



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.

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

Upcoming Events

July 8th 7pm- Friday Night Done Right at the YMCA

August 4th 6pm- at Papa Joe's restaurant benefiting Dawn Center. Enjoy a 5 course meal with wine pairing. Tickets available at the office 352-684-7191.



Have you seen HOPE?
Hope is our new mascot. Hope has been traveling the county furthering Dawn Center's mission.

Check out our newly design web page at www.dawncenter.org

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 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.



Thank you to Keller Williams Realty for choosing Dawn Center as your Red Day Charity! Their staff did so much to improve our shelter and grounds. They power washed, mulched, painted and planted flowers around the light pole, trimmed trees and hedges, repaired and stained our ramps, revitalized our memorial garden, painted interior rooms, repaired furniture, recovered the bench seating around our kitchen table, provided haircuts for our residents, installed ceiling fans, and so much more! Words can't begin to describe how thankful we are for all you did. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!!!!!!



A big "thank you" to the students from Hernando Christian Academy for volunteering to help at our shelter. You truly made a difference for our survivors.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Dawn Center promotes awareness within our community to unite and educate our citizens on the dangers of domestic violence.

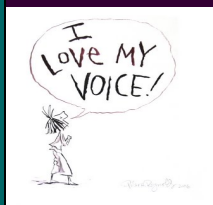
September 17th- The Moose Lodge of Brooksville will be hosting a BBQ benefit for Dawn Center.

September 22nd- Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce Residents Reception at Weeki Wachee Park. Join Dawn Center and many other Hernando County businesses and charities for a night of introduction to some of Hernando's best.

October 6th 7pm- Candlelight Vigil at Pine Island Park. Share your stories of survival and join us for a candlelight walk in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

October 8th 6pm- Dash for Dawn Center 5k Take Back the Night run at Tom Varn Park.

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



Voices of Survivors

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

" I love animals and I rescued a puppy just a few months ago and could tell it was time to leave my abusive situation when my dog was cowering and peeing on himself every time my abuser came home. I found marks on the dog's nose and knew he was being abused. We left our home and slept in the car for two nights until I found Dawn Center. I wasn't going to enter any shelter where I couldn't bring him. My dog literally licked the tears from my face those nights in the car and since arriving at Dawn Center he is a different dog. He is happy, running and playing with me and the other residents. The kids are enjoying it too. When people like me are in abusive relationships, leaving a pet behind is like leaving a child behind and many survivors would never do it. I had another dog in the past that went "missing" and I fear I know what happened

to it...never again. I am so glad I have found Dawn Center and am thankful for the shelter, for the women, children, and the kennel for our beloved pets."

Dawn Center promotes awareness within our community to unite and educate our citizens on the dangers of domestic violence and sexual violence as well as the resources available within the community. Educational workshops and presentations were held this quarter at the LSF Mental Health Summit, Hernando County Health and Human Services, Rotar Brooksville, Bayfront Brooksville Hospital, Deltona Elementary School STEAM program, Chamber of Commerce, Hernando Coast Business Professionals, and many more!

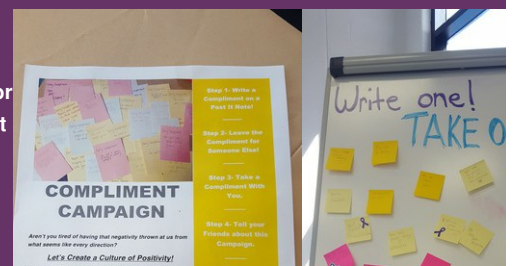


On April 27th along with Dawn Center, the employees of the Hernando County Clerk's Office, USA Benefits Group, Family Chiropractic, showed their support towards survivors of sexual violence by participating in the national "Denim Day" campaign. Denim Day is a campaign to prevent sexual violence through education and public awareness.

Why denim? Denim Day was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape convict overturned because the Justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Denim Day was developed in response to this case and wearing jeans this annual event has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual violence. Women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans to work. As news of the decision spread the protest. In April 1999, a social service agency in Los Angeles established the first Denim Day in the United States and there have been annual campaigns nationally since then.

A Mission 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. Look for our display and Table at the upcoming Friday Night Done Right at the YMCA and at the National Night Out event October 1st at Target.





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 currently have 2 Part-time Shelter Advocate positions and 1 Full-time Legal Advocate position available. For more information call 352-684-7191 or send resume and cover letter to info@dawncenter.org.

Dawn Center continued the weekly youth support groups through the end of the school year at F.W. Springstead High school to educate and support students regarding Teen Dating Violence. The students participated in a Kindness Campaign at lunch and the students gave each other and staff compliments to bring smiles to each other's face and create a positive environment in the school.



Advocates have been providing summer support and education to the residents at the New Beginnings Shelter. The youth were actively engaged in activities and conversation regarding characteristics of healthy relationships, defining violence, trusting your instincts, and more.

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

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 you plan 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 would not be possible without their support!

Click on the link below for a message from



IN THE MEDIA

Twenty Minutes of Rape

In March of 2016, 20-year-old Brock Turner was convicted of three felony counts: sexually penetrating an unconscious person with a foreign object; sexually penetrating an intoxicated person with a foreign object; and assault with a dangerous weapon to commit rape.

Despite the finding of guilt and the brutal details of the crime—which involved a college party, an incapacitated unconscious victim, and bystanders intervening when they discovered the victim behind a dumpster not far from the crime scene—Judge Aaron Perksy decided to impose a sentence of only six months. This sentence was far less than the sentence recommended by prosecutors, and only one-quarter of the normal two-year minimum sentence. Perksy avoided the minimum sentence by finding that “unusual circumstances” existed.

[Dawn Center staff and supporters signed the petition in outrage against the reduced punishment.](#)

Supreme Court Affirms That Even ‘Reckless’ Domestic Abusers Should Lose Gun Rights

The Supreme Court ruled in a decision announced Monday that a domestic violence assault committed “recklessly” qualifies as a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, and therefore triggers the federal ban on gun ownership.

“A person who assaults another recklessly ‘use[s]’ force, no less than one who carries out that same assault knowingly or intentionally,” wrote Justice Elena Kagan, who authored the majority opinion. She was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts, as well as Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Samuel Alito. [See full story here](#)

24 Hour Hotline: (352) 686-8430
Outreach Program: (352) 592-1288
Legal Advocacy Program: (352) 540-6222

Food partner:



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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