April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Santa Cruz County organizations partner to raise awareness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Delphine Burns, Communications Manager
Email: delphineb@monarchscc.org
Phone: (831) 707.2206

Overview: April 1 marks the beginning of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year, Monarch Services is partnering with local organizations including the Santa Cruz City Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW), Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Kidpower to host and promote community awareness events. All events will be virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are listed below.

- April 14- Sexual Assault, Consent and Bystander Intervention - https://bit.ly/2P7HdpA
  Presented by Monarch Services
  o Available for online viewing from April 16 - April 22, 2021- No Registration Required
  o Presented by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
  o Supported by the Santa Cruz Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women
  o Presented by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
  o Supported by the Santa Cruz Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women
  Presented by Santa Cruz Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women, Kidpower and Monarch Services

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes. In 2020, Monarch Services served 520 sexual assault survivors. April is a chance for community members to proactively discuss sexual assault, demonstrate support for survivors, raise awareness and brainstorm prevention techniques. Sexual assault prevention requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families and institutions.

Actions you can take to address sexual assault:

- Promote social norms that protect against sexual violence - end rape culture
- Be an active bystander when you see a potentially violent situation
- Create a culture of consent in your home and social circles
- Use social media to raise awareness among your peers
- Listen to and validate survivors of trauma

About Monarch Services: Monarch Services has a 43-year history in Santa Cruz County of providing advocacy and resources to community members affected by violence. Services include court accompaniments, restraining order assistance, counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, outreach, education and support groups. Monarch Services is the only rape crisis and human trafficking center in Santa Cruz County and includes an emergency response team. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low cost.