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Commit to Standing Up and Speaking Out Against Sexual Assault

WILMINGTON, NC – April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Rape Crisis Center of Coastal Horizons (RCC) urges the community this month and every month to stand up and speak out against sexual assault to change the culture and attitudes that allow it to proliferate. Sexual assault is a devastating abuse of power. It affects people of every age, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, socioeconomic background, and religion.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, we still face the challenges of online spaces. Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. This year's SAAM theme is Building Safe Online Spaces Together. This is possible when we practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content and behaviors, and promote online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety. Survivors are often isolated from loved ones, friends, or co-workers who might be in the best position to provide support including safe online spaces.

We know that we can build and are building online communities centered on respect, inclusion, and safety — where harassment, assault, and abuse are taken seriously. Not only do we believe that together we can build a safer online world, but we also believe that these values, skills, and actions will create communities that thrive online and offline.

Together we can make a difference to build inclusive, safe, and respectful online spaces. We invite you to join us this April in making respect the norm everywhere, taking action to promote the safety of others, and showing survivors they are believed and supported.

RCC is a non-profit, stand-alone rape crisis center in Southeastern North Carolina. We serve victims in New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and Duplin Counties. Every day our priority is to provide victims of sexual assault with 24-hour crisis response, individual counseling, information and referrals, and law enforcement/court advocacy and accompaniment. We are proud to say we provide services to ALL victims of sexual assault. If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, the RCC crisis line can be reached at (910) 392-7460.

For more information, visit www.supportrcc.org and follow RCC on social media @supportrcc.

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