

SAPR



**Sexual Assault
Prevention & Response™**

Events for the Month

Bystander Intervention Training

Female class

January 18

Male class

January 26

**Classes scheduled 1300-1430
Building 87, Room 125
TRS Conference Room**

SAPR OFFICE Personnel

SARC

**Cheryl Jones
580 481-7428**

Deputy SARC

**Anderal B. Ward
580 481-7835**

RESOURCES

**Family Advocacy
580 481-5376**

**ACMI House
580 482-3800**

**Chaplin
580 481-7485**

**OKC Rape Crisis Center
1-800-522-7233**

**National Sexual Assault
Hotline
1-800-656-HOPE**

January 2012 NEWSLETTER



Crisis Hotline:

580 649-0656

As with all SAPR Newsletters, we bring awareness to the subject of sexual assault . It is our goal to provide information that enhances knowledge and awareness of this horrific crime. This month 's issue is dedicated to the 1 in 6 Men who have been sexually exploited as boys.

Information sited from [http:// 1in6.org](http://1in6.org)

Giving Thanks for Lessons of Penn State Scandal – A commentary by Peter Pollard

November 23, 2011

Peter Pollard is Training and Outreach Director for 1in6. His commentary played on the [morning radio show](#) on WPSU, the PBS/NPR station serving central Pennsylvania.

Listen to Peter speaking his moving and hopeful words.

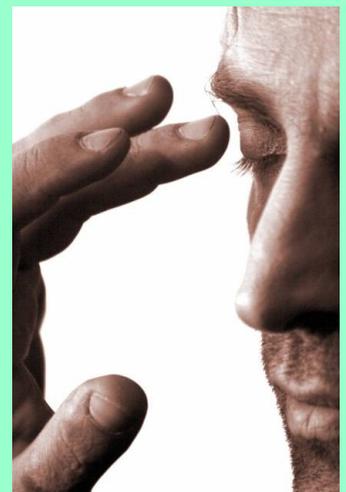
Like so many, I've been deeply moved in recent weeks by the stories of abuse and neglect pouring out of Penn State. Predictably, it's stirred memories of my own healing from sexual abuse by a trusted childhood mentor.

But despite those memories, I'm confident that as we gather for Thanksgiving dinner and college football rituals Thursday, we can still find plenty to be thankful for when the talk inevitably turns to Penn State.

I'm thankful for the courage of eight young men who reported being sexually abused. They found the strength to come forward and to insist that those who failed them, be held accountable. The world is already a better place as a result.

And I'm grateful for the growing public support for those young men and others like them. Each day, the volume of that support encourages the 19 million men in the US with similar experiences of childhood sexual abuse to believe that it's safe to begin telling their own stories.

I'm thankful for the paradoxical lessons we're learning at Penn State. We're reminded that men's lives can be shaped by being silent victims of violence and that asking for help makes a man stronger, not weaker.



Continue:

From an early age, we men are told to never express emotions like fear or sadness — to never acknowledge being victimized. Denied adequate outlets, many of us who are abused turn to drugs or alcohol to numb the feelings; to addictions, like food, work, sex, or risky behaviors to distract us from the feelings; or to physical or sexual violence or even suicide to shove those forbidden feelings away.

And so, I'm thankful for the opportunity our new awareness about sexual abuse gives us, to offer boys and men options, other than brave silence. From my own experience of healing, I know that by revealing those underlying emotions, we men can free ourselves from a lonely, secret shame. Then we're ready to shift our focus toward a future of possibility instead of always looking back in anger.

As with any traumatic experience, sexual abuse changed my life in ways that can never be erased. But once I began talking about it, once I asked for help, I was able, with the support of my family and friends, to create a life I love – though very different from the one I might have had, unabused.

I don't pretend it was always an easy process, or that I haven't stumbled, or don't mourn what was lost.

Healing is a journey with many potential detours.

But I do know, that if we support them, healing is a possibility for the young men who were hurt at Penn State and for many others.

And for that, we all can be thankful.



Tony Rogers

“In6 is a beacon that points men to hope, help and healing”

Tony Rogers is one of three men prominently featured in the powerful documentary, *Boys and Men Healing*. The film recounts Tony's path from boyhood sexual abuse to angry teenage years on the streets of Oakland, California to choosing to heal and ultimately becoming a strong African American man leading a productive and hopeful life of connection and service to others.

Between the ages of 9 and 11, Tony was raped by a stranger and sexually assaulted by a male relative. Since he testified successfully at the age of 10 in the criminal trial against the serial rapist who assaulted him, Tony has tirelessly used his voice to encourage teens and adults to confront injustice, to actively heal from the wounds of discrimination and trauma, and to move beyond a narrative of victimization. As part of his own healing process, he learned that by speaking without shame about his own childhood experiences, he has helped heal himself by helping others.

After graduating from UC Berkley in 1993, Tony returned to his own high school in Oakland, California where he began teaching students not only the material for his classes, but how to live healthier lives. As a dedicated teacher, he has many opportunities to be a positive example and mentor to boys who have experienced sexual abuse and other great hardships.

Tony continues to be part of a peer-led support with other Bay Area men who experienced sexual abuse as children. His fellowship with those courageous men, and their years of deepening respect and support for each other, show what's possible when men work together to free themselves from silence, shame and isolation.

As a longtime advocate supporting those who would reclaim their personal power, Tony draws on a rich family tradition of speaking up for justice and against racism and intolerance in his efforts to help others embrace their best potential. Finding sustenance and inspiration in the spiritual and cultural legacy of his African American upbringing/heritage, Tony began speaking at a young age to youth groups, peers, and adult community groups about the value of service to others and the importance of claiming the right to be successful.

Tony continues to speak publically at churches and community meetings, about his own experiences with sexual abuse and healing, and his hopes and encouragement for other boys and men like himself. And his presence in *Boys and Men Healing* will inspire many more than he can ever know.