

# HOME

## RCC Events and News

## WE ARE DANE COUNTY'S CENTER FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCES

## CONTACT US

**Donate, Blog, Helpline, Leave Website, Home, Get Help, Get Informed, Get Involved, About, Contact**

## 24/7 HELPLINE

It may be helpful for you to talk about your feelings or experience with someone who can offer support and understanding. RCC offers a 24-hour, 365 day-a-year helpline staffed by local advocates to discuss your feelings, situation, and options confidentially. Who you choose to call on for support after a traumatic experience is fully your choice – you may feel better with a supportive friend or relative, a healthcare provider, a counselor, or anyone with whom you feel trust and comfort. Whatever you choose, RCC is always here for you.

### When you call:

- We will listen and not blame you.
- We will answer your questions courteously and respectfully.
- We will provide information about your options and your rights.
- We will respect and validate your experience and feelings.
- We will respect your choices.

## HELPLINE

**PÓNGASE EN CONTACTO CON NUESTRA LÍNEA DE AYUDA**

## SURVIVOR SERVICES

### MEDICAL ADVOCACY

After an assault, victims/survivors may want medical attention, but that can sometimes feel overwhelming. Our trained advocates are there to help. There are two main reasons survivors choose to go to the hospital: A medical examination and/or forensic evidence collection.

You can choose to complete both, one or the other, or neither. If you choose to get evidence collection, you don't have to use it right away or ever, you can make that decision a later date.

### Medical Examination

After a sexual assault, you may choose to get a medical exam to check on your physical health. A healthcare provider will be able to check for injuries, infections, and other possible effects of the assault, including many that might not be evident to you. You may also receive preventative antibiotics and/or emergency contraceptives if needed. You can get this exam through your regular channels (primary healthcare provider, community clinic, etc.), or you may choose to go to Meriter Hospital's emergency room for an exam with a trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.

*Adults will NOT have to undergo evidence collection or report the assault to the police. For more information or to discuss your options, please call our helpline (608-251-7273).*

### **Forensic Evidence Collection**

A medical forensic exam is recommended if you intend (or might eventually intend) to report the assault to the police. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program can be accessed by going to the emergency room at Meriter Hospital. SANE nurses are specially trained to collect evidence (injuries, foreign DNA, etc.) as well as assess the physical health of assault victims.

### **What to Expect**

Whether you choose to have evidence collected or just ask for a basic medical exam, here are some things you can expect:

- You may wait for the nurse in a private room.
- An RCC advocate will be called immediately to come offer support and guide you through the process. You may send them away at any time.
- You may also have a support person (a friend, family member, and/or an RCC advocate) with you during the exam.
- The nurse will explain everything they are doing step by step. You can opt out of any part of the exam at any point, or you may choose to stop the exam all together at any time.
- If a police officer is present at the hospital, you may choose whether or not to allow them into the exam room.
- If you choose to have evidence collected/report, the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault will be held for evidence until your case is closed, so bring a change of clothes if possible.

*Patients are almost never billed for a SANE visit. Please call our helpline for more information (608-251-7273).*

### **LEGAL ADVOCACY**

Many victims/survivors choose to engage with the legal system for various reasons following an assault. Navigating the legal system can be stressful, overwhelming, confusing and/or re-traumatizing. RCC is here to help! Our advocates can support and guide you with compassion and care through part or all of the following processes:

- Reporting an assault to the police
- Filing a temporary restraining order
- Acting as a witness in a court case

*Please note that we do not have lawyers on staff and cannot give legal advice, but are able to contract with outside lawyers when possible.*

### **Dane County Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights**

Any victim of sexual violence in Dane County has the right to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of gender, race, cultural background, age, sexual orientation, income, cognitive abilities, physical abilities, or sexual, medical, and mental health history.

Treating victims with respect and dignity requires that we acknowledge that sexual violence is wrong and that no one deserves to be, or asks to be, a victim of such violence, nor are victims responsible for the violence committed against them.

