

Two West Sonoma County women are preparing to embark upon a two-year journey to create a full length documentary that gives voice to the healing paths of people who have experienced sexual assault related trauma. Frances McCorkle, originally from Sebastopol, and Becky Fein, born and raised in Monte Rio, are combining their skillsets and driving across the United States interviewing survivors about their creative and productive Journeys after having experienced sexual assault.

### The Mission

The Journey of Powerful Voices is a project that will broaden the discourse of sexual assault to include the healing paths of the many people who have experienced this kind of trauma. The documentary will raise awareness of the reality of sexual assault, and illuminate the high prevalence with which it exists. The Journey of Powerful Voices will represent another step along the path of healing for many of the interviewees, opening up the space to tell their story and acknowledge their own strength. Leading by example, the people interviewed through this process will be the inspiration and source of empowerment for many others who have experienced sexual assault to speak up and share their story as well.

This summer has been a productive one, making great strides down the Journey's journey. Becky and Frances have spent much of their time gathering interest and promoting awareness of the project within their own community: planning the logistics of the Journey, recruiting an advisory board, and gathering footage for a promotional video, set to be released in October 2011.

### Response from the Community

"The value of a project like this is the focus on the healing that can happen, and how people can grow from the experience" says Sandra Maresca, Sonoma County artist and former United Against Sexual Assault board member (now known as Verity), "it's not what happens to us, it's what we do with what happens to us". The Journey of Powerful Voices honors the many different paths that people journey down, and recognizes that strength and productivity in the process of healing come from different places for different people.

### Background of the Project

Visionary partners, Frances and Becky, began their conversation about the state of sexual assault in our society several years ago in relation to their own experiences and the challenges that they faced speaking openly about this reality, even with one another. This conversation progressed and began to encompass the notion that so many people share this reality and are unable to speak about it because of its taboo nature and the unjust, yet ingrained shame and 'victim blaming' that exists.

### Contact Us

*We want to hear from you!* Whether you are a survivor, an ally, an organization, or a curious individual, we encourage you to follow our progress through Twitter, Facebook, or our blog. Feel free to contact us about any inquiries, comments, words of encouragement, or any other good vibes.

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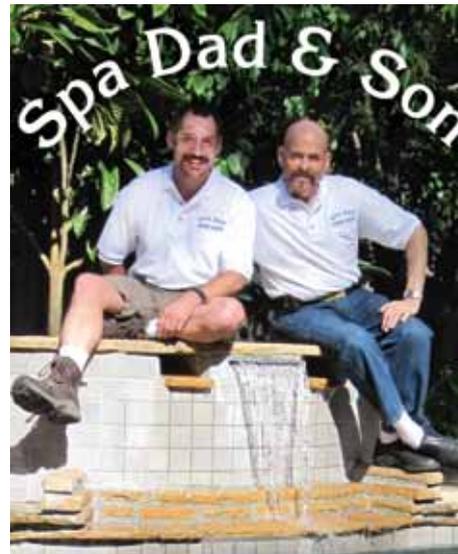
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