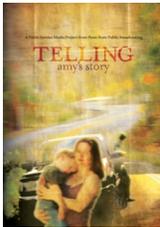


# SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Save the Date                    | 2 |
| 82nd Legislative Regular Session | 2 |
| Featured Agency                  | 2 |
| 2011 Capitol Day                 | 2 |
| Featured Book                    | 3 |
| TCP Instructor Course            | 3 |
| New SAFVIC Instructors           | 4 |

Verizon Wireless' documentary, *Telling Amy's Story*, recounts the murder of Amy Homan McGee, who was killed by her husband in 2001. Throughout 2010, the Texas Council on Family Violence worked with Verizon Wireless to screen this documentary in a variety of settings across the state. Using this documentary, TCFV has worked with professionals in law enforcement, the judiciary, prosecution, family violence advocacy and with interested citizens in Texas and around the nation to address and develop strategies to end family violence homicides. And during that same time, TCFV published *Honoring Texas Women: Family Violence Fatalities* as a chronicle of the 111 women killed by their intimate partners in Texas in 2009. The culmination of this collective ef-



fort to galvanize our statewide community and take this issue seriously occurred in December 2010 with the *Partner to Protect Summit*.

These events and publications publicize the unfortunate reality of family violence homicides as a continuing problem for Texas and represent next steps for forming solutions.

*Telling Amy's Story*. Within hours of informing her abusive husband that she was leaving him, Amy's husband shot her in the head at point blank range. At the time of the shooting, Amy's parents and children waited in the car for her outside; they stopped by long enough for Amy to run in and grab a few belongings for herself and her children. As a Verizon Wireless employee, Amy's death inspired the Verizon Foundation to help further domestic violence education and prevention efforts. As a part of this effort, the Verizon Foundation sponsored the making of this documentary.

Hosted by actress and advocate Mariska Hargitay of NBC-TV's *Law & Order: Special Victim's Unit* and told by Detective Deirdri Fishel, *Telling Amy's Story* details the timeline of events that led up to Amy's murder. It shows that Amy's family, friends and community partners knew about the abuse but did not have the tools to prevent further abuse and Amy's murder.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, every year 1,000-1,600 women are murdered in the United States by their intimate partner. Annually, the TCFV issues a report on women killed by their intimate partner titled – *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities*. In 2009, 111 women were killed in Texas by their intimate partner. TCFV includes a narrative of the circumstances of the victims murdered, the perpetrator's name, and children affected by the murder as a part of this report. These 111 women represent 40 percent of all the

(Continued on page 4)

## Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women

The 2011 Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women was hosted on February 21st - 23rd, in Austin at the Radisson Hotel. Telecommunicator Professionals and Law Enforcement from rural communities were the majority of the nearly 200 attendees at the statewide conference. One attendee traveled over 900 miles roundtrip to take advantage of the free training the conference had to offer!



We would like to thank all attendees for being a part of this unique and beneficial conference. Thank you for all the work that you do every day to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable for their actions. Also, we would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for assisting us to make this conference a success.



Lastly, we would like to give a special thanks to all of our speakers: Detective Mike Agnew, Sgt. Joanne Archambault, Evangeline Barefoot, Logan Clark, Krista Del Gallo, Rebecca Dreke, Deidri Fishel, Melissa L. Holbrook, Dottie Laster, Glen S. Lipson, Erica L. Olsen, Russell Strand, Sara Wright, and Mark Wynn.

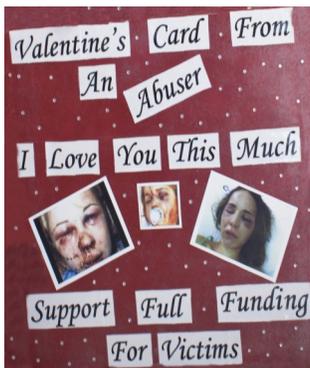




**82nd  
Legislature Regular  
Session**

The Texas Legislature meets January through May, in odd numbered years. During the legislative session, SAFVIC follows related Legislative items and will update course curriculum in conjunction with the 82nd Legislative session.

You can follow Violence Against Women related Legislative items through the SAFVIC website.  
[www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org)



Created by the San Saba Rape and Crisis Center, this poster was voted as top Valentine by attendees of Capitol Day.

**Save the Date**



**SIXTH NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING CONFERENCE  
May 25 - 27, 2011  
Austin, Texas**

The Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Training Conference offers a unique training opportunity for professionals who respond to sexual assault cases across the United States. Join medical personnel, victim advocates, law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, crime lab personnel and others involved in community response to this crime as they seek to build their community's capacity to:

- Promote health and healing of victims;
- Hold offenders accountable for their crimes; and
- Realize the hope of preventing further sexual violence.

