

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca news release

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## YWCA OF KALAMAZOO PARTNERS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PROMOTE SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

For Immediate Release  
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KALAMAZOO, MICH - The YWCA of Kalamazoo has partnered with local bars and restaurants to promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Harvey's On the Mall, Rupert's Brew House, the Green Top Tavern, and Waldo's Campus Tavern will all be using a "Consent is Power" hand stamp every weekend through the month of April to promote sexual assault awareness.

What is SAAM? Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) occurs each year in April to spread awareness of the sexual assault epidemic in America and discuss prevention efforts. This year, the national SAAM campaign focuses on the widespread occurrence on college campuses. This topic is timely as incidences of sexual assault on college campuses are attracting a significant amount of attention from media, leaders and communities.

What is Sexual Violence? Sexual violence can be defined as any type of unwanted sexual contact, ranging from sexist attitudes and actions to rape and murder. Sexual violence can include words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will.

The YWCA of Kalamazoo encourages the Kalamazoo community to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month by wearing teal and creating dialogue around sexual assault and how we as a community can stand together put an end to sexual violence.

### About the YWCA of Kalamazoo

The YWCA of the USA, of which the YWCA of Kalamazoo is a member Association, is the oldest, largest autonomous women's membership organization in the world. YWCA Kalamazoo is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA provides the only shelter, crisis intervention services and an array of post crisis shelter supportive housing options specifically designed and operating for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children; the only services of our kind for adult sexual assault survivors, including medical forensic exams in a non-hospital setting, supportive volunteers and counseling; one of very few licensed and nationally accredited child care centers that both offers tuition assistance and accepts government subsidies; and services to the community-at-large, focusing on racial justice.

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