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Take Back the Night march Thursday spotlights sexual assault

By HUNTER FRINT For the Daily News 17 hrs ago

A march and benefit show Thursday in downtown Bowling Green will raise awareness of sexual assault and gather funds for Hope Harbor, a sexual trauma recovery center.

Bowling Green's annual Take Back the Night march will begin at 6 p.m. at First Christian Church, 1106 State St., and end at 7 p.m. after a march through the downtown area. The event will include speakers from Hope Harbor and the Western Kentucky University Counseling and Testing Center.

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The annual march helps the community recognize that sexual assault prevention is something everyone can address, according to Alayna Milby, Hope Harbor's crisis intervention specialist.

"It brings the community together to show that we aren't going to stand for sexual assault and that we do need to support survivors in their recovery," Milby said.

The benefit show, Take Back the (Late) Night, will be at the A-Frame, 1229 Center St. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and music will start about 8:30 p.m. There will be performances from Bowling Green musician Jamie Resch, GRLWood from Louisville and local band Former Friends of Young Americans. DJ J Spade will perform for the rest of the night. The venue is open to all ages until 10 p.m. and then 21 and older after that.

FFOYA House, a nonprofit community arts organization, has coordinated the after-march event for the past three years.

The show previously took place at the group's house on Kentucky Street. However, because of increasing attendance, FFOYA House co-founder Amanda Crawford said the group decided to partner with the A-Frame to host the event.




“You’re marching around town then you can walk in, listen to music and chill out after the march and continue to seek fellowship,” Crawford said.

The A-Frame will also feature art from the #MeToo Sexual Assault Prevention Month visual art show that took place at Ingen Art Gallery this past month. The art includes a variety of works by local artists, survivors and volunteers.

Prior to the event, Hope Harbor encourages march participants to complete an online form pledging to do their part in preventing sexual violence. A free 2018 Take Back the Night T-shirt can be reserved as well. Visit the Facebook event page “Take Back the Night” for more information.

Donations for Hope Harbor will be collected at both events.

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