

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program is encouraging everyone to take part in Denim Day, April 25. This campaign is aimed at raising awareness about the dynamics of sexual violence and as a call for all people to come together for the health and safety of everyone in the community.

### **What is Denim Day?**

It's an international symbolic gesture. An Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction in 1999 due to the Supreme Court Judges believing that the victim had consented to sexual contact since, in their opinion; jeans are too difficult to remove and the assailant could not have done so without the victim's help.

Sounds outrageous, yet in Italy, and all over the world, victims of sexual assault continue to be disbelieved and accused of causing the rape due to their behavior—or fashion sense.

To honor Denim Day, people are encouraged to wear jeans, including to work or school. Businesses are asked to help support victims by asking their employees to donate \$1-\$5 to Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program in order to wear denim to work for this one day event, as a visible sign of their commitment to ending violence.

Take part in this effort by wearing denim as a symbol of support for ending sexual violence in the community on April 25.

The Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) provides services to Arthur, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith and Perkins counties. Some of the many services SCIP offers include emergency shelter, agency referrals, court accompaniment, protection order assistance, crisis counseling, support groups, a 24-hour crisis line and teen dating education.

If someone is the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, or for more information on any of the services or programs, please contact SCIP at 308.284.8477.