SEXUAL TRAUMA PREVENTION & RESPONSE staralaska.com | #StandwithStar

PRESS RELEASE 7/27/2022

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Anchorage, AK - STAR's annual <u>Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®</u> is returning to Cuddy Family Park this Saturday, July 30, 2022.

Check-in/Bib Pickup: 11:00 a.m. Welcome Ceremony: 11:45 a.m.

Walk Start: 12:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony: 1:00 p.m.

The Walk is an annual fundraiser for <u>Standing Together Against Rape</u>, which provides prevention and education programs for students and community members, as well as crisis intervention and long term support services for survivors of sexual violence.

During the Walk, men have traditionally led the way by literally walking a mile in high heels. This year, all ages and genders are welcome to participate. The course for the Walk is three laps around the paved path around the pond at Cuddy Park.

"The goal is not only to get people walking, but get them talking," said Keeley Olson, STAR's Executive Director. "There's no denying the energizing effect of seeing dozens of people strut to the finish line in bright-red heels, all in support of victims and survivors of violence. However, the conversations that come out of this event — before, during, and after — are really what spark the change we're aiming for. Awareness of the issues of sexual trauma is the first step to ending interpersonal violence, and the Walk allows for a little bit of levity that can open doors to deeper discussions and the opportunity to heal, and create change."

This year's fundraising goal for the event is \$20,000 to support STAR's critical programs and services. Trophies will be awarded to the Top Fundraiser, Top Fundraising Team, "Speed Diva" (first finisher) and Best Shoes. There will be a "Bling Station" onsite where everyone, big or small, can have some fun getting crafty by decking out their shoes.

In addition to walking and fundraising as an individual or as part of a team, those interested in supporting the event are invited to donate to a participant or a team, <u>make a general donation</u>, <u>volunteer</u> or spread the word about the Walk. STAR would like to thank all of the <u>generous sponsors</u>, teams, participants, donors and volunteers for coming together to support this fun, meaningful gathering.

Registration will remain open until the morning of the event.



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Fees to <u>register</u>: \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 11-17, and free for ages 10 and under.

MEDIA IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

ABOUT STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE (STAR)

Since 1978, STAR has been responding to the needs of survivors of sexual assault, while integrating prevention and education programs with a goal of reducing harm to all Alaskans.

STAR provides 24/7/365 crisis and support services, including a 24-hour crisis line, court and medical accompaniment, advocacy, one-on-one support and trauma therapy, as well as prevention and education programs for youth and adults. All services for survivors are provided free of charge.

For information about the programs and services offered by STAR, visit www.staralaska.com or call (907) 276-7279. The 24-hour crisis line is (907) 276-7273 in Anchorage or toll-free statewide at (800) 478-8999.

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