st, NCRCT is no longer able to support prevention education with current funding. This loss has already resulted in the layoff of a long-time, dedicated, talented educator. This is a loss not just to our team, but to the community at large. NCRCT will continue to seek funding sources to re-establish prevention education in our communities. If you are aware of any opportunities, please reach out to the team!

## Domcing in the Rain Gala Together we can weather any storm

The Undercovers!



Signature Cocktails

Dinner catered by Brett Shuler

Silent Auction

Saturday April 5th 2025

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!



STARTING AT \$95

www.NCRCT.org/Gala

Facebook: North Coast Rape Crisis Team

### SPONSORED BY









Auction includes items donated by Humboldt Creamery, Plaza, Benbow Historic Inn, Naja Tepe, HealthSPORT, Cypress Grove, Caravan of Dreams, Holly Yashi, and more!

## NCRCT BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO LOCAL FAMILIES

Our crisis textline is available
M-F 8:30-4:30
(707) 382-5174

Thanks to funds from the Inter-Tribal Council of California, NCRCT was able to provide <u>29</u> families from Humboldt and Del Norte Counties with over <u>\$5,000</u> in gifts or grocery support this holiday season!

Many of these families expressed that they did not know if they would have been able to celebrate the holidays without our assistance.

#### WAYS TO SUPPORT NCRCT

Attend the 1st annual *Dancing in the Rain* Gala on Saturday, April 5th, 2025. Your ticket to the event, along with the purchase of silent and live auction items, as well as donations made directly to the agency, provide a path forward for NCRCT and survivors of sexualized violence. Together, we can weather any storm; the rain is coming, **please give today.** 

Tickets are available for purchase at ncrct.org/gala

If you are or know a business owner who would be interested in sponsoring our event or donating goods or services for the silent auction, please reach out to us at (707) 443-2737.

- Consider making a tax-deductible donation.
   You can submit a single donation or sign up for reoccuring donations at ncrct.org/donate
- SHARE our event on social media! Event page can be found on Facebook and flyers can be found on both Facebook and Instagram

#### WAYS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED

Contact your local representarives on NCRCT's behalf.

Using the script below, you can call or email state officials to voice your support

#### **Senator Alex Padilla**

Phone: (202) 224-3553 | Email: https://bit.ly/SenatorPadilla

**Senator Adam Schiff** 

Phone: (202) 224–3841 | Email: https://bit.ly/SenatorSchiff

Congressman Jared Huffman

Phone: (202) 225-5161 | Email: https://bit.ly/CongressmanHuffman

Script:

Dear (Title/Name),

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in (City, State); I am one of your constituents. I am calling/writing as an ally and supporter of the North Coast Rape Crisis Team to express my concern and dismay over the cuts to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Survivors of sexualized violence deserve their legal rights to be maintained and supported through their services; it is unacceptable that funding for this organization is at risk. They provide life-saving and supportive services to survivors in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties in the immediate wake of the most traumatic and difficult moments of their lives. I urge you to do everything in your power to fill the gap in core, necessary funding that victim service providers rely on and allow the North Coast Rape Crisis Team to continue providing essential and crucial services.



#### North Coast Co-Op's Seeds for Change

NCRCT is honored to have been selected for the North Coast Co-Op's Seeds for Change fundraiser for the month of March. Please ask your cashier to round up your change to support us all month long!

#### IN THE NEWS

#### Redwood Voice Interview on supporting survivors in Del Norte

In December, Amanda LeBlanc and Del Norte County Victim Witness Field Investigator A'Lissa Scott met with the Redwood Voice Community News to discuss their work resurrecting Del Norte County's Sexual Assault Response Team, and NCRCT being one of only two nonprofits in the country to receive the Rural Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner grant to continue and grow the program.

https://bit.ly/NCRCT-RV

#### **Times Standard Article**

https://bit.ly/NCRCT-TS

**Headline Humboldt Interview** (Begins at 8:35)

https://bit.ly/NCRCT-HH

#### FUNDING FREEZE

On January 27th, the memo outlining the freeze of all federal grants was rescinded by the White House. Contrary to many media reports, as indicated by the tweet below from the Press Secretary, **there is a clear intention to follow through on the freeze.**The threat to the future of NCRCT still exists; we must continue our advocacy with our elected officials. Please reach out regularly to the list provided on the previous page.

One of the many temporary restraining orders filed against the funding freeze can be viewed at:

https://bit.ly/NCRCT-TRO

