



The Dawn Connection

2nd Quarter 2016

We changed lives Jan - March!

266 people were provided safe shelter!
67 of these were children!
We averaged 70.7% of capacity during the quarter!

221 people were served through
Dawn Center Outreach Services!

183 calls were answered by our
local crisis hotline!

92 people received support with navigating the legal system!

Our Mission: To break the cycle of domestic and sexual violence, by providing supportive services and leadership that promotes social change.

Our vision: A community free from violence and abuse.



WELCOME HOPE!

Hope is our new mascot. Hope will be traveling the County and furthering Dawn Center's mission. When you see her out and about take your picture with her and post to our Facebook page.

EVENTS CALENDAR

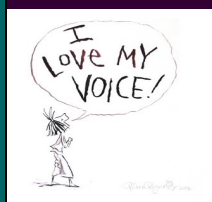
May 3rd- GIVE DAY Tampa Bay *It's not just for Tampa!* Dawn Center is participating in Give Day on May 3rd. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of a van to transport shelter residents. Go to www.giveday.com to make your donation to Dawn Center. Help us help our program participants reach their goals!



May 17th 4:30pm-6 pm- Dine and Discuss with New Vision Bayfront at Bayfront Health Brooksville. Learn and discuss the issues of substance abuse as it relates to domestic violence. Contact April Johnson to RSVP 352-592-1288

LOOK OUT----For our newly designed web site to be launching sometime in May 2016!!!!

Call (352) 684-7191 for more information on any Dawn Center event



Voices of Survivors

Volunteers play a key role in the success of our programs at Dawn Center. We are so grateful to our dedicated volunteers for all of the selfless time and effort they give to help make our programs the best they can be. Volunteers don't always get the credit or recognition they deserve (and some don't even want it), however we are proud to publicly thank our volunteers for their dedication! In honor of our wonderful volunteers, Dawn Center held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April. Lots of fun and laughs were had.



Dawn Center has many different programs in the organization that provide services to the local community.

* We are most recognized for our Emergency Shelter Program where we provide services to more than 350 survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children per year.

* Our 24-Hour Crisis Hotline is available for survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence. The hotline is staffed by certified advocates around the clock.

What this *real* participant in Dawn Center programs had to say...

A former outreach program participant thanks Dawn Center for the services we provided her. Thank you Brittney for sharing your experience with our Facebook followers. We are so happy that you received the support and advocacy that you needed!

<https://www.facebook.com/350378071725358/videos/962836833812809/>



**Know someone who needs help finding safety or healing due to intimate partner violence or sexual assault?
We are here 24 hours a day!**

**Dawn Center Hotline:
(352)686-8430**

www.dawncenter.org



Volunteer opportunities available!
If you would like to volunteer please access our [volunteer application](#) on our website or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at mhoppes@dawncenter.org or (352) 684-7191.



STAFF CORNER

We welcomed a few new team members including Shelter Advocates and an Outreach Team Leader. What a great additions to our team!



We currently have 2 Part-time Shelter Advocate positions and 1 Part-time Legal Advocate position open. For more information call 352-684-7191.

staffed by certified advocates around the clock to provide safety planning, crisis counseling, information, referrals, and support.

* Advocates in our Outreach Program assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence in a non-residential setting providing support groups and individual crisis counseling to approximately 1,000 survivors per year.

* Our Legal Advocates support survivors through the process of filing for injunctions (restraining orders), provide support and advocacy when going to court, and provide referrals to our local legal aid program for legal advice.

* Hernando County and Dawn Center is now home to a Sexual Assault Response Team. Victims of sexual assault no longer have to go to Tampa for forensic exam services. Certified examiners are available 24/7 to assist victims, even those who aren't yet ready to make a law enforcement report!

* Dawn Center provides Primary Prevention Programming to the youth in our community via schools, libraries, youth groups, and more. This helps to ensure our future generation is aware of how to have healthy relationships and other issues surrounding violence prevention. Community Awareness and Prevention programming reaches approximately 4,000 community members per year.

* Dawn Center's CPI Project builds the capacity of the child welfare system to work with survivors of domestic violence and links victims to much needed services. Using the Safe and Together framework, Dawn Center has collaborated with the Department of Children and Families, Kid's Central Inc., Children's Home Society, Hernando County Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office, and Devereux to help keep families safe.

We are always looking for volunteers in most areas of service programs. Please contact "Missy" at the Administration office (352) 684-7191 to fill out a volunteer application.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Dawn Center promotes awareness within our community to unite and educate our citizens on the dangers of domestic and sexual violence as well as the resources and services available to the community. Many educational workshops were held this quarter at Northcliffe Baptist Church, Pasco Hernando Dental Hygiene Association, Bene's Career Academy, Salon Halo, Chamber of Commerce, Nature Coast Business Professionals and many more.

