



Newsletter



Winter 2009

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Sussex County
410 S. Bedford St.
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16529 Coastal Highway
Suite 110
Lewes, DE 19958
(302) 645-4903

www.survivorsofabuse.org

What's new...

A special Thank You to Ammon Foundation, Avon Products, Bank of America, Barclaycard US, Chichester duPont Foundation, Good Samaritan, and Gilliam Foundation for their recent grants to the programs at SOAR.

SOAR welcomes new board members Jim Klabe, Vice President of Marketing, Wilmington Trust Co., Kristy Olinger, Card Group Sales Officer, Bank of America and Rikki Warthen, Senior Change Manager, Bank of America

VALERIE MAREK... ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



*Valerie Marek
LCSW, CADC
Executive Director
SOAR*

For the past 16 years Valerie Marek has been a tireless advocate for victims of sexual abuse. She was one of the founders of SOAR and has been SOAR's Executive Director since its inception in 1992. SOAR is the only organization in Delaware dedicated to providing professional mental health recovery treatment for victims of

sexual abuse regardless of their ability to pay. As Delaware's leading mental health professional with expertise in issues facing victims of sexual abuse and in an advocacy role representing these victims, Valerie serves on The Delaware Victim's Rights Task Force, The Sex Offender Management Board and The Sexual Assault Network of Delaware.

SOAR MENTORS GRADUATE INTERNS AS THEY GO FOR LICENSURE

In 2008 SOAR provided services to 1,500 victims of sexual abuse. SOAR has 37 dedicated clinicians who have been trained by SOAR in the recovery treatment of victims of sexual abuse. Many of our clinicians have been with us for over 10 years and many came to us as interns. Our intern program has always been a significant part of SOAR and SOAR's strategic plan. Since trauma experts trained in the recovery treatment of sexual abuse victims are highly specialized and hard to find, SOAR took it upon ourselves to "grow our own". At any one time, there are 4-5 graduate Interns, getting their M.S. or Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work or Psychology and finishing their credits toward licensure, training under SOAR's Clinical Director, Dr. Steve DiJulio. SOAR interns co-lead a number of SOAR's nine different group therapy programs with a seasoned SOAR clinician. And, under the supervision of Dr. DiJulio, provide individual and family therapy. This is one way SOAR can leverage our expertise to provide recovery treatment to victims of sexual abuse regardless of their ability to pay.

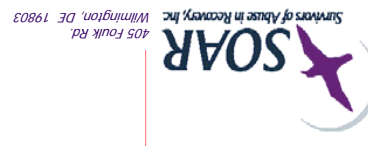
"Spending the time to train and supervise Interns is well worth it. We see this training as another way to educate the professionals in the community and to keep the pipeline filled with future SOAR clinicians. To address the needs in Delaware, our strategic plan calls for growing responsibly without sacrificing program quality. This training is one way of achieving this. I have always admired the dedication, professionalism and willingness to learn that our Interns bring to our program."

...Dr. Stephen DiJulio, Clinical Director SOAR

SOAR's mission is to provide professional psychotherapy services to child, adolescent and adult survivors of sexual abuse and their loved ones regardless of ability to pay.

A leader in the state of Delaware, SOAR also provides training and education, advocacy, and coordination of services.

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Newsletter



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Valerie C. Marek, LCSW, CADC
Executive Director

SOAR OUTREACH

SOAR Executive Director, Valerie Marek, participated in a public forum at the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington in August. The forum was organized by Delawarean Matt Conaty of Child Victims' Voice and the National Association to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children. Val joined Vicki Polin, survivor and Founder/Director of The Awareness Center; Charles Gallagher Esq., Philadelphia Deputy District Attorney; Marci Hamilton, Law Professor and author "Justice Denied" and Joelle Cateix, Regional Director SNAP, on the panel of experts that addressed issues regarding childhood sexual abuse and the recent SB 29 legislation.

AVON PRODUCTS SOAR GRANT PRESENTATION



SOAR Board President, Steve Brodt accepts a \$20,00 grant from Stephanie Buccolo, Site Manager of Avon Products Newark, DE in a ceremony with Avon's management team. The grant will fund recovery treatment for uninsured victims of sexual abuse.