

Sexual Assault Card & The Mask Project – Zonta Club of St Cloud

In the spring of 2017, the Zonta Club of St Cloud earmarked \$1,000 to the Service/Advocacy Committee to replicate the Jamestown Project. Additionally, a budget was designated to this committee to additionally pursue advocacy projects locally.

After attending the Washington DC North American Inter-District meeting, in an effort to strengthen our ties with “like-minded” agencies, the Women’s Center at St Cloud State University and the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center (CMSAC) were approached and asked to come on board with 2 projects:

1. Create a business card handout on Sexual Assault outlining what one should do after an assault
2. Replicate the Jamestown Project
 - Would they be interested in and see value in having this tool at their disposal?
 - Would their students/clients be willing to create the project working with our Club?

For the first project, our committee designed the front cover and sought advice on what the steps these two agencies recommend assault victims take. These steps are printed on the backside of the cards. These cards were then printed and handed out at the “Take Back the Night” event in St Cloud and are provided free of charge by the Zonta Club of St Cloud to varying agencies to hand out to clients, individuals, etc. Currently, Anna Marie’s, Journey Home, and the CMSAC have these cards as another tool to provide to their clients. They were also provided to students at the April 3 event (outlined below)

For the second project, our committee met with the Women’s Center (and several of their graduate assistants) and the CMSAC. The project started mid-November with a projected completion date by the end of March. A special launch event was planned and executed on April 3, 2018. Three models (one minority, one male, and one female) were chosen. Clients and undergraduate students of these two organizations (under the leadership of the graduate students) brainstormed and gathered actual quotes to be used on the white boards. Data and research was gathered to counter the “myth” (they called these the **realities of sexual assault**) and were paired with the quotes and printed directly on the banners.

Statistical data, when desired, will be able to be clipped onto the top right corner of the banners, keeping the banners current.

On April 3, 2018, **The Mask (of rape culture) Project** was held on St Cloud State University’s campus. Students sat with each banner from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at varying locations on campus, engaged in dialogue as people stopped to read the banners (for the most part very positive) and handed out a ½ sheet on the **Realities of Sexual Assault**. Included on the handout was an invitation to attend an informational session from 4-5:30 p.m. **“Unmasking Rape Culture: Changing the Conversation”**. Presentations were made by the Zonta Club of St Cloud, the CMSAC, the Women’s Center, graduate students who led the project and a professor from SCSU on some of the current treatment of trauma/healing processes.

Committee Members: Linda Linn, Sara Blanchette, Susan Kadlec, Debra Kellerman