



RESILIENCE
EMPOWERING
SURVIVORS
ENDING SEXUAL
VIOLENCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and Resilience to provide support to survivors of sexual assault

Resilience, the Chicago metro area's largest rape crisis organization, and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, 836 W. Wellington Ave. in Chicago, are collaborating to expand support to survivors of sexual violence.

When survivors receive care in the emergency room at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Resilience, originally called Rape Victim Advocates, will send one of 257 trained volunteers to serve as that patient's an advocate to offer emotional and practical help during and after a survivor's ER visit.

"Healing after trauma often includes support and treatment beyond what occurs in the emergency department, and it is the same with sexual violence," said Anna Scaccia, director of the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center emergency department. "This partnership bridges our services, so patients will get the help they need once they are discharged from our hospital."

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center is the 15th Chicago area hospital to rely on Resilience to augment support for sexual assault survivors. Services for survivors, available in English or Spanish, are always offered free of charge. During 2018, more than 2,300 survivors benefitted from crisis intervention, advocacy and trauma therapy services provided by Resilience.

"Every sexual assault survivor deserves respectful, compassionate care," says Sarah Layden, Resilience's director of programs and public policy. "Our volunteers offer services that complement the extraordinary care of emergency room professionals. Working side-by-side with ER staff members, our volunteers make a powerful difference in the lives of survivors during and after their hospital stay."

Resilience advocates serve as liaisons with healthcare professionals. They are trained to offer emotional support, share information about medical concerns and assist survivors by facilitating communication with hospital staff and police.

Resilience advocates provide continuity for survivors after their ER visit by providing immediate, practical support such as arranging transportation to home or offering referrals to a shelter. Volunteers also bring new clothing because survivors' clothing is often taken as evidence. They provide information about counseling, as well as accessing future medical treatment, resolving hospital bills or helping with potentially stressful tasks when survivors file a police report, meet with law enforcement officers and prepare for legal proceedings.

About Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center is part of Advocate Health Care (Advocate), the largest health system in Illinois and one of the largest Accountable Care Organizations in the country. A national leader in population health management, Advocate operates nearly 400 sites of care and 12 hospitals, including three of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals, the state's largest integrated children's network, five Level I trauma centers (the state's highest designation in trauma care), three Level II trauma centers, one of the area's largest home health and hospice companies and one of the region's largest medical groups. Advocate trains more primary care physicians and residents at its four teaching hospitals than any other health system in the state.

As a not-for-profit, mission-based health system affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ, Advocate contributed \$692 million in charitable care and services to communities across Chicagoland and Central Illinois in 2016. Advocate is part of Advocate Aurora Health, the 10th largest not-for-profit, integrated health system in the United States. We help people live well. To learn more about Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, please visit us: www.advocatehealth.com/immc.

About Resilience

Resilience is dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual violence survivors as well as the prevention of sexual violence through education. Now the largest comprehensive rape crisis center in metro Chicago, the not-for-profit was founded as Rape Victim Advocates in 1974.

Today, Resilience trains more than 250 volunteers to serve as advocates for sexual assault survivors and provides crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, and trauma therapy services to all survivors. Resilience also seeks to prevent sexual violence by advocating for systemic change and by hosting prevention events for over 325,000 people each year. Please visit ourresilience.org for more information.

For immediate assistance, sexual assault survivors should call Chicago Rape Crisis Line, 1-888-293-2080.