



1st Quarter: January-March 2015



The Dawn Connection

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!

From October-December we impacted our community:

149 people were provided safe shelter!

32 of these were **children!**

We averaged **81% of capacity** during the quarter!

164 people were served through Dawn Center Outreach Services!

186 calls were answered by our local crisis hotline!

105 people received support with navigating the legal system!



February - Join us at The Lake House for our annual "A Chocolate Affair" **Wine Tasting and Silent Auction** fundraiser to be held on February 5, 2014. Tickets for this special night are \$30 per person, \$50 per couple. Call Dawn Center Administrative Office at 352-684-7191 for tickets and details. See you there!!

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



Dear Friends,

We are launching our first quarterly newsletter. You will still be able to keep up on exciting events that happen monthly, as we will be sending out news flashes with events to remember as the year moves forward. As we wrap up the end of 2014 and we are welcoming 2015, we are excited about what the new year will bring.



The Staggering Statistics of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten.

1 in every 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused during her lifetime. Most often the abuser is a family member.

Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.

Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend threatened violence or self harm if presented with a break up.

Every day in the US, more than 3 women are murdered by their husband, boyfriend or domestic partner.

Domestic violence victims lose nearly 8 million days of paid work per year in the US alone- the equivalent of 32,000 full time jobs.

The cost of intimate partner violence in the US alone exceeds \$5.8 billion per year. \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.

The ladies wanted to share their thankful letters that they wrote on Thanksgiving Day. What a beautiful way to capture the holiday!

Voices of Survivors

What these *real* participants in Dawn Center programs had to say...

"I feel 100% healed. Tremendous amount of support all around."

"I am so grateful for all of you and all the resources available."

"I have received nothing but the best with all of the advocates. They really went above and beyond to help me. I can never thank them enough!"

"You guys are amazing. I give you all my respect. If I were to rate you 1-10, I would say 1,000!!"



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:
mhoppes@dawncenter.org or
(352) 684-7191.

Pay It Forward Project was a
Huge Success!!!

Gulf Coast Middle school students under the direction of Ms



I'm thankful for
be thankful for
the birds and the bees
remind myself on a
the snow and the shore
myself grounded.

the wind in the trees
I'm thankful for the ducks,
and the bears in the den

I'm thankful to be a warrior
I'm thankful to be breathing
Even though I'm not wealthy
thankful I found freedom

I'm still healing
fear and misery

I'm thankful for being healthy
life

Today I am smiling
because I'm thankful to be alive
And finally flying
....T

I have many things to
year, and I need to
daily basis to keep

I am thankful for:
1) the sunshine
2) Gods love
3) People who care
4) New friends
5) Having choices

Most of all I am

No longer do I live in

I am starting my new

No longer a victim
Now just ME!!!!
.....WC

From the Desk of Our Executive Director:

I am both overjoyed and overwhelmed at the fabulous work our team is doing here at Dawn Center! Being out in the community in the last week alone I had two different women in two different places tell me these same words, "Dawn Center saved my life." Of course I see the immediate impact our team has on callers who reach out through our crisis hotline or mothers who flee with their children to the safety of our shelter, but to see these vibrant, successful women making contributions to our community fills my heart with even more joy and pride. I am so glad that we could help them take their next step and I am thankful to the community support that makes it possible for us to change the lives we change every day. From all of us here at Dawn Center, I offer our sincere thank you and joyful wishes for a wonderful new year!

Sincerely,
Shannon Sokolowski, MNM

McCabe were challenged to design and implement a Pay It Forward Project for their community service projects. The project had to build on a charitable theme and required each student to create a proposal for their chosen charity. Once the student projects were approved, they began to support their chosen charities. We at Dawn Center were very happy to be chosen by 14 students, who raised over \$7,000 in donations! We are very grateful for their vision and hard work..



The 'Art' Of Healing...

Dawn Center has begun working with April Jenkins with Drinkable Arts.

April comes to the center once a month, and provides free painting classes for our participants. Currently we are working on creating beautifully designed wine glasses for our annual wine tasting event in February! You will be able to purchase a one of a kind hand decorated wine glass at the cost of only \$5 on event day.

Proceeds will go toward the support of our participants at Dawn Center.



