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***Visionary Voice Award Honors Local Community Educator
Mary Grissim's Work in Helping End Sexual Violence.***

Nashville, TN, May 6, 2009 --- Mary Grissim, VP of Education at the Sexual Assault Center (SAC), is one of 12 individuals to receive the prestigious *Visionary Voice Award* from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC).

According to the NSVRC, the *Visionary Voice Award* recognizes the creativity, hard work, and dedication of individuals around the country working to address and prevent sexual violence. Winners are selected by local anti-sexual violence coalitions and represent a wide range of individuals doing this critical work.

"This award truly honors Mary's passionate leadership. Mary has developed and implemented primary prevention education that reaches more than 124,000 children a year and is still growing. We are proud of her work to help end sexual violence and keep our children safe," says Tim Tohill, President of the Sexual Assault Center.

A community organizer, Mary Grissim has extensive experience in community education and the implementation of non-profit curriculum in schools. Since joining SAC in 2006, Grissim has been responsible for revamping and growing the entire school-based personal safety curriculum **Safe@Last** (K-6th grade) and the teen curriculum **Be. Promoting Healthy Relationships** (7th, 9th, and 11th grades). These programs originally focused on risk reduction and intervention, and Mary shifted the focus to primary prevention strategies to stop sexual assault. From her life's work in community organization and advocating for a cause, she has brought that same passion to the mission of stopping sexual violence through prevention education.

About the Sexual Assault Center

The Sexual Assault Center (SAC), started in 1978, is the only place in Middle Tennessee that specializes in treatment for sexual assault victims. Our counselors are specially certified and trained in these areas and work with more than 700 victims a year; half of these are children. Beyond individual treatment, we have group therapy sessions for children, teens, men, women, and families of survivors. The Center presents Community Workshops, which provide speakers and programs for a wide range of topics; these are appropriate for churches, civic groups, high school and college students, and corporate workplaces, and reach 2,000 individuals each year. We are a TennCare provider and accept most health

insurance policies. We also have grants that cover specific types of abuse victims. All clients receive the same excellence of care, regardless of ability to pay. For more information, visit www.SACenter.org.

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