



NOVA NEWS

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

Winter 2011

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NOVA educators present at LA conference

Mary Worthington, NOVA elementary education coordinator, and Mary Richter, NOVA educator, presented a workshop on NOVA's Children with Developmental Disabilities curriculum at a conference in California this fall.

The theme of the 2010 National Sexual Assault Conference in Los Angeles September 1-3 was "Building the world we all want to live in." It focused on providing cutting-edge information, effective practices, content that incorporates culturally appropriate outreach, and services to historically underserved communities as well as those with limited access.



Mary Richter and Mary Worthington at the National Sexual Assault Conference

"We are proud to have been chosen to present at this conference and represent NOVA," said Worthington. "We had an opportunity to talk about this important curriculum's details as well as to share the experience, insight and vision that went into developing and implementing the program. We had a great response from the attendees." 

Closer to home, filming is underway

It's not Hollywood, but the results of the video in production at Neshaminy School District will be more positive than many of Tinseltown's products.




Mike Pesce solicits ideas from high school students in a program last year.

In this case, the filming takes place not in sunny California but in Neshaminy's high school studio, with Mike Pesce, NOVA secondary education coordinator, talking to students and answering their questions. The school district has requested four trainings that will become videos: "Healthy Relationships," "Harassment/Bullying/Cyber-Bullying," "Dating Violence" and "Internet Safety."

Pesce will be doing what comes naturally to him: talking frankly with the kids and getting them to open up with their concerns and suggestions.

"This was initiated by Neshaminy School District after Mike presented in-service trainings there last year," says Mandy Mundy, NOVA director of education and training. "The district felt it would be a good way to reach parents who aren't always able to attend parent programs."

The video will be presented on the local Neshaminy Cable Channel and linked with the school district's website. 



Note New Date:
NOVA's Candlelight Tribute
Thursday, April 28, 2011
5:30 pm Reception
6-7:00 pm Candlelight Tribute



Reclaiming Dignity



NOVA Thrift Shop BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Orientation Meetings
1st Sunday & 3rd Thursday
1628 Swamp Rd., Fountainville
Call Karen Corbett for details
215.249.8000



Volunteer Opportunities Calling all volunteers!

Become a part of the NOVA Team by volunteering with our Hotline Services, Community Services or another program. We want to hear from you!
Contact Julie Dugery
215.343.6543
JulieD@NOVABucks.org



Meet for Support at NOVA offices

Adult Victims of Sexual Violence:
Levittown
Parents of Children Who Have Experienced Abuse:
Levittown
Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault:
Levittown & Perkasié
Homicide Support Group:
Perkasié
For information:
Patti Levenberg
215.343.6543
Patti@NOVABucks.org



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OR
search 'NOVA Bucks'

Public Policy Committee assesses legislative progress


As the current sessions of state and federal legislatures end, Julie Dugery, NOVA coordinator of volunteers and community outreach and co-chair of its Public Policy Committee, talks about the impact of the legislative sessions on victims of sexual assault.

"I'm happy to report that the House and Senate voted to override the governor's veto of House Bill 240 providing sexual violence awareness programs for incoming students to institutions of higher education," she says.

"Although HB 2255, which provides expert testimony for victims of sexual assault so juries can have some understanding of the counterintuitive behavior of rape victims, didn't reach the House floor for a vote this session. And after unanimous passage by the Senate, SB 432, dealing with extending Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders to cover more than intimate partners, spouses and blood relatives, stalled in the House Judiciary Committee.

"Federal legislation introduced by Senators Leahy and Crappo, S 1340, would increase Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding significantly in the next four years for rape crisis centers and other crime victim assistance programs. This fund, entirely supported by court penalties—no taxpayer funds are involved—now exceeds \$4 billion! NOVA and other centers are working hard to obtain release of more of these funds to maintain and expand services for victims."

NOVA supporters can help:

1. Check out our website, www.novabucks.org, to learn more about these bills and funding issues.
2. Write your congressman to ask why victim service centers are reducing services and laying off staff during an economic downturn when ample VOCA funding is available to increase services.
3. Contact me to join this committee. We have a challenging agenda for future legislative action in the new year.
Julie Dugery: 215.343.6543 or
JulieD@NOVABucks.org. 


17th Galaxy a major success

Thank you to the generous sponsors and many, many volunteers who helped to make this year's Galaxy Art Show & Sale successful.