*The Dane County Coordinated Community Response Team developed a Bill of Rights for sexual assault victims in our county. These standards are endorsed by a long list of human service providers, law enforcement officials, departments in the criminal justice system, health care providers, educational institutions, and community and government leaders.*

### **CASE MANAGEMENT**

Case management services help survivors recover from mental health challenges related to their experience(s) with sexual violence. Services may include:

- Screening and Assessment
- Service Planning & Facilitation
- Diagnostic Evaluations
- Peer Support
- Skill Development and Enhancement
- Psychoeducation
- Wellness Management and Recovery/Recovery Support Services
- Other related services

RCC Advocates are also committed to addressing access barriers that further exacerbate a crisis, such as financial barriers to seeking services, immediate safety concerns, and stabilization following sexual assault victimization. Forms of support include:

- Emergency housing
- Food assistance
- Transportation
- Immigration and residency status

### **EMOTIONAL-SUPPORT**

Advocates provide FREE regular one-on-one emotional support to survivors of sexual violence and their support networks for people 12 years of age and older. Staff provide services with a deep understanding of the impacts of sexual violence, power and control dynamics, and trauma. Through this lens of trauma-informed care, compassion and experience, we are able to provide immediate emotional support that is crucial to the wellbeing of victims/survivors.

*Call our helpline for scheduling emotional support with our advocates.*

## **CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES**

**Bilingual Advocates:** Bilingual/bicultural advocates are available during business hours as well as available On-Call to ensure 24/7 access to advocacy and crisis support for Spanish-speaking victims of sexual violence.

**Spanish Language Helpline:** RCC's La Línea is staffed by Spanish-speaking bilingual/bicultural advocates and on-call advocates for 24-hour care. La Línea: (608) 258-2567

**Specialized Legal Support:** Direct support to immigrant and/or undocumented victims of sexual violence facing deportation, including assistance in completing a U visa. For this work, we act as an information and referral resource. This is accomplished through our advocates developing referral-based relationships with attorneys.

**Advocacy and Outreach for Black and African American Communities:** Our combination Multicultural Advocate/Outreach Specialist position provides crisis intervention services and case management as well as conducts preventative education and outreach to Black communities in Dane County.

This position prioritizes:

- 1.) Addressing historical and current community distrust in institutions and formal services through building authentic relationships and direct accountability via community outreach, presentations, public listening sessions, workshops, and continuous effort to use direct community feedback and evaluation to inform our services and practices.
- 2.) Providing culturally responsive forms of personal and systems advocacy that are informed by the needs of the community.

## **CAMPUS SERVICES**

Our staff sees survivors at the UW-Madison, Edgewood College, and Madison College, as well as public schools across Dane County including all high schools and middle schools.

They provide emotional support, advocacy, and assistance through the Title IX process. We are also available for consultation regarding events, student and Greek organizations, and best practices. RCC also offers trainings and educational presentations for a variety of needs.

To receive campus and school services, please contact our helpline or see youth and campus advocate contact information below.

### **College Campus Offices & Advocates**

#### **UW-Madison**

Marisol Rubio

UW Campus Advocate

333 East Campus Mall, Room 7901

marisol.rubio@thercc.org

Schedule an appointment here by calling our helpline.

### **Edgewood College**

Alandre Porter

College Campus Advocate

1000 Edgewood Dr, Room Dominican 122

Wellness Center (use Lakeside Entrance)

alandre.porter@thercc.org

Schedule an appointment here by calling our helpline.

### **Madison College**

Alandre Porter

College Campus Advocate

1701 Wright St, Room C1434

Student Development Center

alandre.porter@thercc.org

Schedule an appointment here by calling our helpline.

### **Youth Advocates**

#### **Rural Schools**

Courtney Thompson

Rural Youth Advocate

[courtney.thompson@thercc.org](mailto:courtney.thompson@thercc.org)

#### **MMSD Schools**

Lauren Altaweel

MMSD Youth Advocate

[lauren.altaweel@thercc.org](mailto:lauren.altaweel@thercc.org)

## **CCS**

### **RCC: Comprehensive Community Services.**

In Dane County, Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) is a voluntary, community-based program funded by the State of Wisconsin and operated by the Dane County Department of Human Services.

The CCS program offers a wide array of psycho-social rehabilitation services. These are services and support activities that assist CCS clients with mental health and/or substance use conditions to achieve their highest possible level of independent functioning, stability, and independence, as well as to facilitate recovery.

RCC offers Service Facilitation through CCS.

**CCS Facilitators.**

## **THERAPY**

### **Psychotherapy Services.**

RCC offers affordable licensed therapy services for survivors and their support people. Services are available in person and via video platform, which meets HIPAA standards. There is no limit to the number of psychotherapy sessions for a client. RCC also offers therapy referrals to agencies in the Dane County area.

Please contact the RCC business line to inquire about therapy services.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS**

RCC is always seeking to expand and improve the groups we offer based on community need, so be sure to occasionally check this page for updates! If there are any groups you would like to recommend, please complete our contact form with your suggestion.

See below for details and contact information for RCC's current support groups.

