

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes’ March Seeks to Raise Men’s Awareness about Rape and Create Empathy for Victims**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Women’s Center for Education and Service at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Women’s Shelter of South Texas will hold their first “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes: The International Men’s March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence” awareness walk Friday, April 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the plaza between the Science and Technology building and the University Center.

According to Rhonda Williamson, event-co-organizer and primary prevention and education manager for the Women’s Shelter of South Texas, the event will showcase the ways men can help prevent rape. A statewide survey of 16-to-24 year-olds by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault found that 60 percent of females and 40 percent of males have personally experienced dating violence, either as victims or abusers.

“Traditionally we define men as perpetrators and women as victims,” said Williamson. “However, men are traumatized by rape, either as victims or by knowing someone who has been raped, and men are involved in finding the solution. If we’re going to end sexual assault, we need to educate men about their vital role in this issue.”

According to the Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey, every two minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.

“Rape and sexual assault are problems that we can't ignore” said Women’s Center spokesperson Amber Marcil. “Rape and sexual assault affect both women and men and we have to work together to find a solution by emphasizing greater awareness and education. This event is one way to bring attention to the men who are working just as hard to end sexual violence.”

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The "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" awareness walk will include a shoe decorating contest open to all event participants. Contest entries will be collected at the check-in table and winners will be announced at the close of the event. Men are asked to be team leaders and encouraged, but not required, to walk in women's shoes.

Participants may early register until the day of the event. On-site registration will begin at 3 p.m. the day of the event. Registration is \$5 per person; \$10 for teams of two to six; \$15 for teams of seven to 14; and \$20 for teams of \$15 or more. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Shelter of South Texas. For more information, call the Women's Center for Education and Service at 361.825.2792 or go to <http://www.walkamileinher shoes.org/>.

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