

Victim Service Center of Central Florida Newsletter

April 2016

Newsletter

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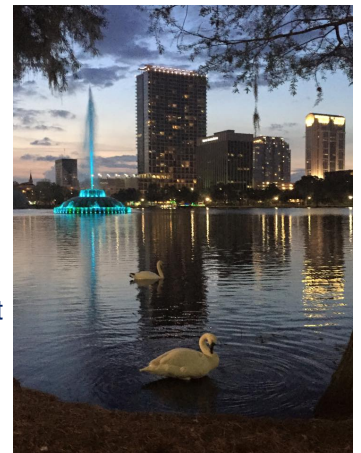
Bridget Keefe

A Message from Lui

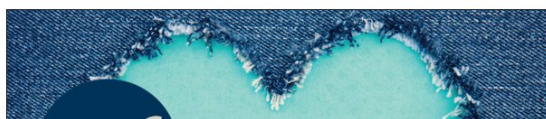


Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is in full swing! We kicked off the month with Cheers to Change, our Annual Gala, and had close to 400 attendees! We were so pleased to have so many community leaders and supporters come together to raise funds to support victims right here in Central Florida. Our MC's Scott Maxwell and Ybeth Bruzual did a wonderful job throughout the evening. Our guests enjoyed food, drinks, art and live entertainment, all for a great cause. Be sure to Save the Date, April 7, 2017, for Cheers to Change next year!

As you may know, teal is the universal color for sexual assault awareness. To wrap up the month, on April 27th we have asked Cities, Counties and businesses to light their fountains, parks and buildings in the color teal. That evening, Central Florida is turning TEAL in a big way! As you are out and about, be sure to stop by Central Florida's landmarks including the Lake Eola Fountain, the Orlando Eye, Amway Center Spire, all 5 Public Art Displays in the City of Orlando, the Orlando City Hall Tower of Light, Valencia College, and the Ruby Plaza at Kissimmee Lakefront Park, to name a few. Take a picture and post with the hashtag [#SAAM2016](#) or [#DenimDay2016](#). [Read More](#)



Denim Day- April 27th, 2016



With over 25 companies already participating, join in to support victims of sexual violence!

Commissioner Scott Boyd
Susan Fortini
Karol Lucken, PhD
Kelly Trace
Laura Owens
LeeAnne Feagan
Captain Al Rollins

VSC Founder
Mary I. Johnson

Men's Support Group

VSC is offering a safe, confidential space for men to connect with other male survivors. The group will be facilitated by a Master's level advocate to ensure therapeutic safety, provide empathic support, and maintain respect for all attendees. No matter where you are in your healing journey, you deserve to connect with other people who "get it."

If you are interested in learning more information please do not hesitate to contact us at (407) 254-9415.

Wish List

Gift Cards in \$5-\$10 increments
T-Shirts (Large and XL)
Elastic Waist Pants in all sizes
Sports Bras
Office Supplies
Bus Passes

[Please Click here to view our Online Registry!](#)



2016 Victim Service Center of Central Florida

Denim Day

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we encourage our community to wear jeans on Wednesday, April 27th to raise awareness about sexual assault and show support for victims.

Help support victims of sexual violence in our community!

Victim Service Center
2111 East Michigan Street, Suite 210
Orlando, Florida 32806
www.VictimServiceCenter.org

VSC
VICTIM SERVICE CENTER OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

To honor Denim Day and victims of sexual violence, wear jeans to work or school on April 27th to promote discussion of the misconceptions that surround sexual violence. We encourage organizations and businesses in Central Florida to collect donations from staff who participate to benefit the victims we serve.

On Denim Day, take a group photo of participating employees and email us to share on social media. Use the hashtag #DenimDay2016.

To request Denim Day stickers or if you would like additional information, please [email us!](#)

Sexual Violence Response Team



SVRT Press Conference

The Orlando Police Department has developed the Special Victims Response Team (SVRT) comprised of specially trained volunteer sworn officers who will be first responders to incidents involving sex crimes and child sexual and physical abuse. The advantage of having the SVRT is to have specially trained officers/first responders who have specialized

skills on how to deal with victims of sexual assault. Over 30 volunteers were selected for the team.

Team Members will have to attend mandatory training, which will consist of the 40 hour Sex Crimes Investigations Course at the Central Florida Criminal Justice Institute, an initial 8 hours team training that will cover topics such as; "Start by Believing" approach, Neurobiological Aspects of Trauma, our standard protocol for sexual assault, preservation of crime scene and collection of evidence. VSC will also present a portion of this training. It is our hope that this type of first responder training will become a trend for other law enforcement agencies in the future.

Emily's Story

A true story that recently happened in our community:


"Emily, a 20 year old living in Central Florida, was alone at a local laundromat finishing her laundry early one morning when suddenly a man with a gun



Quick Links

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appeared. Emily had been to this laundromat dozens of times before but had never thought her life could be in danger. She never imagined her worst nightmare could actually come true. He stuck the gun in her face, threatened her and forced her at gunpoint out the back door of the building into a dark area out of sight. Next, he sexually assaulted her, threw her into a nearby dumpster and attempted to kill her by shooting her. Despite being shot and traumatized, Emily miraculously was able to find the strength to climb from the dumpster and run for her life. As she fled for safety, her assailant shot her a second time.



Shortly thereafter, our 24/7 Crisis Helpline rang and a Law Enforcement Detective was on the other end of the line requesting our help. On this particular morning, Ambia, one of our six crisis intervention Victim Advocates, answered the call and immediately responded to the hospital where Emily had been taken. Simultaneously, Joan, one of our team of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) was also dispatched. They both arrived within an hour of being called and were briefed by Detectives about Emily's case. [Read More](#)

Orlando Police Department Chili Cookoff

A big thank you to Corporal Roy Filippucci and the Orlando Police for sponsoring a Chili Cook Off to benefit VSC! On May 21, 2016, Corporal Roy Filippucci will be running in this years "Keys 100 Ultra-Marathon" in the Florida Keys. They raised \$2,461 and also held a donation drive for items on our wish list. Thank you for supporting victims in our community!



Chief Mina, OPD, and the VSC Team at the Chili Cookoff

Mark Your Calendars

[Lunch & Learn](#)

Wednesday - April 27, 2016

12:00pm - 1:00pm

RSVP by calling (407) 254-9415 or e-mail [Rhonda Wilson](mailto:Rhonda.Wilson).

Held the Last Wednesday of Every Month

By attending our Lunch and Learn, you will learn about our history, mission, services, goals, and ways to get involved. To attend our Monthly Lunch & Learn, you must RSVP. Space is limited and lunch will be provided.

Victim Service Center of Central Florida

Contact Information

Hours: Monday - Friday (8AM-5PM) | Office: (407) 254-9415

2111 E Michigan St, Suite 210

Orlando, Florida 32806

24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: (407) 497-6701

www.VictimServiceCenter.org