### **Queer/ Trans Survivor Group**

The RCC's Queer & Trans Survivor Group is a confidential space for LGBTQ+ survivors to gather, build community, and navigate the effects of sexual violence together. Over the course of eight once-a-month sessions, the group rotates through pre-agreed upon and collectively chosen topics such as coping skills, relationships & boundaries, and deconstructing stigma. Each topic is focused on for two sessions - the first meeting focuses on skill-building and education, followed by a discussion-based session the following month. This group is facilitated by queer and/or trans RCC staff.

**Where:** Virtual (Zoom)

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of the Month 6:00 - 7:00pm

**Next Group Cohort Begins:** July 2022

For more information: [queersurvivorgroup@gmail.com](mailto:queersurvivorgroup@gmail.com)

### **Men Moving Forward Support Group**

RCC co-sponsors this facilitated support group for male-identified survivors. The group meets twice a month in Madison to work as a group on issues of physical, emotional, or sexual violence. Self-identified male survivors (of all orientations and identities) are welcome.

For more information: [menmovingforwardwi@gmail.com](mailto:menmovingforwardwi@gmail.com)

### **Women's Support Group**

RCC sponsors this facilitated support group for female survivors. The group meets twice a month to work as a group on issues of physical, emotional, or sexual violence. Self-identified female survivors (of all orientations and identities) are welcome.

For more information: [maureen.marshall@thercc.org](mailto:maureen.marshall@thercc.org)

## RESOURCES PAGE

### Support Outside of RCC

RCC is Dane County's sexual assault service provider, but there are several local, state, and national organizations offering support services for survivors of sexual violence. Find comprehensive lists of medical, legal, cultural or identity-based organizations, family organizations and teen organizations for additional support.

### Local

[DAIS – Domestic Abuse Intervention Services](#) – 24-Hour Help Line at 608-251-4445

If you or a loved one feels abused, threatened, scared or unsafe in an intimate partner relationship, DAIS can help you.

[Deaf Unity](#) | E-mail: [help@deafunitywi.org](mailto:help@deafunitywi.org) | Text: 608-466-2881

Deaf Unity works with all Deaf individuals who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes. By providing support and resources to Deaf survivors, we are ensuring their safety and well-being.

[Focused Interruption](#) | 608-213-4283

FIC uses a holistic approach to reduce generational trauma by providing evidence-based intervention and prevention services to the people, neighborhoods, and families most impacted by gun violence.

[Project Respect](#) | 608-283-6435

Project RESPECT addresses domestic sex trafficking and local prostitution, offering services for survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

[Canopy Center](#) | 608-241-4888

Canopy Center is a child abuse treatment and prevention agency serving Madison and all of Dane County, WI.

[Rainbow Project](#) | 608-255-7356

The Rainbow Project provides restorative healing and hope for young children (aged 10 and under) and their families who have experienced trauma, helping them build a foundation for the mastery of life-sustaining skills.

[Safe Harbor](#) | 608-661-9787

Safe Harbor reduces trauma and promotes healing for children and adults with intellectual disabilities who are victims of or witnesses to crime.

[UNIDOS](#) | 1-800-510-9195

UNIDOS exists to empower the community to break the cycle of domestic violence, end sexual assault and promote healthy family systems.

[Briarpatch Youth Services](#) | (608) 251-1126

This nonprofit agency offers a broad array of services to runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth. Briarpatch works closely with local governments and other non-profit organizations to provide unique programs that fill service gaps.

[YWCA](#) | (608) 257-1436

YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

#### **State**

- [Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)
- [Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin](#)
- [State of Wisconsin Office of Crime Victim Services](#)
- [Department of Workforce Development Information about Sexual Harassment](#)
- [Wisconsin NOW](#)
- [Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups](#)
- [Wisconsin Women's Network](#)
- [Kids Forward \(formerly Wisconsin Council on Children and Families\)](#)
- [Wisconsin Family Ties](#)
- [Disability Rights Wisconsin](#)

#### **National:**

- [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](#)
- [National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [American Bar Association \(pro bono attorneys by state\)](#)

#### **Not Used:**

- [US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime](#)
- [US Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office](#)
- [National Center for Victims of Crime](#)
- [National Runaway Switchboard](#)
- [National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)
- [National Center on Elder Abuse](#)

## **GENERAL OUTREACH/EDUCATION**

Explore our many community education offerings to see which might be most appropriate for your group and your needs! Please call our business line 608-251-5126 if you have any questions or complete the form below to request training:

Education at Middle and High Schools.

RCC educators reach thousands of students at middle and high schools every year. While we offer several standard presentations and themes, including Consent, Healthy Relationships, Boundaries, Sexual Violence 101 and Media Literacy, we are happy to accommodate special content requests. Please complete the form above or call our business line to schedule presentations at your school.

