



Network Of Victim Assistance

Summer 2009

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NOVA NEWS

Advocacy, Prevention & Support for Victims of Crime in Bucks County

Sexting: Once it's gone, it never comes back

In communities across the country, parents, school officials and law enforcement professionals are dazed and confused by the growing incidence of *sexting*. The newest of teen Internet behaviors, *sexting* is the electronic transmission of nude or semi-nude images. With the criminal justice system struggling to address the issues and many minors facing felony charges, what's really going on here and what is the most appropriate adult response?

Many teens today don't recognize the Internet's immediacy of dissemination and nature of preservation. No 14-year-old in Bucks County today has ever lived in a world without the Internet, and the digital and "real" worlds are one and the same to them. An error of judgment for which a young person was grounded 20 years ago can now result in felony charges for transmission or possession of child pornography.

"Calling this 'child pornography' may be missing the mark," says NOVA educator Vince Jones, coordinator of secondary education. "Thus far, the problem in virtually every sexting incident is not in the pornography of the message or posting. Rather, it's the harassment, exclusion and mistreatment by other youth toward the sender and, at times, the recipient that causes harm."

NOVA's Internet safety program stresses that the "Internet is Permanent"—once something is sent or posted online, the sender loses control of it.

"Instead of focusing largely on legal courses of action," Jones says, "our best investment strategy for healthier youth is good education. Education regarding appropriate Internet use and electronic legal consequences, combined with open communication about flirting, romantic relationship development and respect, can capitalize on what is a very contemporary, wonderful teaching moment. Rather than fences, life vests and warnings, let's teach them to swim." ♻

Helpful Resources for Parents

- YourSphere.com is a social networking site that restricts membership to kids and teens.
- Websafety.com sells software that can be downloaded to your kids' cell phones and computers to alert you if they are sending inappropriate texts or photos.
- Safe Eyes, from InternetSafety.com, lets you track your children's instant messaging, monitor social networking sites and impose limits on their online minutes.
- Cell Phone Spy Elite, a device from BrickhouseSecurity.com, retrieves deleted text messages from cell phones.



Reclaiming Dignity



NOVA Thrift Shop Summer Sales

Every Monday & Friday
Buy One, Get One FREE
(from same department)

Every Tuesday
Kids Room Sale
Everything 50¢

Every Thursday
Back Room Bag Sale
Fill a basket for \$5

1628 Swamp Road
Fountainville
215.249.8000
M-W, F & Sa 10-5:00
Th 10-7:30, Su 12-5:00

Volunteer Training

NOVA volunteers who provide direct services to clients have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their community. To serve on our 24-hour Hotline or provide accompaniment for victims and their families in emergency rooms or on police interviews, volunteers must complete specialized training and be certified as a Sexual Assault Counselor (SAC). NOVA is now taking registrations for the 2009-2010 SAC Training sessions. To learn more, please contact Julie Dugery, NOVA's volunteer coordinator, at 215.343.6543 or JulieD@NOVABucks.org.

Call for Volunteers

*Galaxy 2009
Art Show & Sale*

November 5-8
Contact: info@NOVABucks.org

New Support Groups

Sexual Assault Support
Adolescent Support
Homicide Support
Fall groups now forming
Call Patti Levenberg,
215.343.6543

Tribute remembers victims, honors hope

It was a bittersweet ceremony for crime victims and their supporters at Core Creek Park in Langhorne on April 30. As members of NOVA and Mothers Against Drunk Driving solemnly led families, police officers and victims in a Candlelight Tribute for victims of crime, the crowd was also celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act.

The 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) established the Crime Victims Fund. Over \$2 billion, collected from perpetrators to provide much needed assistance for basics like funeral bills, medical and counseling costs, and lost wages, is held in the fund today.

Tribute participants remembered those who were lost, but also those who had survived. One 17-year-old victim spoke of her three-year journey to overcome her sexual assault. "I am a survivor," she proclaimed. "A winner. I am in charge. I have triumphed."

Lenape Middle School Chamber Ensemble and Drummers with Attitude, from Central Bucks and Bensalem school districts, respectively, each performed

during the ceremony at the park's Victims' Commemorative Arbor. They were preceded by remarks from NOVA Board President Karen Lasorda, Bucks County Commissioner James F. Cawley, Esq., the Honorable Rea B. Boylan of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas and Bucks County District Attorney Michelle Henry. ♪



Lenape Middle School Chamber Ensemble



Drummers with Attitude percussionists

NOVA marks 16 years of PEP

People with disabilities—often discriminated against, separated from society at large and denied opportunities—are at particular risk for crime victimization and abuse. In 1993, with initial funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, NOVA developed a Personal Empowerment Program (PEP) for people with disabilities. PEP trainings for consumers address key personal safety issues designed to help reduce their risk of victimization. NOVA also created staff trainings on identifying the signs and symptoms of abuse and victimization, ways to help and support

a consumer who may have been victimized, and suggested procedures for reporting the abuse.

