

Take Back the Night faces the issue of sexual abuse

Trevor Nazario | Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 9:49 pm

New Mexico State University Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education (WAVE) program hosted its 6th annual "Take Back the Night" event Wednesday night. WAVE worked with La Piñon Rape Crisis center, La Casa the domestic violence shelter and the Las Cruces Police Department to help bring awareness against sexual and domestic violence in the community. The event featured live music, poetry, open mic a Take Back the Night march and free food.

Take Back the Night started at 6 p.m. with free food and a meet and greet followed by a 20 minute walk around campus to let their presence be known. The walk had 30 to 40 people involved who chanted "Stand Up And Fight! Take Back The Night!" and "No More Violence!" across campus.

Christian Jokinen, a peer educator for WAVE, says that he hopes this event will "bring awareness to sexual and domestic violence and encourage people to make a change in their community and in their families."

After the walk everyone gathered inside to the Corbett stage and listened to music and poetry from Soul Verse, a poetic group on campus. WAVE offered stories of encouragement and gave appreciations to everyone fighting against domestic and sexual abuse. There was an open mic where people could share their stories of courage and abuse.

"Take back the night raises awareness for people on campus and in the community, for you don't often see events that bring the two together, our purpose is to interact with the students and give information not everyone will listen but it's all about those two people that you do reach," Theresa Illgen, peer educator for WAVE, said.

WAVE offers information regarding abuse, violence depression and counseling in their office located in Monagle Hall and works with the Crisis Assistance Listening Line telephone number (575) 646-2255.

"As hard as it is to speak out just talk to someone, a friend a family member, whoever you are most comfortable with just don't keep it to yourself, it will eat you up," said Kenzie Dixon a volunteer at WAVE.