## Standard Presentations:

### Changing the Culture

What is sexual violence? Who are perpetrators? Who are victims? Why is sexual violence so common and what can we do about it? Contains statistics and definitions and includes discussions of consent and how to support a survivor.

45-60 minutes. Designed for high school and college audiences; adaptable for all.

### Extended "Changing the Culture"

Includes all content listed above, plus segments about rape culture and bystander intervention.

60-90 minutes. Designed for high school and college audiences; adaptable for all.

### Healthy Relationships

Defines healthy, unhealthy, and abusive behaviors in a relationship; describes and discusses healthy boundaries. Students leave with tools to practice boundary-making, consent & equality in all their relationships.

45-60 minutes. Designed for middle school audiences; adaptable for high school.

### Power Dynamics

An advanced presentation for classes that have already seen "Changing the Culture." Defines power, explores how power dynamics contribute to sexual violence, and examines systems of oppression.

45-60 minutes. Designed for high school and college audiences; adaptable for all.

### Extended Prevention Course

Please consider bringing us in for more than one session! Research confirms that multiples doses of content are necessary for retention and behavior change. While our presentations can be given as single sessions, they are designed to build off each other and will have a greater impact together.

### Custom Presentations

If you would like a professional presence and/or perspective on sexual violence, please contact us to discuss what we might be able to do for you. Examples of custom presentations we have done include:

Facilitated discussion of sexual violence content in books like *The Kite Runner*, *The House on Mango Street*, or *The Color Purple*; "Gender Pronouns 101" presentation for special social justice events; 3-session presentation on Human Trafficking for HS senior special topics course; Media Literacy training for 8<sup>th</sup> graders

### Addressing Content Concerns

Many teachers have asked us for help in approaching this content with parents and/or administrators. We understand that this content can be uncomfortable and even triggering for many, and we are careful to present it in a way that is sensitive to the presence of survivors in the room. Our trauma-informed presenters emphasize self-care and provide youth and adults alike options for disengaging with the presentation if they become triggered. Students deserve to learn and understand this important and life-changing information, and RCC is committed to presenting it in a way that is informed, sensitive and developmentally appropriate.

We are also happy to work with schools to create a more comprehensive plan for care. Our youth advocacy support is available to all students ages 12-18, and our youth advocates are happy to introduce themselves and/or speak to parents and administrators if desired. Please contact our main office at 608-251-5126 with questions or concerns.

#### Panel and Tabling

RCC staff are a valuable addition to panels at conferences, speaking engagements, and movie screenings – any time sexual violence is a topic, an RCC staff presence can advance understanding and enrich discussion.

If you would like to offer RCC as a resource at your event, you may request a friendly RCC representative to distribute information about our services and answer questions about our agency.

#### Speaker Request

Black and African American Outreach – TBD: Black Multicultural Outreach? Black Communities Outreach  
RCC created our Black and African American Outreach/Advocate position with the goal of cultural competency and community representation, as well as maintaining continuity between outreach and client services.

Contact Black and African American Advocate/Outreach Specialist

#### Latinx Outreach

RCC's Multi-Cultural Outreach Specialist for the Latinx Community develops workshops, presentations, and programs to build trust and engage the Latinx Community.

Contact Latinx Outreach Specialist

#### Safer Bar

RCC's Safer Bar training is a violence prevention & bystander intervention program designed for owners, managers and staff at alcohol-serving establishments.

#### GamerChangers

RCC's youth advisory board, leading youth prevention work in Dane County!

#### Chimera

Chimera® (ky-MEER-ah) is a self-defense program designed for the needs of people who identify as women, which teaches awareness, assertiveness, and physical protection skills.

#### Education Fees.

With some exceptions, including presentations to middle and high schools, RCC education is priced at the following hourly rate:

- \$90/hour (\$90 minimum)
- \$75/hour (\$75 minimum) for nonprofits and government agencies
- Additional charges may apply outside Dane County

- Please note that Chimera Self-Defense uses different rates.

We are committed to providing education wherever possible. If your organization does not have the funding for the rates specified above, please fill out our request form anyway. We will get back to you to discuss options.

## GAMECHANGERS

RCC's youth advisory board committed to empowering youth to engage in activism, change the culture of sexual violence, and foster progress across Dane County.

If you have questions or are interested in joining GameChangers please complete the interest form below:

\*Program recruiting occurs each summer and is closed throughout the rest of the year.

CLICK THE TILES BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION!

What is GameChangers?

