

MSU Sexual Assault Program Coordinator Receives Caring About Women Locally Award

■ By Katie Parker

Capital Area Women's Lifestyle Magazine selected Shari Murgittroyd as the first recipient of the Caring About Women Locally Award. Murgittroyd was presented with the award at a fundraising event on March 19, 2011 at the former Washington Street Armory in Lansing.

Murgittroyd currently serves as the Sexual Assault Program Coordinator at Michigan State University (MSU). As part of her role at MSU, Murgittroyd provides therapy and advocacy services for sexual assault survivors. In addition, she is the adviser for both the social action theatre troupe E5M (Every 5 Minutes) and *The Vagina Monologues* at MSU.

According to Murgittroyd, providing direct services to sexual assault survivors can be very hard work. She noted that it was especially meaningful to receive the award just prior to the beginning of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

"I think it (the award) came at a really nice time to be recognized for the sexual assault program," said Murgittroyd. "It was such an honor to be recognized. I am still very humbled by it."

Murgittroyd was nominated for the Caring About Women Locally Award by several MSU students.

"Every day that Shari goes to work she is making a huge difference (for sexual assault survivors). Every person that she meets I feel like she fully wants to connect to them and give them time to tell their story," said Stephanie Fluegeman, one of the students who

nominated Murgittroyd. "I admire that woman so much!"

Murgittroyd remains passionate about the services she provides. In addition to her other activities, Murgittroyd is involved in fundraising efforts. She said that she has participated in Operation Freefall twice, a skydiving event that raises money for organizations providing services to sexual assault survivors.

"This (receiving the award) was an uplifting moment in my career," Murgittroyd said. "It reenergized me, refueled me."

Murgittroyd said she hopes to be involved in selecting the 2012 winner of the Caring About Women Locally Award.

Additional information about Shari Murgittroyd and the Caring About Women Locally Award can be found on the *Capital Area Women's Lifestyle Magazine* website: <http://www.cawlm.com/article/caring-about-women-locally-shari-murgittroyd/>.

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