



# SARSSM

Sexual Assault Response Services  
of Southern Maine

*council resp.*



*"Thank you for funding these programs; without them I would be fighting a losing battle alone."  
~ Participant in SARSSM support group*

*"I think your program is AMAZING and so helpful. Thank you for being there to listen to us."  
~Student at Saco Middle School*

*applied to  
HSAC for  
funding*

Dear Friend,

Your support of Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM) has made a difference to thousands of people here in Cumberland and York Counties – your neighbors, friends, family and colleagues - who have been affected by sexual violence. Your support is changing the status quo, and educating the next generation about healthy relationships. Thank you. Thank you for caring and for working with us to deliver our services at no cost to anyone who calls.

The current national conversation about campus rape, unwanted sexual advances, locker room talk, and consensual behavior has made our work here in Maine more vital than ever. Recently we've had an increase in victims coming forward to share their pain and ask for help. More teachers, from Freeport to York, are inviting us into their classrooms to educate students; in fact, over 8,800 students from grades K – college benefitted from our programs this year. We are also working with a coalition of law enforcement and other caring professionals to build a Child Advocacy Center to help our youngest victims of sexual violence. And so much more.

**Will you make a donation today to allow this work to continue?**

Among SARSSM's free services are:

- A 24/7 crisis hotline where our team provides emotional support, answers questions, and offers referrals and resources for survivors of sexual violence, as well as family members, partners, friends, and community members
- Compassionate advocates to accompany victims at any hour- even 2 a.m. – to the hospital if they need medical care and/or forensic evidence collection
- Experienced staff who help survivors navigate through the bewildering, and at times lengthy, criminal justice process
- Support groups for both women and men
- Age -appropriate classroom curriculum as part of our preventative programs to raise a generation committed to consensual relationships, being active bystanders and having healthy, respectful relationships.

Your gift to SARSSM will help us ensure that these important programs continue and that we can stay responsive to the needs of the community, for free and on demand. You can make a huge impact with your donation:

- \$25 provides a gas card for a survivor to attend a free support group
- \$100 purchases education materials for our classroom programs
- \$250 allows us to place small "Crisis and Support" informational cards in areas where survivors can access them anonymously
- \$500 funds the 24/7 crisis and support infrastructure for one month

Wherever there is a human being in suffering, there is an opportunity for kindness and healing. Please stand with us by joining our community partnership efforts to end sexual violence, and be a sustaining partner in our work of giving kindness, healing, and strength to our neighbors who are in most need. Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Melanie Sachs, LCSW  
Executive Director

*Thank you!*

**P.S You can donate online today at [www.sarsonline.org](http://www.sarsonline.org); your gift is tax deductible!**