Each year, RCC selects a cohort of Dane County High School students that work collaboratively to develop strategies for engaging students and the greater community in dismantling the underlying causes of rape culture.

Who Can Join?

- Current high school student in Dane County at beginning of academic year.
- Passionate about social justice, collaboration, and innovation.
- Excited to work with other teens who may be different from the applicant.
- Available via email and able to attend meetings twice a month.

Topics and Projects?

GameChangers will learn about topics like: Student rights, Title IX, Media literacy, and LGBTQ+ issues  
Examples of past projects include: SURVIVE. CREATE. EMPOWER Art Show and Dreaming Ourselves Zine

Compensation

\$8.33/hour for 5 hours per month

\$0.51/mile reimbursement for driving mileage to and from every meeting

Meals or snacks during each meeting

Childcare (if needed)

When and where do you meet?

Our 2021-2022 GameChangers meetings will be both be in person and virtual.

GameChangers may not miss more than 6 hours of meeting time. If you have concerns regarding your availability for meetings, you may contact the RCC to discuss them.

How do I apply?

Our application process will open again in summer 2022!

## CHIMERA

Chimera® Empowerment Self Defense.

Chimera® (ky-MEER-ah) is a self-defense program designed for the needs of people who identify as women, which teaches awareness, assertiveness, and physical protection skills.

Chimera is taught by certified instructors who provide strong role models and ensure a safe space for the examination of experiences and feelings about sexual violence. They stress safety and confidentiality throughout all courses.

For information call our business line or email Chimera Coordinator, Natalie DeMaioribus:

A Chimera class makes a great gift! Click here to purchase a Chimera gift certificate:

Register for Classes.

Public Classes

2022 Schedule:

In-person classes will begin in May 2022. Stay tuned!

\*Please note that trans women and non-binary participants are welcome at ALL public courses. Our instructors always prioritize an emotionally safe and inclusive atmosphere for all participants. We also recognize that some participants will feel more comfortable in a class specifically open to all genders. Our next all-gender course will be scheduled for spring 2022.

Cost

Basic in-person Chimera is \$120 per person or \$75 for students/seniors.

Need-based Scholarships

Need-based scholarships are available! First, fill out a registration form below and select the payment option that says, "I am not paying at this time." Then click here to fill out a short application. Chimera staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Inclement Weather Policy

If inclement weather causes transportation safety concerns for the instructor(s) or students, the instructor may decide to cancel class. If the session is canceled, they will email all participants to let them know, by 2:00 PM for an evening class or 8:00 PM for a morning class the following day. RCC will reschedule the session as soon as possible, aiming for the same day of the week and time of day, one week later if possible. No refunds will be issued.

Refund Policy

Registrants may transfer their enrollment to a different course as long as they notify RCC at least 48 hours in advance of the first session, but are not eligible for a refund except in cases where RCC cancels the course, as follows:

**Low enrollment:** Ideally there will be 5-20 people in every public course. If RCC cancels the class due to low enrollment, registrants will be eligible for a full refund minus applicable credit card or PayPal processing fees.

**Instructor illness:** If the instructor is too sick to hold class and a substitute is not available, she will cancel the entire class, and registrants will have the option of either transferring their enrollment to a different class session or asking for a full refund minus applicable credit card or PayPal processing fees.

In other cases (including absences disclosed less than 48 hours before the first session), registrants will not be eligible to receive a refund. In cases of inclement weather RCC will reschedule the session in question. No refunds will be issued.

#### Private Class

Hosting a private Chimera class is a great way to get tailored, specific strategies that address the needs of your group! We come to workplaces, Girl Scout troops, sports teams, and more!

#### Rates

One instructor can teach a class of up to 30 people. (No minimum attendance!) Our rates are \$150/hour per instructor (\$100/hour for nonprofits and government agencies). If you do not have the budget for this, please call us anyway to discuss (and ask about our family discounts!).

If you would like us to do a large-scale workshop or a speaking engagement to ~100 people or more, we may ask for a special speaking fee of \$200/hour. Call or email to discuss this.

#### Duration

We can accommodate a class of whatever length you like, from 1 to 12 hours. Most private classes settle on 2-4 hours, but sometimes people book all 12!

#### Space

Chimera does not have its own space, and generally we need requesters to secure their own locations. It should be somewhere we can yell without alarming anyone, with enough space for limited group movement (think aerobics class) and working in pairs. If you cannot find a space, let us know and we might have a few suggestions.

In addition to presenting accurate information about sexual assault, Chimera teaches effective responses to violence, both verbal and physical, with the goal of avoiding or stopping an attack.

