



The Dawn Connection

1st Quarter 2016



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.

We changed lives Oct- Dec!

218 people were provided safe shelter!
 101 of these were children!
 We ended the month at 100% of capacity!

152 people were served through Dawn Center Outreach Services!

216 calls were answered by our local crisis hotline!

179 people received support with navigating the legal system!

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 a few volunteers for their dedication.



Volunteers of the Year

KAREN NICOLAI
Nominated by the Dawn Center of Hernando County



Karen Nicolai retired after more than twenty years of service as Hernando County's Clerk of Court. The two priorities Karen seemingly had going into her retirement were travel and volunteerism. Immediately after retiring she took a long awaited trip to France and then promptly rejoined the Board of Directors at Dawn Center of Hernando County. Since Karen is a Certified Public Accountant she quickly took over the Treasurer position and launched active Finance and Audit Committees. Soon, other talented financial minds were coming together to assist the agency in rewriting policies and created organizational systems that gave the organization a strong business framework for daily operations. Karen has done so much more than Board service, having spent countless hours over the past year making spreadsheets, entering figures, and assisting in inventory.

Beyond utilizing her highly specialized skills to benefit Dawn Center's organizational structure, she has also been active on nearly every committee helping with special events and spreading awareness in the community about the many services Dawn Center offers free of charge to our community! Over the past year she has also personally donated her time, talents, resources, and dollars to support Dawn Center in endeavors such as engaging fellow members of the Brooksville Rotary to build a new playground for more than 150 children who reside at Dawn Center's emergency shelter each year and to help bring animal kennels onsite at the emergency shelter so that victims don't have to make the heart wrenching choice to leave their pets behind when they flee their violent homes.

As much dedication as Karen has shown for Dawn Center of Hernando County, she still has time to be extremely active in her volunteerism with other non-profit organizations as well. Karen serves in leadership roles for the Hernando Bayfront Hospital Board, Hernando Healthcare Foundation, the Children's Advocacy Center, and Brooksville Rotary.

February 4th- Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser for Dawn Center to be held at the beautiful Saxon Manor "Shabby Chic" Barn. Tickets on sale for \$30/person or \$50 per couple. Sponsorship opportunities still available! Contact our administrative office at 352-684-7191 for tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

February 27th- Walk and Roll 5k Disability Walk. At West Hernando Middle School. Dawn Center will have a table at event.

February (Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month) TBD Activity at Springstead High School.

March 18th & 19th- Sun West Mines Crab and Shrimp Festival- Come out and support Dawn Center at the beverage tent.

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

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 approximately 350 survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children per year.
- * Advocates in our Outreach Program assist survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in a non-residential setting and provide support groups and individual crisis-counseling to approximately 1,000 people per year.
- * Our Legal Advocates support survivors through the





Voices of Survivors

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

A Poem By A Survivor:

The things I've seen, At My Age, My Minds a Crime Scene, Trapped in a cage.

The things I've been through, thinking this must be hell, Each day he'd come unglued, No matter what I did, I was never good enough.

Is this really LOVE?

I remember when he'd come home so livid, and it begins again, my nightmares are so vivid, screaming at the top of my lungs, I WANT THIS TO END.

I am too damn young, I was always outspoken, until I was abused, I was broken.

Even beaten and bruised, pushed to my limits, never thought I'd live, Fill my mind with lyrics, But now, there's nothing I'd give, Nothing I'd change. Because the past is the past, this may sound strange, I'm glad it didn't last.

It made me who I am today, and without that, I never would have stayed, I'll give you one fact, Now that I'm brave.

Always been a dreamer, no longer trapped in a cave, now I'm a believer, I'm a writer and a fighter, The trauma made me stronger, and that makes me a survivor.



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

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.

* 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.

* 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.

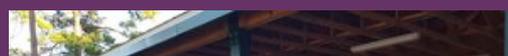
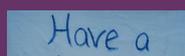
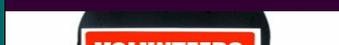
* Hernando County and Dawn Center is now home to a Sexual Assault Response Team and victims of Rape/ Sexual Assault no longer have to go to Tampa for forensic exam services. Certified examiners are available 24-7 to assist victims, even those who don't choose to make a law enforcement report!

* 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.

