

Matching funds will  
**double your gift**  
now and during  
Sexual Assault Awareness Month

*“A victim's a victim. I don't care about gender, color or class ... it doesn't matter if you're making a million dollars or you're on public assistance. If you're sexually assaulted, you're still going to have the same nightmares.”*

Detective Jeffrey Roberts,  
from the article entitled “The Rape ‘Epidemic’”  
Chicago Tribune, January 25, 2006

Dear Mr. Sample,

A very good night is one when we don't get any phone calls — when our staff and volunteers can drum their fingers on the table and watch the second hand spin slowly around the clock. I hope that someday I can tell you these nights are the norm and not the exception.

But for now, I must tell you that our phones ring a lot at the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's Rape Crisis Hotlines.

So we're always ready, always waiting at our 24-hour call centers. And we're at hospital emergency rooms all across Chicagoland ... in counseling sessions and in courtrooms ... almost everywhere sexual assault survivors need us to be, that's where you'll find the YWCA.

**And that's why I'm writing you today to ask for a \$50 tax-deductible donation. Your donation helps us support survivors as they try to manage what comes next.**

You may not know this, but the YWCA is the largest provider of comprehensive sexual assault support services in Illinois — last year we provided service to more than 4,000 children and adults.

What exactly do we do for you if you or someone you love is sexually assaulted?

- We staff our **Rape Crisis Hotlines 24/7** ... so we're always just a phone call away when you need us.
- We meet you at the **emergency room** any time, day or night ... so that you're informed and supported before, during and after your exam.
- We **counsel you in private and in groups** ... so that you can work through your pain with caring, compassionate, experienced professionals.
- We help you through **police and court proceedings** ... so that you know your rights and you know what to expect.

*(Over, please)*



- We help you get **access to other important services** ... so that you can make choices that are right for you and get any additional help you may need.
- We help you learn things you can do to **protect yourself in the future** ... whether it's from strangers or, much more commonly, acquaintances or family members.
- We extend our services to you ... **no matter what** your race, age, religion, lifestyle or even gender — we support and counsel boys and men, too. *No one is ever turned away.*

As a nonprofit organization, we can provide these services because people like you understand what Detective Roberts said in the beginning of this letter— that a victim is a victim. And all of us need to do our part to prevent these painful, life-altering situations from becoming even worse.

**Will you please consider sending a donation today to keep our services going strong?**

Your gift to YWCA Metropolitan Chicago always makes a difference, yet this spring your gift's impact is even greater for two reasons:

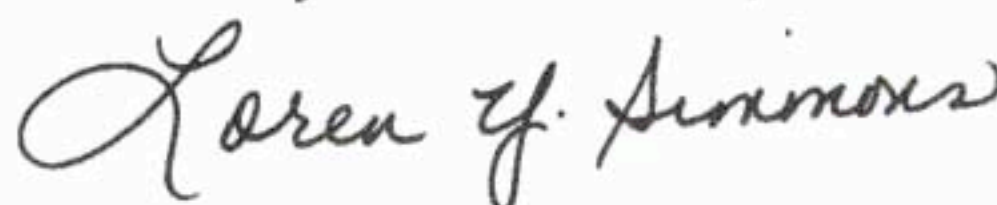
First, April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, so by donating now you're participating in a campaign that has its roots in the "Take Back the Night" marches of the 1970s. Today, it's grown into a nationwide effort emphasizing prevention and awareness of sexual violence.

Second, if you send your gift by May 5, 2006, a generous donor who believes in our mission will **match your donation dollar-for-dollar**. That means your \$25 gift becomes a \$50 gift, your \$50 gift becomes a \$100 gift, and so on. Just complete the enclosed tear-off reply form, and please keep the labels as our small gift to you.

I know that thinking about sexual assault is uncomfortable. Like you, I wish it would just "go away." But instead we're left with the next best option when that phone rings: Working together to do everything we can to help survivors cope, recover, heal and — eventually — move on as best they can.

**HSBC**   
 The world's local bank  
*Matching your donation,  
 dollar for dollar.*

Thank you and be safe,



Loren Simmons  
 Director, Sexual Violence and Support Services  
 YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

P.S. You'll notice we've included our Rape Crisis Hotline phone numbers along with your address labels. Please keep them handy, or pass them along to someone you care about. While we hope you never, ever have to use them, be assured that if you do, the YWCA will always be here to answer your call — and to help every step of the way. Thank you for helping to make this possible.