#### Who should take Chimera?

Chimera is beneficial to women and femmes of all cultures, ages (12 and up), backgrounds, and physical abilities. Private classes can be adapted for specialized populations, including mother-daughter, LGBTQ, and elderly audiences. Graduates of Chimera, including survivors of sexual assault, often report feeling empowered, more assertive, and in better control of their lives after completing a Chimera course.

#### What will I learn?

Myths and facts about sexual assault  
The effectiveness of resistance  
Assertiveness skills  
Physical skills  
Defenses against harassment and assault by acquaintances and strangers  
Defenses against multiple attackers  
Advanced ground techniques  
Strategies for dealing with armed attackers  
Protection in and around cars

What should I know before class?

Please register for another class if you know that you will be missing any segment of the course.

Arrive 10 minutes early so that the course may begin on time, and wear clothing that allows a free range of motion. You will be removing your shoes, stockings, and jewelry.

What is our confidentiality policy?

Only registered participants and Chimera staff are permitted to be present while class is being held. Outside observers are not welcome.

## SAFER BAR

RCC's Safer Bar is a de-escalation and bystander intervention program designed for owners, managers, and all staff at alcohol-serving establishments.

Participants will learn how to help facilitate a culture in their establishment that does not tolerate sexual violence, harmful or predatory behavior of any kind.

### Safer Bar Philosophy

Safer Bar is rooted in violence-prevention education and trauma-informed practices with an intersectional lens to address and intervene in harmful or predatory behavior in the safest way possible. It is survivor-centered, evidence-based, and participatory. Additionally, our program emphasizes the strengthening of community and neighborhood connections as a key strategy to keeping each other safe.

We tailor our programming to fit staff needs and the individual identity and culture of your establishment. We won't tell you what to do or how to run your bar – you are the experts on that!

Our mission is to build on the unique skill set and experience of your staff and to provide the tools and language for them to feel confident and comfortable in addressing harm and creating a safer and more welcoming environment for all.

### How does this benefit bars?

- **Promotion & Positive Exposure:** Safer Bar will promote your establishment, logo and social media channel(s) on our website, newsletters, events and our own social media, exposing your establishment to an expanded customer base. We also provide posters and window decals for your bar, which communicates competence, collaboration and trust to your patrons.

- **Staff & Patron Trust & Satisfaction:** By becoming Safer Bar Certified, you are demonstrating to your staff and customers your commitment to providing a safe and fun environment for everyone. When you prioritize safety and respect at your establishment, customers are more likely to return and tell their friends and you are more likely to attract and retain talented and loyal staff.
- **Preparedness:** With Safer Bar training, you and your staff will be equipped with a wider range of strategies to use when addressing harm, violence, or predatory behavior, whether it's directed at you, your staff or your customers. Trainees will gain skills in noticing and discerning early signs of problematic or threatening behavior, reducing the likelihood of escalation or filing an incident report.
- **Being a Leader:** Becoming Safer Bar certified offers establishments the opportunity to be a leader in their community and set the standard for hospitality and care in our city.
- **Increased Profits:** We all know how devastating bad PR can be (and how hard the service industry has been hit financially since the pandemic). We also know that customers who have positive experiences are more likely to return and spread the word about your awesome establishment. Losing even a few customers and the resulting word of mouth can add up to thousands in lost bar tabs. Safer Bar training can help you avoid an incident and the bad PR that comes with it.
- **It's the right thing to do!** Nightlife and bar culture is a huge part of the lifeblood of our communities, especially in Wisconsin! We want to uplift and celebrate the vibrancy of the people and the places that offer us connection, joy, and a space to commune and de-stress. We love nightlife and we want everyone to have a safer bar experience!

### **Why Bars?**

Bar & restaurants are beloved public institutions and fulfill many different roles in a community. As such, they are in a unique position to help foster a safe, respectful and protective environment for all who frequent them!

We know that in Madison, 1 out of 10 sexual assaults happen at a bar or restaurant. We also know that at least half of people who commit sexual violence are under the influence of alcohol at the time. Unwanted sexual attention, such as verbal harassment and groping, is commonplace in bars and clubs. Sexual aggressors may also take advantage of the bar space to select, isolate and/or intoxicate their targets, making bars a unique and crucial place to address sexual violence.

### **What content does the training cover?**

- Recognizing and identifying predatory behavior and sexual aggression
- Assertive communication skills
- Early interventions, negotiations and/or mitigations in addressing potentially threatening behavior
- Assertive boundary-making and language tools to reduce probability of conflict and harm
- Recognizing our own triggers and styles of confrontation
- Safety planning to keep each other safe: Creating a safety plan for your business/staff
- Targeting strategies to intervene in the workplace and the opportunity for live practice with trained Safer Bar facilitators

*PLEASE NOTE: This 90 minute training is intended to provide staff with tools to attempt to reduce the probability of conflict, de-escalate when conflict occurs, and intervene to stop harm and maintain the safety of all present. It is not guaranteed to reduce or cease incidents of violent or harmful behavior, including sexual assault, in your establishment. The implication that it does should be avoided at all costs.*

Membership Details.

For details on membership, please email [saferbar@thercc.org](mailto:saferbar@thercc.org).

**Safer Bar Certified**

## DONATE

### Other Ways to Give

#### Planned Giving

Thank you for considering a bequest to the Rape Crisis Center!

A bequest to the Rape Crisis Center means that you have the foresight to help the RCC continue our mission for years to come. Gifts vary in size and scope but all serve a common purpose: to positively impact the future success of the RCC and to ensure that survivors always have the support they need.

All it takes is a quick phone call to your attorney to add a charitable gift to your will! Often it is as easy as this sentence: "I bequeath \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ % of my estate to the Rape Crisis Center, 2801 Coho Street, #301, Madison, WI 53713."

Need more information about us or about leaving a bequest? Contact our development office at [development@thercc.org](mailto:development@thercc.org) or (608) 251-5126.

And thank you for remembering the Rape Crisis Center in your will.

#### Community Shares of Wisconsin (Workplace Giving)

RCC is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW), which means you can donate to RCC through their workplace giving program. This hands-off system lets employees make tax-deductible donations to local charities through regular payroll deductions. Workplace giving is not only easy and efficient, it allows a company and its employees to work together to benefit the community.

CSW's campaign is structured so that donors can direct all or part of their gifts to specific CSW member organizations (like RCC), and those organizations will receive 100% of those gifts. [Click here for more information.](#)

#### Event Sponsor

Throughout the year, we have two major events that are greatly enhanced by community partnerships: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April and Java Jive (typically in August or September). In the months leading up to these events, we deeply appreciate securing support from businesses and foundations to ensure we are able to amplify these events and support our services for survivors.

Please contact [development@thercc.org](mailto:development@thercc.org) if you are interested in becoming an event sponsor!

## **VOLUNTEER**

### **Helpline Volunteer**

Our helpline volunteers are vital to RCC's mission and play a crucial role in our ability to provide 24/7 immediate crisis response services to victims of sexual violence and their loved ones. Helpline advocates answer our 24-hour helpline on nights and weekends (20-shift commitment annually). Trainings are facilitated by RCC staff every winter, summer, and fall. To qualify, volunteers must attend all training sessions.

### **Contact Our Volunteer Coordinator for More Information**

#### **Who can be a helpline volunteer?**

We are looking for volunteers of all genders to staff the helpline on overnight shifts (7:00PM to 7:00AM, seven days a week) and weekend shifts (9:00AM to 5:00PM, Saturdays and Sundays). There is one volunteer on each shift and a back-up RCC staff person on call at all times.

#### **What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a Helpline Volunteer?**

##### **Qualifications**

- Completion of RCC's volunteer training program
- General understanding of, or interest in learning about, issues related to sexual violence
- Ability to respond to callers in a supportive manner
- Must be at least 18 years old

##### **Duties & Responsibilities**

- One-year commitment
- Two to three volunteer meetings per year
- Check-ins with on-call advocate each shift, and with direct supervisor as needed
- Fulfill 20 helpline shifts per year
- Provide support by phone to victim/survivors of sexual violence and/or childhood sexual abuse, their support people and concerned community members
- Provide accurate information about community resources to helpline callers. Make referrals when appropriate.
- Follow all RCC guidelines, policies and procedures for the helpline as well as those outlined in the volunteer handbook

#### **What are the training requirements?**

All new volunteers are required to attend five training sessions that will provide guidance on being a helpline volunteer, including education on taking calls, RCC services, and caller role plays.

#### **What if I don't have time to commit to this but still want to volunteer?**

Consider some of our other volunteer opportunity below!

## **Upcoming Training Schedule**

*Next schedule coming soon!*

## **APPLY**

## **Other Ways to Get Involved.**

### **Office Support Volunteers**

Office Support volunteers help RCC keep operations running smoothly by offering their administrative expertise, or sometimes just an extra set of hands. Tasks that these volunteers complete include: stuffing envelopes, data entry, answering our business line, fundraising tasks and general clerical tasks.

