



#believesurvivors

Who Is On Trial?



In the two weeks between the initial report that alleged Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted Dr. Christine Blasey Ford when they were both high schoolers, and Thursday's Senate hearings on the matter, many myths about sexual assault survivors has had its moment in the spotlight. Most viciously, we've seen the myth that "real" survivors immediately report their attack. We've also seen various commentators trot out the idea that women who wait a long time to talk about their assaults [have ulterior motives](#); that women lie about rape for attention; and that it is [normal for teen boys](#) to engage in a certain level of sexual harassment and assault with teen girls. But one of the biggest, and most pernicious, myths is that Ford is simply ["mixed up,"](#) and confused about what happened to her that night — and that "real" sexual assault survivors can remember every detail of their attack.

CHH Hotline Team Supports Record Number of Survivors

In the last 10 days, our hotline team has provided services at an increase of 203% from the same time period last year. Many survivors reported being impacted by the continuous news cycle of the SCOTUS hearings and Cosby sentencing as well as the shame and stigma of their own sexual assault.

And when they hung up the phone, a weight was lifted. Many were reaching out for the first time after holding secrets of their own assault. One such survivor was calling because she wanted to be heard after 65 years of silence. After following the stories of the #metoo movement, and closely watching Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony, she felt compelled to speak out. We believe in holding the stories with and for survivors, and supporting them through their journey, no matter when it begins.

We are grateful to our HealingCorps Volunteer Advocates and our Staff who uplift and empower survivors everyday. We are also grateful to everyone who took action and donated to us. We will continue to believe and support survivors and their loved ones. We are honored to witness the bravery and fortitude of survivors as they speak their truth.

To survivors everywhere: Many of you have asked whether you did the right thing back then. **We believe that whatever you chose to do at that time was the right thing for you, and whatever you are choosing to do now is also the right thing for you. We believe in your strength and your resilience.**

-Isa Woldegiorgis, Executive Director

"It felt good to help in a small way when [I] have little control over everything else going on..."
- Sarah, Volunteer Advocate who supported 6 survivors during her shift on 9/29/18.

To volunteer with us, [click here](#).
To support our hotline services, [click here](#)



THURSDAYS FROM 530-7PM

- **OCTOBER 4**
- **OCTOBER 11**
- **OCTOBER 18**
- **OCTOBER 25**
- **NOVEMBER 1**

THE CENTER FOR HOPE AND HEALING, INC IS HOSTING PHONE BANKS UNTIL THE NOV 6 ELECTION. JOIN US AND BRING YOUR STAFF, CONSTITUENTS, VOLUNTEERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES!

SPACE IS LIMITED! RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY AT CHHYESON3.EVENTBRITE.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CHHINC.ORG AND FREEDOMMASSACHUSETTS.ORG



#YESon3 Phone Banking

We are hosting phone banks every Thursday until the November 6th election in support of YES on 3! Bring your family, friends, staff, constituents, and volunteers!

On November 6th, Massachusetts will be asked to vote on whether or not to repeal an existing law protecting transgender people's right to public spaces such as streets, restaurants, exercise facilities, school restrooms, etc. The YES on 3! campaign led by [Freedom For All Massachusetts](#) is mobilizing across the Commonwealth to urge voters to uphold equality, and we at CHH are organizing alongside them.

Bring a cell phone, charger, and laptop, if possible. [RSVP here.](#)

OPEN HOUSE!

Visit our new Children & Youth space!

5:30pm-7pm

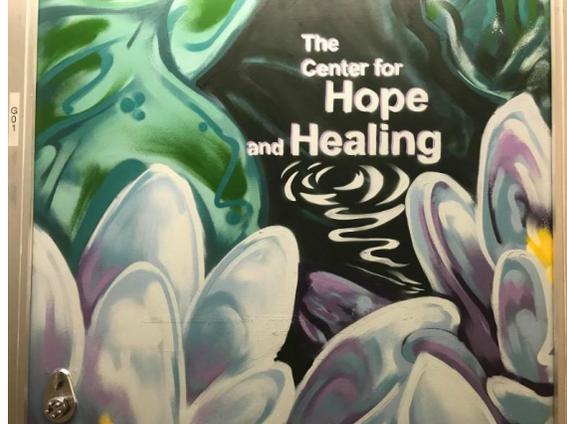
November 5, 2018

21 George Street, Ground Floor

Lowell, MA 01852

Light refreshments will be provided.

Thank you to all of those who have donated to this program so far, we really appreciate your support. If you would like to donate, [click here](#).



HealingCorps Highlight



Meet Akriti Sharma!

We are so proud to have her on the HealingCorps team!

Akriti Sharma is a Hotline and Medical Advocate and a support group facilitator, in addition to her Full Time position as a Telecommunications Engineer with Netnumber Inc. Akriti is a graduate of University of Maryland and now lives in Lowell. Read more about Akriti's journey at CHH below.

"I found The Center for Hope and Healing at a time when I was new [to Lowell], and looking to do something more meaningful than [my] regular 9-5 corporate job. CHH helped me become more aware and grow as a person. It has allowed me to delve into counseling, which is something I always wanted to do. [The] HealingCorps Program has provided me with a sense of community I did not know I needed [and is] always extremely welcoming and helpful. Working with survivors is an absolute privilege, and I am grateful to CHH for providing the resources, strength, and training for me to be able to contribute my part."

@chhlowell



Building Community Free From Sexual Violence