



## NEWS RELEASE

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# HEALTHY MASCULINITY SUMMIT TO DISCUSS THE VALUE OF HEALTHY, NON-VIOLENT MASCULINITY IN FARGO-MOORHEAD COMMUNITY

FARGO – Do you belong to an organization that influences the lives of boys and men? Are you interested in promoting a respectful and peaceful place to live, work, and play? On Oct. 1, attend the Healthy Masculinity: It's Everyone's Business Summit to talk about how healthy and unhealthy masculinity affect the lives of people in North Dakota and how to engage family, friends, and co-workers in promoting healthy, nonviolent masculinity.

"We've been reaching out to the men of our community over the past few years to engage them in our work to end sexual and domestic violence in our community," said Greg Diehl, director of the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center. "This summit provides another opportunity for men to gather for dialogue, not to be told what healthy masculinity is and what we have to do, but rather to explore how our beliefs on what it means to be a man in our culture affects our attitudes toward others and our behaviors in our home, workplace, social settings, faith community and how to be better fathers, coaches, and mentors. It will also provide an opportunity to develop plans of actions that we can implement to make our community a safer and healthier place for everyone."

The event is hosted by the [Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead](#) in collaboration with [CAWS North Dakota](#), the state's dual sexual assault and domestic violence coalition, and focuses on building dialogue around masculinity, its connections to sexual and domestic violence, and what men can do to create respectful and peaceful communities.

The opening session begins at 1 p.m. and will be facilitated by Emiliano Diaz de Leon, Men's Engagement Specialist from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. The afternoon will feature a showcase of work being done in North Dakota and in-depth group conversations that explore the ways masculinity intersects with cultural institutions such as athletics, the media, power, parenthood, and more. Attendees can share their thoughts and messages of healthy masculinity at a special photo and video booth. The event will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4351 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Fargo.

At 6 p.m., participants will reconvene at Island Park to support RACC's annual Take Back the Night March and Rally. Learn more about the Summit and register for free at <http://healthymasculinitysummit.eventbrite.com>. As a special bonus, a Regional Men's Breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Oct. 2 to connect local men's groups and men in leadership roles for more in-depth strategies and networking. Tickets are free but very limited. To learn more and to register, go to <http://fargomensbreakfast.eventbrite.com>.

In addition to the town hall, CAWS North Dakota will debut the second part of a statewide awareness campaign that focuses on men's roles as active bystanders to prevent sexual and domestic violence. The campaign, called "Where Do

**ABOUT [CAWS North Dakota](#):** *CAWS North Dakota is a nonprofit membership organization representing the 20 domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers throughout the state. It is our mission to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of sexual and domestic violence. Learn more at [www.ndcaws.org](http://www.ndcaws.org).*

**ABOUT [Rape and Abuse Crisis Center](#):** *The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead is an independent non-profit agency that began in 1977 and provides services to all persons who have been affected by personal violence to include domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse. Learn more at [www.raccfm.com](http://www.raccfm.com).*

"You Stand?" was produced in cooperation with MEN CAN STOP RAPE and funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. Scenarios feature models from the Fargo-Moorhead area and include topics like men's involvement in violence prevention, stalking, sex trafficking and/or prostitution, and drug-facilitated sexual assault.

More information, agendas, and resources to help promote the event can be found at [www.ndcaws.org](http://www.ndcaws.org). Official allies of the event include the US Attorney's Office, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, North Dakota Farmers Union, the North Dakota Women's Network, Community Violence Intervention Center in Grand Forks, Three Rivers Crisis Center in Wahpeton, Prairie St. John's, and Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota.

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