INTRODUCTION

Rape and sexual abuse are unfortunately very common in Tanzania today. Traditional gender biases, myths about HIV/AIDS, and the increased stresses of living in a confusing and economically poor environment have contributed to significant increases in rapes (traditionally referring to females) and sexual abuse (which refers to males). There have been desperately few options for assistance and care for those who fall victim to such abuses. The vast majority of attacks go unreported. The few which are presented to the authorities frequently receive little or no support from the existing medical care.
ALMC RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE CARE

In response to this great need, ALMC has started a special programme to care for victims of rape and sexual abuse. The purpose of this programme is to provide acute medical care and counseling for victims of these events. It is a community wide initiative which has been developed by a team consisting of care givers from several institutions and programmes in Arusha.

The programme will provide acute care and also to promote awareness raising and prevention of rape and sexual abuse in the Arusha community. It will be a community response with the leadership and volunteers coming from across a spectrum of the community and which will seek to be replicated throughout the country.

HOW DO I GET CARE?

From December 2009, immediate care and counseling are available 24/7 through the ALMC Outpatient Department. A group of staff have been specifically trained and are ready to receive those in need of this care in a sensitive and supportive manner. Proper medical treatment and prophylaxis are essential and will be provided by this programme. A volunteer patient advocate will be available to accompany victims through this process.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

This is a community project which is subsidized by the local community and a wider part of our global community. The rape care and counseling will be provided at no cost to the victim.

THE OVERALL PROJECT

The programme will consist of:

•Acute Care:
  Providing acute medical and psychosocial care for victims of rape and sexual abuse in the community.

•Community Mobilization:
  Raising awareness of the new services available and developing a community response for prevention of rape and sexual abuse.

•Advocacy: To advocate for greater legal protection of victims under Tanzanian law.
•Replication: Replicating this programme in other hospitals throughout Tanzania.
HOW CAN I HELP?

1. Become involved! You can help by becoming a “friend” to volunteer with the programme.
2. Become educated yourself and become an advocate within your own spheres of influence.
3. Support the project with generous donations to allow this programme to provide services to the whole socioeconomic range of people in need.

CONTACT US:

More information can be obtained by contacting the hospital:
027-254-8030
or
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