For more information about the Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team Training Conference and to register, please visit [www.sartconference.com](http://www.sartconference.com).

**Featured Agency**

**Help • Hope • Healing**

**El Paso District Attorney's Office Extends  
HELP·HOPE·HEALING to Crime Victims**

El Paso, Texas is a unique and expanding border city, with a populace that fluctuates between 850,000 to over 1,200,000 depending on the time of day and the flow of traffic back and forth across the border between El Paso and the City of Juarez. Even against the current backdrop of violent crime in Mexico, El Paso is continually ranked as one of the nation's safest cities with a relatively low violent crime rate. For many years

in El Paso, the law enforcement community and the crime victim service community have worked in tandem to serve the more than 20,000 victims of crime each year. Very committed to victims' issues, El Paso District Attorney Jaime Esparza, through his office, has prioritized outreach to victims of crime in an initiative called HELP·HOPE·HEALING. Together with key partners in the law enforcement and victim service provider communities, the District Attorney's HELP·HOPE·HEALING movement is gaining momentum as it approaches its 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*(Continued on page 3)*



**HELP·HOPE·HEALING**

**2011 Capitol Day**



(from top left to right)  
Jennifer Gonzales, Nicole Martinez, Sarah Romero,  
Jennifer Ygnacio, Brooke Hinojosa, and Kelsey Downey

On February 14th 2011, SAFVIC helped paint Austin pink by participating in the 2011 Capitol Day. The event was put together by the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), and Mary Kay Inc. Women and men of all ages gathered to raise awareness on behalf of family violence and sexual assault victims and programs statewide.

*(Continued from page 2)*

HELP·HOPE·HEALING is a three-pronged approach to providing year-round outreach to victims of crime as well as training and support for victim service providers. Every year, the District Attorney's Office sponsors HELP·HOPE·HEALING events, including a free all-day conference for crime victims, a 20-mile walk across El Paso, and training sessions for victim service providers.

**·HELP·HOPE·HEALING Conference for Crime Victims:**

With several hundred registrants every year, the annual HELP·HOPE·HEALING Conference, which is held in October, features nationally acclaimed speakers who travel to El Paso to share their personal journeys of hope and recovery. At the conference, victims will learn about their rights in the criminal justice system and how to access financial and emotional support.

**·HELP·HOPE·HEALING 20-mile Walk Across El Paso:**

Every year prior to the Conference, crime victims, law enforcement, and victim advocates join forces to walk 20 miles across the city to generate awareness and enthusiasm for issues important to crime victims. The walk begins on the western slopes of the Franklin Mountains and ends at the Crime Victims Memorial on the east side of town with a rally and celebration.

**·HELP·HOPE·HEALING Lunch and Learn**

**for Victim Service Providers:**

One of the more important components of the HELP·HOPE·HEALING movement is the training and support provided to victim service providers. These training sessions are designed to energize and educate first responders, medical and law enforcement personnel, victim advocates, and prosecutors while giving them valuable instruction and continuing education credits. HELP·HOPE·HEALING gives El Paso crime victims a collective voice in the community and a collation of support through a variety of special events throughout the year - allowing them to make great strides in their personal journey to recovery and healing."

*For more information about the important work being done through the HELP·HOPE·HEALING initiative, please contact Frank Zubia, Director of Victim Assistance, in the El Paso District Attorney's Office at (915) 546-2091.*



*The HELP·HOPE·HEALING initiative provides ongoing year-round outreach to victims of crime as well as training and support to victim service providers under the leadership of the 34<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office in close partnership with the Center Against Family Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department, the El Paso Police Department, the El Paso Sheriff's Office, as well as ESC Region 19 Head Start.*

**FREE**  
**24 - HOUR SAFVIC**  
**INSTRUCTOR**  
**TRAINING FOR**  
**TELECOMMUNICATOR**  
**PROFESSIONALS**  
 May 2 - 4, 2011  
 TRIPLE Training Facility:  
 Austin, Texas

We are currently accepting applications for SAFVIC TCP Instructors for our 8-hour SAFVIC for TCPs course.

The SAFVIC for TCPs Instructor Course is for those with an exhaustive knowledge of the program. A SAFVIC TCP Instructor must be an effective communicator and teacher. They must demonstrate a true dedication to improving law enforcement's response to family violence and sexual assault.

*Having the right group of instructors is absolutely crucial to the SAFVIC Program. We encourage all who share a passion for assisting victims of sexual assault and family violence to apply.*

Please visit [www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org) for criteria, deadlines, and to complete an application.

