# SELF-CARE ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

This assessment tool provides an overview of effective strategies to maintain self-care. After completing the assessment, you can move on to developing a full self-care plan.

Using the scale below, rate the following areas in terms of frequency: 5 = Frequently 4 = Occasionally 3 = Rarely 2 = Never 1 = It never occurred to me

## **Physical Self-Care**

\_\_\_ Eat regularly (e.g. breakfast, lunch and dinner)

- \_\_\_ Eat healthy
- \_\_\_ Exercise
- \_\_\_\_ Get regular medical care for prevention
- \_\_\_\_ Get medical care when needed
- \_\_\_\_ Take time off when needed
- \_\_\_ Get massages
- \_\_\_ Dance, swim, walk, run, play sports, or do some other physical activity that is fun
- \_\_\_ Take time to be sexual—with yourself, with a partner
- \_\_\_\_ Get enough sleep
- \_\_\_\_ Wear clothes you like
- \_\_\_\_ Take day trips or mini-vacations
- \_\_\_ Other:

#### **Psychological Self-Care**

- \_\_\_\_ Make time for self-reflection
- \_\_\_ Have your own personal psychotherapy
- \_\_\_ Write in a journal
- \_\_\_ Read literature that is unrelated to school
  \_\_\_ Let others know different aspects of you
- --- Notice your inner experience—listen to your thoughts, judgments, beliefs, attitudes, and feelings
- \_\_\_ Engage your intelligence in a new area, e.g.
  go to an art museum, history exhibit, sports
  event, theater performance
- \_\_\_\_ Practice receiving from others
- \_\_\_ Be curious
- \_\_\_\_ Say "no" to extra responsibilities sometimes
- \_\_\_ Other:

## **Emotional Self-Care**

- \_\_\_ Spend time with others whose company you enjoy
- \_\_\_\_ Stay in contact with important people in your life
- \_\_\_\_ Give yourself affirmations, praise yourself
- \_\_\_ Love yourself

\_\_\_\_ Re-read favorite books, re-view favorite movies

\_\_\_\_ Identify comforting activities, objects, people, relationships, places and seek them out

- \_\_\_ Allow yourself to cry
- \_\_\_ Find things that make you laugh
- \_\_\_ Express your outrage in social action, letters
- and donations, marches, protests
- \_\_\_ Play with children
- \_\_\_ Other:

#### Spiritual Self-Care

- \_\_\_\_ Make time for reflection
- \_\_\_ Spend time with nature
- \_\_\_\_ Find a spiritual connection or community
- \_\_\_\_ Be open to inspiration
- \_\_\_\_ Cherish your optimism and hope
- \_\_\_\_ Be aware of nonmaterial aspects of life
- \_\_\_\_ Try at times not to be in charge or the expert
- \_\_\_ Be open to not knowing
- \_\_\_ Identify what is meaningful to you and
- notice its place in your life
- \_\_\_ Have experiences of awe
- \_\_\_ Read inspirational literature (talks, music, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Other:

Adapted by BWell Health Promotion from: Transforming the Pain: A Workbook on Vicarious Traumatization. Saakvitne, Pearlman & Staff of TSI/CAAP (Norton, 1996)

# **DEVELOP A SELF-CARE PLAN**

1. List the self-care habits you are using now to manage stress and stay healthy: (I get at least 8 hours of sleep at night)

2. List the self-care habits you would like to use but are not currently practicing: (Practicing yoga regularly)

3. Identify the obstacles keeping you from practicing these habits: (I don't practice yoga regularly because I don't have the time to)

4.What solutions can you come up with to address the obstacles you listed: (I could free up time for myself by watching less TV or waking up earlier)

5. Reread the self-care habits you wrote down for item 2. Select one of the habits you would like to begin practicing and complete the sentences below.

Today, I commit to...

I want to do this because...

I will accomplish this by...