Eleanor Wilhelm, NOVA's PEP coordinator, participated in the original development of the program and continues to coordinate and present trainings. On PEP's 16th anniversary, Eleanor is pleased to report that in FY 2009, NOVA provided 56 programs to 451 consumers and staff in Bucks County, making a significant difference in the lives of people with disabilities. ♪



Building Strength



NOVA board welcomes new officers, members

NOVA's Board of Directors recently elected new officers to serve at the helm of the nonprofit. Michael Sheehy, president of Wealth Advisory Services Inc., and a member since 2005, steps into Karen Lasorda's shoes as board president. Nancy Blois, community volunteer; Grace Deon, Esq., Eastburn & Gray P.C.; and Helen Holweger, CPA, are vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The board also welcomes seven new members to its ranks. Doylestown resident and CB West grad Heather A. Cevasco is chief of staff for Senator Chuck McIlhinney. Jeane M. Coyle of Collegetown is vice president for First Federal of Bucks County in Bristol. Doris S. Fiorentino, an advisory software engineer for IBM, lives in Lansdale.

Dorothy Gaboda is associate director for the Data Analysis Center for State Health Policy at Rutgers University. A Yardley resident, Dorothy was a NOVA Hotline volunteer before she joined the board. CB East grad Hollie B. John is a law partner with Connolly, Jacobson & John in Doylestown, where she also resides. Community volunteer and Doylestown resident Louise McLeod, a graduate of the University of Toronto, is retired. Antonio Pugliese of Warrington is branch manager of TD Bank in Jamison, a native of Italy and graduate of the University of Rome.

The board, staff and community thank these new members as well as outgoing officers Karen Lasorda, Kim Gronendahl and Bridget O'Brien for their efforts on behalf of NOVA's mission. ♻️

Check out new NOVA Bucks.org!

Thanks to New Leaf Interactive, NOVA's website has been given a fresh, new look. It's now more attractive and much easier for our clients, volunteers and community members to access information and the links and services they need.

In addition, from the website you can safely and securely donate to NOVA by credit card or bank account draft using PayPal. You can still download a PDF form to complete and mail to NOVA with your check, if you'd prefer. ♻️



In Gratitude ~ Grants & Awards

- Barra Foundation
- The Bristol Borough Exchange Club
- Bucks County Foundation
- Bucks County Women's Fund
- Fourjay Foundation
- Independence Foundation
- New Hope-Solebury Middle School
- The Newtown Exchange Club
- The Rotary Club of Doylestown
- VIST Insurance Company
- Inglis Foundation's 2009 Award for Continuing Excellence



Volunteer thanks:

NOVA staff and board members gathered to celebrate the contributions of NOVA Thrift Shop and Hotline volunteers. In gratitude for their hard work and dedication to NOVA's mission, 50 volunteers were fêted on Wednesday evening, June 3, in the Ken & Julie Biehn Conference Center in Jamison. Jodi Kaplan, center, was one of many volunteers recognized during the evening celebration.

NOVA NEWS

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Support



Prevention




George Thompson featured at *Galaxy 2009*

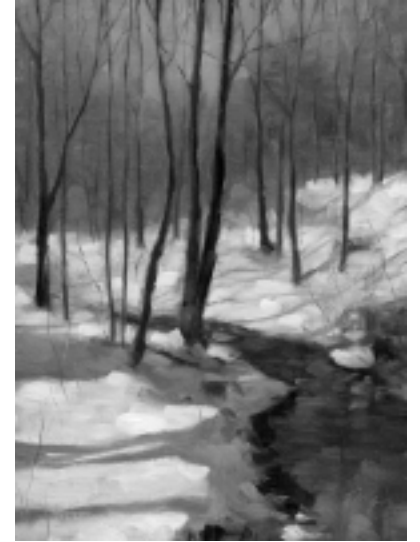
NOVA is pleased to announce that painter George Thompson is the Featured Artist for the 16th Annual Galaxy Art Show & Sale, presented November 5–8 by First Federal of Bucks County.

Thompson grew up encircled by New York City's and his parents' artistic influences, began his successful career as an illustrator, then migrated to figurative painting. But it was his move to rural Bucks County nine years ago that, he says, "opened my eyes to the heart of nature, its beautiful light and possibilities."

"Although my passion is figure, I've grown to love landscape painting."

As featured artist, Thompson will exhibit an enticing selection of his finest pieces in the third-floor rotunda of the Bucks County Courthouse, along with the works of more than 80 other local and regional artists in various media. His oil, "Juliana in Blue Kimono," took Best of Show at last year's Galaxy.

Tickets for this year's Galaxy Opening Night Preview reception with the artists on Thursday, November 5, can be purchased online at www.NOVABucks.org or by calling 215.343.6543. Program Book advertising opportunities for NOVA's premiere fundraiser are also available. 



"Winter Light," oil by George Thompson

www.novabucks.org

1-800-675-6900

24 Hour Victim Support Hotline

For Victims of Crime in Bucks County
Advocacy, Prevention & Support

of Bucks County



A Member Agency

Remember to designate NOVA

Tel.: (215) 343-6543
Fax: (215) 343-6260

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NOVA



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