We have recently partnered with Food Connections and are excited to begin a new partnership with Outback Steakhouse on US 19 and the new Bob Evans opening on Commercial Way/US 50. These organizations are providing support for our food needs at the center.

At full capacity we serve 5,040 meals a month. This includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and healthy snacks for our children who stay with us.

If you are looking for a great place to dine that supports Dawn Center, please add these two organizations to your plans! Let them know that you are dining with them because they are a community conscious establishment.

Taking Action Against Domestic Violence

Shannon Sokolowski and Barbara Renczowski are pictured below at the 6th Annual *Taking Action Against Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign* hosted by ABC Action News.

This year the campaign hosted a telethon for 10 domestic violence centers, including the Dawn Center. At the heart of the campaign was the **Florida DV hotline: 1-800-500-1119**. It serves as a 'lifeline' to victims, connecting callers to the domestic violence centers nearest to them. Operators are standing by to help 24/7, and trained and equipped to help callers with everything from a safety plan to a save haven.



Also new is the "GET 2 ZERO" campaign! This is a fundraising effort spanning across all ABC Action News media platforms. "GET 2 ZERO" is a partnership with Orange Theory to benefit local domestic violence centers including Dawn Center.

You can donate online anytime by clicking the "GET 2 ZERO" donate button just below to the left. The link will take you to the donation site.

Click on **Dawn Center** for your donation!



We are now partnered with *Good Search* and *Good Shop*!

Now you can feel good about your computer searches and online shopping. Good shop provides coupons for thousands of stores like Target, Apple, Amazon, and Petco. A percentage of virtually every purchase is donated to our cause! Plus with the Good Shop app for iPhone, you can give on the go. And if you change your search browser to Good Search we receive a penny for every



Proud to be a United Way funded agency!

search you make on this site. (Easily change your web browser by searching 'How do I choose my homepage, choose the directions with the info provided for the browser you have currently.) The pennies from your searches really add up! Help without doing anything but searching the web like you already do everyday. Currently, Dawn Center has raised \$65.93. With your support to Good Shop and Good Search, we can triple this amount in just a few months.

Another great way to support Dawn Center while virtually shopping is using Amazon Smiles. When you log into your Amazon account you can choose Dawn Center as your Amazon Smiles recipient. Please go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> to sign up for this great program. For every purchase you make, Dawn Center will receive support.

Help share a smile with Dawn Center.



We want to thank all of the supporters who have helped Dawn Center with donations of food, clothing, personal/hygiene items and holiday cheer throughout the year! We continue to have a drop off location for your gently used items at Compass Storage, located at 10161 County Line Road, Spring Hill, Florida. If you have questions about dropping off items please contact Missy in our administration office at 352-684-7191.

We are very blessed to have had donations from the Women's Club of Brooksville. They have for many years provided homemade stuffed animals that we at Dawn Center love to hand out to our participants. The Women's Club believes children are very precious and need lots of love and care. There are times when something to hug gives comfort. The animals do just that. Jeff and Marissa from Sand Trap Bar and Grill provide us with fresh produce throughout the year, along with yummy meals for our family to enjoy on special occasions. The volunteer staff at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church located at 5030 Mariner Blvd., under the watchful eye of chef Jeff, provide us with meals on special occasions as well.

Finally, pictured at the bottom are the ladies of the Tuesday Morning Quilt Club who meet at the Knights of Columbus on Spring Hill Drive. They are small group of dedicated women who enjoy quilting and are so kind as to share their creations with our ladies here at Dawn Center. We will continue throughout the year to share pictures and stories from our great supporters!!





October was **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. Dawn Center joined together with the **Hernando County Sheriffs Office** to host the *Annual Domestic Violence Chinese Lantern Release* at Pine Island Beach. The evening was highlighted by the release of several Chinese Lanterns. The event was culminated by a candlelight walk to remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. The breezy sunset was no match for the survivors and community as they sent the lanterns into the air. Working as a team, each lantern floated softly into the night sky.



A big Thank You! to TERLEP CHIROPRACTOR who came to our administration office to provide relaxing massages for our staff. We were excited to have a great organization providing this valuable service for us.

Jimmy McKittrick Terlep, Patient Representative will also be supporting Dawn Center during their Tuesday Ladies night event. Look for us there very SOON. They are located at 8466 Northcliffe Blvd. Spring Hill, Florida.



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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