Dawn Center Staff and community partners participated in the [NO More Week](#) Campaign to end domestic and sexual violence.



Executive Director Corner



April marked Sexual Assault Awareness Month and as a long-time Hernando County resident I was proud to have our Hernando County Board of County Commissioners issue a proclamation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Hernando County! When making the proclamation they affirmed that Sexual Violence in an important issue in our community and they honored the work of our local Sexual Assault Response Team for assisting survivors in their time of need. Mid-month, the Hernando County Government Center allowed Dawn Center to display the "clothesline project" comprised of T-shirts decorated by Hernando County survivors as a way to share their stories of survival with the world. At month's end, staff of the Hernando County Clerk of Court participated in "Denim Day" to raise awareness about sexual assault. I am so glad to be a part of this community where it is recognized that collaboration is the only way to end violence in our community! I am honored that county leadership is willing to stand with survivors and help us to raise awareness. To all our many community partners, thank you for what you do! Together, we can END sexual and domestic violence in our community!

Shannon Sokolowski, M.N.M.
 Executive Director
 Dawn Center of Hernando County



In the Month of February we held our annual Wine Tasting - A Chocolate Affair. It was a fabulous night of awareness. We sold hand painted wine glasses that were created during a support group by some of our shelter residents. Below are a few pictures of the event:



Dawn Center would like to thank your event sponsors:

- Life Saver Level: Lowman Law Firm
- Life Healer Level: Bright House Networks * Carter, Clandenin, & Foreman * Vans, Cars, and Trucks * West Coast Musculoskeletal Institute
- Life Changer Level: Bayfront Health Brooksville & Spring Hill * Centennial Bank * Davis Family Hearing * Flammer Ford Spring Hill * Global Pest Control * Marker 48 * Oak Hill Hospital

A Misson to Prevent Violence Starting with Our Youth

Dawn Center focuses efforts in our community to educate and create awareness amongst youth via schools, churches, and community events. The students of PHSC Spring Hill Campus held a suicide awareness event and created chalk art. Recent statistics show that sexual violence on college campuses is at a record high and in some cases suicidal feelings are among the after effects of sexual assault.





Dawn Center continued the weekly youth support groups at F.W. Springstead High school to educate and support students regarding Teen Dating Violence.

Advocates also work closely with the students at Hernando High, Central High, Endeavor Academy, New Beginnings Youth Shelter, and Gulf Coast Middle School providing primary prevention education and youth support.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE FROM DAWN CENTER TO SPEAK OR HAVE A TABLE AT YOUR UPCOMING EVENT PLEASE CONTACT APRIL JOHNSON AT 352-592-1288

A THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Thank you so much to the Wellington Thursday Golf League for choosing Dawn Center as their charity this year. They donated supplies as well as a check! We appreciate your continued support!



Thank you to Brookridge Ladies 18 and 9 Hole Golf Leagues for choosing Dawn Center as the charity for their golf tournament this year! They donated cleaning supplies, food, toiletries and presented a check as well.

Thank you to countless community partners who helped bring a happy Valentine's Day and Easter to our shelter and outreach participants. Your generosity always melts our hearts and brings joy to the families we serve.

We want to recognize our community partners that are part of the [Food Donation Connection](#). These organizations support Dawn Center by providing food for our shelter participants. We encourage you to support them when making your dinner plans.

[Carrabba's](#), [Bonefish Grill](#), [Wawa](#) and [Bob Evans](#)

Dawn Center is proud to be a partner agency of United Way of Hernando County. Many of our programs wouldn't be possible without their support!

Click on the link below for a message from



IN THE MEDIA

Jennifer Lopez Moved To Tears After 'Idol' Contestant Opens Up About Abusive Relationship

Jennifer Lopez broke down in tears after watching "American Idol" contestant La'Porsha Renae's emotional performance of "No More Drama."

Prior to performing the Mary J. Blige hit, the 25-year-old contestant opened up about surviving an abusive relationship in a pre-taped segment for the show. After she finished singing the song, Renae — and Lopez — were both in tears.

"It takes a lot to overcome. It takes a lot to overcome, it takes a lot of strength to overcome those things in your life," Lopez said.

The singer was clearly moved by Renae's performance and struggled to speak as tears rolled down her face. "Baby, I know, everybody knows, we've all been through stuff like that. You know what I mean? And honestly, you're an inspiration," Lopez said.

Read more or to watch the clip click [here](#).

24 Hour Hotline: (352) 686-8430

Outreach Program: (352) 592-1288

Legal Program: (352) 540-6222

Administration: (352) 684-7191

Mail: P.O. Box 6179, Spring Hill, FL 34611

Email: info@dawncenter.org

Web: www.dawncenter.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dawn-Center-of-Hernando-County-FL/350378071725358>

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