



RESILIENCE
EMPOWERING
SURVIVORS
ENDING SEXUAL
VIOLENCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMITA Health Resurrection Medical Center Chicago and Resilience team-up, provide more support to survivors of sexual assault

Resilience, the Chicago metro area's largest rape crisis organization, and AMITA Health Resurrection Medical Center Chicago, are collaborating to expand support to survivors of sexual violence.

When survivors receive care in the emergency department at AMITA Health Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, Resilience, originally called Rape Victim Advocates, sends one of 257 trained volunteers to serve as that patient's advocate to offer emotional and practical help during and after a survivor's ED visit.

"We're thankful to work with Resilience to best meet the needs of sexual assault survivors in our community," said Val Sentowski, director of the emergency department at AMITA Health Resurrection Medical Center. "Partnering to care for the full needs of these patients is a privilege and an honor and fits well with our mission to treat the most vulnerable."

AMITA Health Resurrection Medical Center is the 16th 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.

"Sadly, sexual violence happens in every demographic group," says Sarah Layden, Resilience's director of programs and public policy. "Even the most comfortable and tightly knit neighborhoods are not immune. Our volunteers offer services that complement the extraordinary care of emergency room professionals. Working with AMITA Resurrection's ED 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 AMITA Health

AMITA Health is a joint operating company formed by AdventHealth in Altamonte Springs, Fla., and St. Louis-based Ascension. AMITA Health is the largest health system in Illinois, comprising 19 hospitals and more than 230 sites of care. The health system has 900 providers in its medical groups, more than 26,000 associates and 7,000 physician partners and serves over 4.3 million residents in the greater Chicagoland area.

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.

Resilience advocates support survivors at: Advocate Illinois Masonic, AMITA Health Resurrection Center, Community First Medical Center (*formerly Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center*), John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Methodist Hospital of Chicago, Mount Sinai Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Provident Hospital of Cook County, Rush University Medical Center, Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Mary of Nazareth Medical

Center, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Thorek Hospital, University of Illinois Hospital (UIC), Weiss Memorial Hospital, West Suburban Medical Center

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