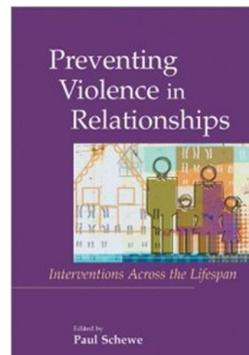
**Featured Book**

**Preventing Violence in Relationships:**

*Interventions Across the Life Span*

Edited by Paul A. Schewe

In *Preventing Violence in Relationships: Interventions Across the Life Span*, contributing authors take a developmental approach to examining violence prevention in intimate relationships and families. Until recently, the study of violence prevention has focused on reducing the incidence of assaults by strangers, despite statistics that indicate people are twice as likely to be victimized by a friend, relative, or intimate partner. Authors view relationship violence not only as something that may be prevented at many points during the life span of a person but also as something that must be prevented at key points, especially during childhood, if violence is to be reduced in the future. All violence is essentially interpersonal, so the contributors to this book focus on healthy interpersonal relationship skills as the basis for preventing violence. Each chapter covers relationship violence at a different stage of life and in different relationships, from child and partner abuse to rape and elder abuse. Authors provide empirical research results as well as practical guidance for day-to-day interventions in the lives of children and adults. Researchers interested in the field of violence prevention and practitioners working with the victims or perpetrators of violence will find this book to be a valuable resource in their efforts.



By: Paul Schewe

**Available in the SAFVIC Library to all SAFVIC Instructors.**

## WELCOME NEW SAFVIC INSTRUCTORS



"Piecing together the tools needed to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault, family violence, & stalking."

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(from top-left to right)

**Edward Frank**, Brazos County Sheriff's Office  
**Robert Smith**, Beaumont Police Department  
**Michael Green**, Bell County Constable, Pct. 3  
**Spencer Stubbs**, Bexar County Sheriff's Office  
**James Gresham**, Stephenville Police Department  
**Drew Brassfield**, Panhandle Police Department  
**Antonio San Miguel**, Fort Stockton Police Department  
**Sharleigh Drake**, Texas DPS  
**Jennifer Watkins**, Lacy Lakeview Police Department  
**Bobby Garcia**, St. Edward's University Police Department  
**Julie Wright**, Conroe ISD Police Department  
**Tammy Goodman**, Dallas County DA's Office

We would like to congratulate and welcome our new SAFVIC Instructors! They recently completed the 40 hour SAFVIC Instructor Course in Austin, Texas on January 24th - 28th, 2011.

(Continued from page 1 - TCFV) women murdered in Texas.

In recognition of these startling facts, TCFV screened *Telling Amy's Story* three times in the last year throughout Texas to bring together community members with the goal of ending family violence by discussing our response to this crime. At the Texas premier of *Telling Amy's Story* in October 2010 in Austin, First Lady Anita Perry opened the evening by commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month and recognizing all the partners who support survivors of family violence throughout Texas. Verizon's David Russell introduced the documentary and highlighted the importance of this program in helping community members first recognize signs of family violence and then empower friends and co-workers who are in abusive relationships to find shelter and support. Using this documentary as a catalyst for discussion at each of the screenings in Austin, Dallas and Houston brought many distinguished guests to the table to talk about ways to improve our response towards ending family violence.

*A Culmination and a Start.* After the screening of *Telling Amy's Story* in Houston on December 9, 2010, TCFV hosted the *Partner to*

*Protect Summit.* The Summit gave family violence executive staff and law enforcement officers a chance to discuss their response to domestic violence, and to collaborate and plan for new ways to work together. This groundbreaking Summit provided Executive Directors of family violence programs, Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, and other law enforcement personnel an opportunity to discuss challenges and strategies and to brainstorm about how to support each other's efforts. Renowned experts served as keynote speakers and provided insight to prevalent topics. Dr. Noel Bridget Busch-Armendariz, an associate professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Texas and the principal investigator of the UT Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, discussed her study of the 24-hour Initiative of the El Paso County District Attorney Jaime Esparza's Office, as well as the importance of proper domestic violence program evaluations. Chief Jerald Monahan, a consultant for the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, shared his expertise on domestic violence fatality review boards at the Summit and helped the audience recognize the crucial gaps in services

that still exist today. Additional speakers included law enforcement, judges, media experts and family violence program executive directors, all of whom addressed in some capacity ideas and strategies to address domestic violence fatalities in rural and urban areas of Texas.

In the end, Amy stands for the premise that one woman dying at the hands of an intimate partner is too many; we know 111 women being killed in one year in Texas represents a devastating reality. TCFV stands for the premise that our state must continue to employ a community response and innovative, proactive strategies to ending violence in families.



For more information about **Telling Amy's Story** or the **Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities** please visit:  
[www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org)