

Annex Teen Clinic

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annex Teen Clinic and Sexual Violence Center Collaborate on Services for Youth

The Annex Teen Clinic and Sexual Violence Center have collaborated youth services by offering information and support to adolescents who have encountered sexual violence or abuse.

Conveniently offered at the Annex Teen Clinic, clients have the opportunity to meet with a Sexual Violence Center (SVC) employee without an appointment.

“We know that youth are being sexually assaulted at high rates, however they are unlikely to come into the Sexual Violence Center,” Jennie Backus, program coordinator at the SVC, said. “Instead, they talk to a few or no people about their experience and often get very little help or healing.”

Free and confidential, the SVC office hours at the Annex Teen Clinic are Wednesdays from 2:30-6:30 pm. Services include support, resources and information.

“With this new partnership, SVC is hoping to meet youth clients where they feel comfortable going and have access,” Backus said. “The Annex Teen Clinic is a youth-friendly organization where youth come, feel comfortable and safe.”

Established in 1985, Sexual Violence Center supports youth and adults affected by sexual violence and fosters attitude changes that will ultimately eradicate sexual violence. Some of their many services include a 24-hour crisis phone service, individual counseling, support groups, advocacy and legal clinics at no cost to clients. Backus emphasized the SVC mission, “To empower our community by providing prevention and intervention services to all people affected by sexual violence.” With the new collaboration with the Annex, Backus hopes to remove barriers for services to youth.

Similar to the SVC, the Annex Teen Clinic aims to empower the community, by improving the reproductive health of adolescents and young adults. In its 36 years of existence, the Annex Teen Clinic continues to prevent unintended teen pregnancy for young adults up to age 23 in Northwest Hennepin County and North Minneapolis.

“This collaboration is a natural fit,” Laura Centrella, volunteer and development coordinator for the Annex Teen Clinic, said. “Both the Sexual Violence Center and Annex Teen Clinic continually try to create services for youth more accessible. Having the SVC presence here at Annex is beneficial for youth that need both services.”

Backus noted, “Providing intervention services at a younger age will hopefully give youth empowerment skills and information.”

For more information, regarding the Sexual Violence Center and Annex Teen Clinic, please visit the organization web sites, respectively, at www.sexualviolencecenter.org and www.annexteenclinic.org.