[SIGN UP](#)

### **Event Volunteers**

Event volunteers assist RCC staff at community activities such as fundraisers, educational workshops, Sexual Assault Awareness Month offerings, and other events. Tasks that these volunteers complete vary and include: loading and unloading supplies, set-up and take-down at venue, decorating, assisting guests, and clean-up after events.

[SIGN UP](#)

### **GameChangers Program**

Dane County high school students are encouraged to apply to our GameChangers program every fall.

MORE INFORMATION

## **MISSION, VISION, & HISTORY**

### **Mission**

RCC advocates for those harmed by sexual violence by centering survivors, promoting societal change, and committing to be an evolving force for social equity.

### **Vision**

RCC envisions our community free from sexual violence and all forms of oppression.

### **History**

Serving Dane County since 1973, the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) provides services to survivors (and their support people) of all forms of sexual violence, including recent sexual assault, past sexual assault, incest (past or present), sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation.

## **STAFF**

### **Administration**

**Development & Communication**  
**Client Services**  
**Education, Outreach, & Prevention**  
**CCS & Therapy**  
**Chimera Self-Defense**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Thank you for your interest in a career at RCC! We welcome and highly encourage people of color, women, transgender and non-binary individuals, bilingual/bicultural people, people with disabilities, and any individuals with marginalized identities to apply. RCC is seeking qualified applicants to fill the following positions. Please click on the job title for a full description and application instructions.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### **Annual Reports**

#### **In progress**

Links are in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view documents. If you would like a hard copy of the Annual Report mailed to you, please call the Rape Crisis Center at 608-251-5126 or email [development@thercc.org](mailto:development@thercc.org).

## **SUPPORTERS**

**Community Partners**  
**Individual Supporters**

## **COMMON QUESTIONS**

### **What is sexual violence?**

Sexual violence is an umbrella term defined as *any sexual behavior that happens without a person's consent*. This can include, but is not limited to: Rape (statutory, marital, date), child molestation, incest, assault, unwanted groping/fondling, stalking, verbal or physical harassment, voyeurism, flashing,

trafficking, etc. These are all acts in which sex is used as a tool of power, control, intimidation and violence.

**Was I sexually assaulted?**

At RCC, we are careful to not define anyone's experience for them. What we can do is provide you with information to make an informed decision about what you experienced so that you can determine your own needs and the healing journey that is right for you.

Depending on who you are, it can feel either empowering or traumatizing (or anything in between) to assign a label to what you experienced. Regardless of what you or anyone may label it as -- if a sexual experience made you feel uncomfortable, powerless, ashamed and/or angry, we are here to support, empower, validate and listen to you.

**Can I still call RCC if I'm not sure I was assaulted?**

Absolutely! If you have ambivalent, confusing or negative feelings about a sexual encounter, or feel that something just isn't right - it can be incredibly helpful to talk with an experienced advocate or therapist. Even if you end up deciding that you were not assaulted, it can still bring up lots of complicated feelings. Navigating these feelings with a trusted and confidential advocate is always available to you – you don't have to go through it alone!

**Do you serve men/nonbinary/trans people?**

Yes. Our services are open to any person of any gender or sexual identity who has experienced or been affected by an assault.

**I think my friend might have raped someone. Do you provide services for them?**

No. At this time RCC services are only designed to support victims and their support people.

**Are RCC services confidential?**

All services at the RCC are confidential. We may be required to make reports to law enforcement about disclosures of suicidal or homicidal intent.

**What is an advocate and how are they different from other people involved in my case?**

RCC advocates carry out a special role different from law enforcement and medical personnel. Their role is to offer the survivor support and information about the process, including the available options in an investigation or medical exam, and appropriate referrals. They will never meet with law enforcement or medical personnel without the survivor or the survivor's express permission. They will never tell you what decisions to make. Their job is to support, affirm and offer resources for every step of a survivor's healing journey.

**Is there a fee for services at the RCC?**

All advocacy, support groups, and emotion support services are provided by the RCC at no charge. There may be fees associated with some educational offerings (trainings, Chimera Self-Defense, and Safer Bar).

**What if I'm under 18?**

Our youth services are available to Dane County youth ages 12-18. An RCC advocate can meet with you at RCC's main office OR at your school OR virtually. You can schedule an appointment by calling our helpline (608-251-7273). Please ask your counselor if your school provides any additional services such as support groups.

**Will the person who sexually assaulted me go to jail?**

Sexual assault is a serious crime. If you choose to report your assault to law enforcement, the District Attorney's office decides if there is enough evidence to bring charges against the assailant. If convicted, it is possible that the assailant could receive a jail or prison sentence. Contact the RCC if you would like to talk with an advocate about the possible outcomes of filing a police report.