

## Students use college break to combat domestic violence

By Staff reports

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Marblehead -

Marblehead natives Jake Rainer and Evan Navon have chosen to use their summer between freshman and sophomore years in college to make a difference. Rainer and Navon are the supervisors of the "Street Team" of the national non-profit agency Abuse Victim Hotline Inc.

As an integral part of their positions, Rainer and Navon have had the opportunity to design and run two major fundraising and outreach events: The AVH Family Day at the Franklin Park Zoo and the Break the Silence Day on the Boston Common.

The Abuse Victim Hotline is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency founded two years ago by Robert and Noelle Rainer, formerly of Marblehead. The agency has grown to be a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, 365-day-a-year national agency, which within just two years of inception has served more than 500 victims across the country. This year, the Boston Celtics and the Massachusetts House and Senate recognized the Rainers as Heroes Among Us.

Several other Marblehead residents volunteer for AVH, including board members Julie Cummings, Dr. Meredith Cohen and Dr. Eric Freedland. AVH Zoo Day volunteers included Ronald Rainer, Carol Rainer, Lisa Rainer and Sara Rainer of Swampscott and Lily Cummings of Marblehead.

AVH is based in Revere and presently has approximately 50 volunteers on staff.

The two events run by Jake Rainer and Evan Navon were tremendous successes, according to the organization. The AVH Family Day at Franklin Park Zoo was attended by hundreds of people. There were many corporate and non-profit sponsors that participated in the event. There was a moon bounce, face painting, bead making, massages, raffles, a silent auction and many other family-friendly activities.

The second event took place Aug. 9 at the Boston Common. Rainer and Navon put together a group of 50 volunteers, mostly kids from Marblehead, to dress in purple, paint their skin purple and stand in silence on the Common, holding signs commemorating the Break the Silence campaign, a public demonstration to promote awareness about abuse.

The event was another huge success, said AVH. AVH was able to provide informative literature to

hundreds of patrons. Volunteers at Break the Silence included many of Rainer and Navon's friends and family members from Marblehead, including high school and college kids looking to make a difference.

Marblehead Break the Silence volunteers included Mark Tentindo, Jessica Robbins, Kayla Richards, Sam Dubin, Ally Forziati, Suzie Wyman and Julia Navon. Other North Shore volunteers included Rachel Lubets, Sarah Scolaro and Abbie Sarantea of Peabody and Amanda Webb of Gloucester.

"It is kids like Rainer and Navon that dedicate their hard work and energy to a non-profit agency that truly represents what kids can do to better not only themselves, but also society," said Ashley Corrado, assistant executive director of AVH.

Both Rainer and Navon volunteered to staff the hotline intake line on weekday evenings and weekends — a responsibility not included in their job description as outreach coordinators.

"They put in many more hours than required and more importantly they put their hearts into their work as well," Corrado said. "I'm floored by their dedication and commitment to our cause."

Robert Rainer, president and rounder of AVH, expressed similar sentiments.

"I am so proud of Jake and Evan," he said. "They made a commitment to our agency and in doing so they brought in approximately 25 kids from Marblehead and other local towns as volunteers to work at our outreach events. This is a testament to not only Jake and Evan but also to all of those Marblehead kids that helped us out. They weren't looking for money or praise. They just wanted to help people."

To become involved in AVH, call at 877.4.It.To.Stop or see [www.AVHotline.org](http://www.AVHotline.org).

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