"We could not have managed without the

hard work of so many," said event co-chair Elizabeth Beister. She and co-chair Sandra Marad oversaw an active committee and dozens of additional volunteers who pulled all the details together for the event, held November 4 through 7.

Special thanks go to major sponsor First Federal of Bucks County. 

NOVA Dove Tile

—Special Limited Edition—



4 1/2-inch-square terra cotta with blue-glazed background

Made by
MORAVIAN
POTTERY & TILE WORKS

Now taking orders:
\$35 each plus shipping
Call 215.343.6543 for information



Building Strength



Open house held for Children's Advocacy Center

On October 20, 50 people toured the new Bucks County Children's Advocacy Center in Jamison, learning how this works to protect children who are coming through the judicial system as witnesses and victims.

"For children who have been abused, the CAC is a *process* where the various competing demands of major institutions can be brought together in one *place* to provide services to the child and family," said Leslie Slingsby, LSW, director. "The CAC facilitates a comprehensive approach to working with child abuse victims that places the needs of the child first."

The Bucks County Children's Advocacy Center is a collaborative effort administered by NOVA. Bucks County



Leslie Slingsby, director, addresses guests at the Bucks CAC ribbon-cutting.

CAC services are made possible through the financial support of federal, state and county government grants and contracts, foundations and private donations. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, go to www.buckcac.org. ♻

Verizon Foundation partners with NOVA to offer cyber-safety program to parents

Verizon Foundation has presented NOVA with a \$24,500 grant to help develop and present workshops for parents to help keep their children safe online.

"Verizon is proud to support initiatives that improve the quality of life for youth and families in Bucks County and empower the community with innovative tools and resources," said Daniel J. Reavy, director of External Affairs for Verizon Pennsylvania. "We want to touch people's lives by focusing on education, health and family safety in the 21st century. We understand that education does not begin or end in the classroom."

To learn more about Verizon's initiatives, visit www.thinkfinity.org.

"Verizon has been a good friend and earnest supporter of NOVA's educational initiatives and outreach efforts," said

Barbara P. Clark, executive director. "Two years ago, another Verizon grant launched our program on Internet Safety and allowed us to reach hundreds of young people with strong, meaningful and effective messages about safe Internet use. This new funding will help us support parents in their efforts to keep their children safe." ♻



Daniel J. Reavy, Director of External Affairs for Verizon PA, pictured with Jan Finnegan, Director of Development at NOVA, and Mark Schweiker, President & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

JustGive.org
NOVA is now using JustGive.org to process gifts, making your online donation to NOVA easier and more secure. JustGive.org, a resource of Guidestar www.guidestar.org, provides an acknowledgement of your gift to use as a tax receipt, deducts just 3 percent to cover the cost of the transaction and fully respects donor privacy.

Thank you and warmest wishes from all of us at NOVA!

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NOVA Training Institute for Professionals

Drain Off: Strategies for Verbal De-Escalation that Help You Calm Kids Down and Get the Story
Tuesday, January 11
9:30-12:30
Trainer: Leslie Ten Broeck, LCSW, Clinical Instructor for the KidsPeace Institute™

\$90/pp for individuals or \$80/pp group rate (2 or more from same agency)

Training is held at the NOVA office, 2370 York Rd., Suite B1, Jamison PA. To register, contact Mandy Mundy at Mandy@NOVABucks.org or 215.343.6543.

CEU Credits: All workshops have been submitted for approval to the PA Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

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Address inquiries or comments to NOVA, 2370 York Road, Suite B1, Jamison PA 18929 or 215.343.6543.

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Support



Prevention



OUT in the SILENCE

Screening and Discussion

An uplifting documentary about courageous local residents confronting homophobia in their conservative small town.



Wednesday, April 13
6:00-8:00 pm
Bucks County Community
College, Newtown Campus
– FREE Event –

Meet the filmmakers of this
award-winning documentary:
Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer

For more information:
NOVA 215.343.6543 or
info@NOVABucks.org



The White Dove Charity hosted a gala September event that raised \$5,000 for NOVA.

From left are Wendy Beaman, president; Sherry Servis, VP;
Diane Donahue, secretary; Jan Finnegan, NOVA;
Michele Puchino; and Kelly Mitchell.
(Not pictured is Vicki 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 Network of Victim Assistance

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