We are always looking for volunteers in most areas of service programs. Please contact "Missy" at the Administration office (352) 685-7191 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. In the Month of October we held a Dash for Dawn 5k Run at Tom Varn Park in Brooksville to promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We "took back the night" with an evening run for adults and children. It was a successful night and our Clothesline Project was displayed. The Clothesline Project is an ongoing art project that allows survivors and families to create their own T-shirts that give a voice to the struggles they have had in regards to domestic and/or sexual violence in their own lives. Below are a few pictures of the event:





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 welcome a few new team members to include a Shelter Team Leader, a new full time Outreach Advocate, and a few new part-time Shelter Advocates. What a great addition to our team!

Executive Director Corner

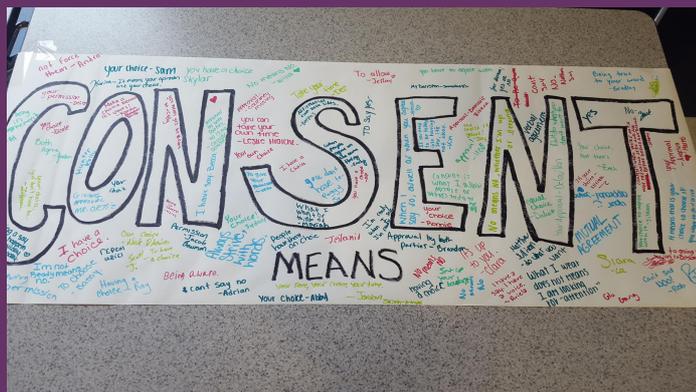


As we say "good-bye" to 2015 and "hello" to 2016 I am reminded of the saying "out with the old, and in with the new." For some, it is wonderful to be able to start over or begin anew. At other times, however, it is bittersweet that a new era has begun because the era that has passed still has its own grandeur in many ways. On January 4, 2016 Florida's Domestic Violence Movement said a bittersweet good-bye to an unparalleled advocate and her name was Linda Osmundson. A domestic violence survivor herself, Linda went on to have a 40 year career in the domestic violence movement. She spent the last 24 years as the Executive Director of CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse), a certified domestic violence center in St. Petersburg. Her commitment to Empowerment Based Advocacy has led to recognized best practices around the State of Florida and the entire country. She was a mentor to many new Executive Directors around the state, myself included. I am proud to call her a colleague and friend. Under her leadership, CASA recently opened a 100-bed shelter in downtown St. Petersburg (tripling their previous capacity). She was smart, passionate



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. The students of F.W. Springstead High School created an awareness poster on what CONSENT means to them during a lunch room project to promote the Teen Dating Violence support group offered weekly to students on their campus. The students discussed how important it is to create boundaries and how to communicate those boundaries to others. Recent statistics show that Sexual Violence on college campuses is at a record high, but by engaging our high school students in the discussion we create a necessary awareness in their peer groups before moving on to colleges and universities.



Gulfcoast Middle School and Academy participated in a "Pay It Forward Project" with its student body. The students were required to prepare and implement a project that either raised money or provided volunteer time to a local charity. Dawn Center was fortunate enough to have almost 15 students select us for the project! Student projects included a golf tournament, car washes, garage sales, collection drives, and making ribbons to sell at events for Domestic Violence Awareness. The students worked so hard on their projects and reached out to our local community for support. We are so very proud of their efforts.

Thank you, Gulfcoast Schools!



capacity). She was smart, passionate, compassionate, a leader, and first and foremost an advocate. She will be sorely missed.



In Loving Memory of
Linda Osmundson



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



Members of the Hernando La Sertoma Chapter showed their support of Dawn Center with a gift card donation to help fund our many programs.



Thank you to Business and Professional Women of Hernando County (BPW) for doing their part in creating social change in Hernando County! Members donated countless toiletries and household items to benefit the women and children residing at our shelter. Thank you BPW for being part of the solution!



Thank you to countless community partners who helped bring a Safe and Merry Christmas to our Shelter Residents and Outreach Participants. We provided holiday food and gifts to 79 individuals this holiday season who would not have otherwise been able to celebrate. 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](#), 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**13 Portraits Show Domestic Violence Survivors Will Not Be Defined By Their Abuse**

Created by artist Chantal Barlow, the Unconventional Apology Project features 13 portraits of domestic violence survivors or women who know someone who has experienced some form of abuse. Instead of shooting somber portraits of victims, Barlow took photos of survivors laughing and smiling to show that these women will not be defined by their abuse.

"My focus was to communicate the humanness of survivors to the world."



Click on the link for full story http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/13-portraits-show-domestic-violence-survivors-will-not-be-defined-by-their-abuse_566f06ade4b0e292150ea1e1

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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