



RapidSOS and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center partner to enhance access to emergency services for survivors of sexual violence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Boston, MA (March 8, 2017)

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) today announced a partnership with [RapidSOS](#), an emergency technology start-up revolutionizing personal safety and family connectivity. The partnership will offer one year of free access to the RapidSOS Haven app, providing individuals and families with enhanced access to emergency services. Haven sends important data to 9-1-1 in a discreet way that does not necessitate a spoken conversation with first responders.

With one tap on Haven, the app connects the user with the nearest dispatch center anywhere in the contiguous U.S., while providing a voice connection and a data pipeline to 9-1-1, to transmit:

- Text messages (Haven speaks the text message if the dispatch center does not have the capability to receive texts)
- Precise location
- Type of emergency
- Relevant medical and demographic data

The app's "Can't Speak" function allows users to notify 9-1-1 when they are in a situation where it is dangerous or difficult to speak. A tap on the "Can't Speak" icon transmits a user's location and relevant information to the dispatcher, without the need for an audible conversation. Additionally, a user can optionally add emergency contacts to be informed when an alert is triggered.

"Because RapidSOS' roots are at Harvard and MIT, it means a lot that we are able to partner with Boston Area Rape Crisis Center," said RapidSOS co-founder and CEO Michael Martin. "We hope that by providing Haven to members of the BARCC community we will provide peace of mind that help is only one touch away in an emergency."

Working together, RapidSOS and BARCC will offer a new resource to survivors of sexual violence that can be incorporated into a safety plan that will improve personal security and empower individuals facing emergency situations. We believe Haven will be a helpful resource so members of our community know they can contact emergency services easily and discreetly if they should need to.

The Haven app also includes access to RapidSOS' Family Connect feature. For the first time, people can call 9-1-1 on behalf of a loved one, transmitting their loved one's location and relevant data directly to the dispatch center nearest them.

RapidSOS is offering Haven free to those associated with BARCC for one year, if they sign up for the app. Community members who are receiving BARCC services can learn more about how to sign up for the app through speaking with their BARCC advocate. The Haven app is available for iPhone and Android devices and works anywhere across the contiguous U.S. and Hawaii, with one touch emergency calling in over 250 countries and jurisdictional territories. For more information about RapidSOS and the Haven app, visit www.rapidsos.com.

About RapidSOS

RapidSOS was formed in 2012 by a team of M.I.T., Harvard, and Stanford grad students who had personal experiences with the challenges of the existing emergency communication infrastructure. Working closely with the 9-1-1 community, tech and telecom companies, and leading investors, RapidSOS is developing technology to predict and preempt emergencies before they occur, dynamically warn people in harm's way, and ensure that first responders are one touch away globally. Learn more at www.RapidSOS.com

Contact:

Regina Jaslow

rjaslow@rapidsos.com

(347) 879-0024

About the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

Founded in 1973, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center has a mission to end sexual violence through healing and social change. BARCC provides free, confidential support and services to survivors of sexual violence ages 12 and up and their families and friends throughout Greater Boston. It works with survivors regardless of when the violence occurred, and its goal is to empower survivors to heal. BARCC also works with a wide range of organizations and communities, including schools, colleges, and police, to advocate for change. It provides training in how to respond to survivors and create cultures that prevent sexual violence in the first place.

Contact:

Jessica Atcheson

media@barcc.org

617-649-1288

###