

May 2014

## The Dawn Connection

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

## We changed lives in April!

61 people were provided safe shelter!

26 of these were children!

We ended the month at 100% of capacity!

48 people were served through Dawn Center Outreach Services!

55 calls were answered by our local crisis hotline!

52 people received support with navigating the legal system!

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**June 14th** - Join us at the Brooksville Moose Lodge on Wiscon Rd. for a family friendly barbeque and raffle! Tickets now available for just \$7.50/ages 14+ or \$4/ages 6-14. Children under 6 are free! Call Dawn Center Administrative office at 352-684-7191 for tickets. Come on out and support Dawn Center while enjoying a relaxing day of family fun!

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



Dear Friends,

I am so proud to share with you that Dawn Center enjoyed a beautiful first annual Power of Purple breakfast event on May 8, 2014! Nearly 50 attendees joined us at the beautiful Silverthorn Country Club to hear about the exciting work we are doing here at Dawn Center on behalf of survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Marcy, a former shelter resident turned medical foster mom, took the podium and shared her beautiful story! Ten years ago Marcy found herself in the position that she and her young daughter needed help. They turned to Dawn Center's emergency shelter for safety and assistance in getting back on her feet. She and her daughter both shared their sentiments that the help they received at Dawn Center started them on a path that lead to their new lives. Marcy has since opened her home to foster children with major emotional and medical needs while her daughter is now a college student at the University of Central Florida. The themes of the morning were we all have something to give and we don't always know the true positive impact we have on each other's lives. We also took time to mourn the loss of 5 members of our community whose lives were taken by domestic violence last year (as signified by the memorial picture featured here). The generous support offered by event sponsors and attendees alike will help Dawn Center continue to provide vital and life saving services in our community in the year to come. We hope to see you next May at our second Power of Purple event!



**Special Thanks to the Power of Purple Event Supporters**

**Benefactors**

Rotary Club of Brooksville  
Silverthorn Country Club

**Supporters**

Germann and Germann, P.A.  
Junior Service League  
Tantalizing Tablescapes and Decor

## Voices of Survivors

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

*"I want to thank everyone at Dawn Center for being there for me. They are very special to me and hold a special place."*

*"All the staff was very nice."*



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](http://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](mailto:mhoppes@dawncenter.org) or (352) 684-7191.

## Friends

RE/Max Marketing Specialists  
Hernando Sportsman's Club

Thanks also to all attendees and those who gave a personal gift at the event!

***This former shelter resident wanted to make sure we knew how Dawn Center impacted her life! What a beautiful way to impact our lives in return!***

April 30, 2014



My name is Serena O'Connor. I have two daughters, Kimberly, 14 and Brittney, 1. I am a survivor of domestic violence. My husband started abusing me in 2013, once my youngest daughter was born. I love my two beautiful daughters so much that I decided to contact Dawn Center to keep me and my girls safe and to regain my life.

I arrived at Dawn Center in February with my special and loving daughters. I was afraid and concerned for their safety. Words would never describe the love and the passion I have for my daughters. I didn't know Dawn Center would be there for us the way they have from day one.

Since I have lived at Dawn Center, I have grown and learned so much as a woman. I learned to accept myself and to love myself again. I have learned to be patient, understanding, and I have improved on my communication skills and how to control my emotions. Most of all, never love a man more than your kids. I want my daughters to see that their mother has made them a priority in her life. I have also realized my dream to take control of my business again. I am the founder and CEO of O'Connor Cupcakes. I have a passion for baking and when I did not receive the love at home, I would put my passion and desire into my baking.

I will never forget Dawn Center. Through them, I was able to regain my company, close deals, and build my

network profile. So many amazing things have happened to me while living at Dawn Center. I will never forget them, they hold a big place in my heart. To all of the staff, I thank you all for everything. The Dawn Center will have their own booth at O'Connor Cupcakes!



\*Names changed to protect the identity of the survivor\*


### **Happy Mother's Day!**

Dawn Center would like to express our appreciation to mothers everywhere for all they do to shape our world this and every day!



Thank you to our April 2014 supporters!

Carolyn Allard	American Legion Post 186	Bayfront Health Systems Brooksville
Janice Beamer	Mrs. Roger Bebo	Nancy Bender
Gerald Burton	Dr Amy Capoocia ( Board Member)	Care One Primary Care, Inc
Christ Lutheran Church Mary Martha Guild	Gail Cleaves	Diane Corchado
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First United Methodist Church	Forest Oaks Lutheran Church	Gaya Jyoti Yoga and Fitness Center
Germann & Germann P.A.	Girl Scouts	Grace World Outreach Church
Charles Haig	Halliday, Bomhoff, and Karatinos, P.L.	Jeff Hawley

Hernando Animal Hospital	Hernando Oaks	Hernando Sportsman Club
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St Joan of Arc Catholic Church	St Andrew's Episcopal Church	St Frances Knights Assembly 3022
John Stout	Kathy Todd	Weekie Wachee Swamp Fest
Cheryl Williams	Helen Wintersgill	Andrew Witherell (Board Member)

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](mailto:info@dawncenter.org)  
 Web: [www.dawncenter.org](http://www.dawncenter.org)  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dawn-Center-of-Hernando-County-FL/350378071725358>

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