



For Immediate Release

Friday, February 10, 2012

MOCSA volunteer honored with Volunteer of the Year Award

Kansas City, MO - Longtime MOCSA volunteer Kathy Bagby received the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) Volunteer of the Year award at KCSDV's ninth annual Safe Homes, Safe Streets reception in Topeka, Kans. Feb. 8.

Bagby has been a volunteer with MOCSA for more than 12 years, and has donated more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service. Her volunteer hours alone account for the cash equivalent of more than \$45,000. She has served in a variety of volunteer roles at MOCSA, but has primarily answered calls on MOCSA's 24-hour crisis line. In her time at MOCSA, Kathy has assisted more than 5,000 callers on the crisis line, providing comfort and resources to those in need.

"Volunteers like Kathy are more valuable than gold," said Joyce Grover, KCSDV executive director. "So many survivors positively touched by this one woman – it's breathtaking."

Bagby's volunteer advocacy with MOCSA began in 2000, but she has been an advocate for survivors of sexual violence for more than 30 years.

"It was in the 1980s and Kathy was standing in her friend's kitchen during a party. That is when she heard her friend's story of rape for the first time," said Angie Blummel, MOCSA director of community services. "As she tends to do, Kathy sprang into action and supported her friend by helping her to contact MOCSA."

Bagby described the experience of taking calls on the crisis line as callers process what they have experienced a big responsibility, but also something sacred.

"People always told me I was a good listener ever since I can remember," Bagby said. "I had this to offer and I became passionate about helping women after learning about the ways in which women can be harmed, crushed, their spirits shattered."

MOCSA's mission is to lessen the ill effects of sexual assault and abuse through prevention, education, intervention, treatment and advocacy. It serves the Kansas City metropolitan area on both sides of the state line.

Contact

Amanda Thompson
Fund Development and Digital Media Specialist
athompson@mocsa.org
(816) 285-1345