



January 5, 2012

For more information, please contact:

David Cassel

Alliance of Local Service Organizations

(773) 235-5705 ext 15 – office

(708) 250-4957 - cell

dcassel@also-chicago.org

or

Sharmili Majmudar

Rape Victim Advocates

(312) 443-9603 ext 23 – office

(773) 793-2784 cell

executivedirector@rapevictimadvocates.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

Community Responds to Rape and Beating of Young Woman

LOGAN SQUARE – On New Year’s Eve, an 18-year old woman was beaten and raped in Logan Square. **On Monday, January 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.**, the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO) and Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) will convene the community outside the Congress Theater (**2135 North Milwaukee Ave.**) near where the young woman was found to speak out against sexual assault. We invite you to join us.

By rallying elected officials, local service providers, businesses, and community residents to respond to this crime, hopefully future sexual assaults – whether occurring in public spaces or in homes across our community – will be prevented, other victims will learn about local resources, and individuals in the community will learn about strategies to stop violence.

Speakers will talk about ending sexual assault, and share information, strategies and resources to increase safety, support and accountability. ALSO will highlight the *Your Life is My Life: Ending Violence Starts with Me Campaign* to engage individuals in being active participants in stopping violence. RVA will share information about the realities of sexual assault, provide available resources for victims and their loved ones, and engage men in a pledge to end sexual assault and other forms of violence against women. Community residents are encouraged attend and bring additional information and resources.

Date: January 9, 2012

Location: 2135 North Milwaukee Ave (outside the Congress Theater) – starting location

Time: 5:30 pm – Participants arrive
5:40 pm – Remarks by public officials, community organizations and residents
6:15 pm – Event concludes

Confirmed speakers include Proco Joe Moreno, Alderman of Chicago's 1st Ward; David Cassel, Executive Director, Alliance of Local Service Organizations; Susana Stoll, Program Coordinator, Alliance of Local Service Organizations; Sharmili Majmudar, Executive Director, Rape Victim Advocates; Steve Adler, Prevention Education Specialist, Rape Victim Advocates; and a variety of other agency leaders and elected officials.

The mission of ALSO (www.also-chicago.org) is to end violence in the homes and streets of communities nationwide. Incorporated in 1998, ALSO was created to coordinate services for youth and families in the Logan Square community on Chicago's Northwest Side. Becoming aware of the devastating impact of community violence on those families ALSO began to take action by implementing prevention programs to end street violence. In 2007, ALSO expanded its violence prevention and intervention efforts to include intimate partner violence. By working to end violence more broadly, ALSO began to see connections between violence on the streets and violence in the home.

Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) (www.rapevictimadvocates.org) is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group counseling, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area since 1974. RVA provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault.