



Dawn Center

Domestic & Sexual Violence Services of Hernando County

We changed lives in March!

56 people were provided safe shelter! **19** of these were children!

50 people were served through Dawn Center Outreach Services!

52 calls were answered by our local crisis hotline!

41 people received support with navigating the legal system!

196 people attended education and awareness presentations offered by Dawn Center in the community!



Tickets now available for Papa Joe's Gourmet Food and Wine pairing! Proceeds benefit Dawn Center and the Loving Food Scholarship Fund. The event also signals the kick off of the Florida Blueberry Festival!

Date: May 1, 2013 at 5:30pm **Location:** Papa Joe's Italian

Restaurant

Tickets: \$75 available at the Florida Blueberry Office 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville

(352) 754-4173

Checks: Made payable to "Papa Joe's"

Only a limited number of tickets will be sold, so hurry to get your ticket today!



April 2013

The Dawn Connection

On a mission to end the cycle of family violence, abuse, and sexual assault - where home is a safe place.

April is....



The month of April has been designated Sexual

Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

By working together and pooling our resources during the month of April, we can highlight sexual violence as a major public health, human rights and social justice issue and reinforce the need for prevention efforts.

Join Dawn Center in recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness month! Visit our Facebook page throughout the month of April for daily posts. Find us by searching "Dawn Center of Hernando County." Join the discussion, join us in the solution!



It's Just Not Fair...Why do I have to go through all of this when I am the victim?

With over 24 hours without sleep, Janice came into the courthouse with her teenage daughter who was raped by a young adult male neighborhood friend the night before. Janice was recommended by law enforcement to file a sexual violence order of protection at the courthouse to help protect her daughter while they worked on the criminal court case. She was told this in the middle of the night while she held her daughter's hand during a forensic sexual assault exam.

After Janice and her daughter had already filed a plethora of paperwork, made their statement to law enforcement, and stayed up all night for the exam it was evident that Janice and her daughter were simply exhausted. Janice expressed her feelings that the perpetrator likely had a restful night of sleep while she and her daughter were taking all of these steps and







- Every two minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.
- 1 out of every 6 American women and 1 in 33 American men have been a victim of attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
- Each year there are about 207, 754 victims of sexual assault.
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.
- 44% of sexual assault victims are under age 18.
- 80% of sexual assault victims are under age 30.
- 54% of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement.

For more information <u>www.rainn.org</u> or www.oneinfourusa.org



Voices of Survivors

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

"I am very grateful to have the Dawn Center for my needs."

"Keep up the support for others!"

posited that at that moment he was likely sitting on his couch enjoying his day. It was simply not fair that her daughter had been victimized and that they were the ones going through so much in the aftermath. In addition, a warrant was out for the abuser's arrest and she feared going home.

When she arrived at the courthouse, she was met by the Dawn Center Legal Advocate who assisted her through the process of filing the order of protection on behalf of her child. Janice, who was so frazzled upon arrival, was visibly more at ease when she left. The Legal Advocate had validated her feelings, explained the process, talked with her about counseling services for both of them, and most important had really listened to Janice and attended to her immediate needs.

Janice and her daughter did follow-up with Dawn Center Outreach services. During the intake appointment a telephone call came in from the Sheriff's Office. The perpetrator was arrested and in custody! You could see the relief on Janice's face when she heard that the abuser was going to jail.

Dawn Center advocates provided support for the family while they waited for the petition for injunction (protection order) which was temporarily granted until their case could be heard by a judge. The Legal Advocate was present at the court hearing with Janice when the judge granted a permanent injunction for protection, meaning the perpetrator is not permitted any contact with the victim. In the coming months as the criminal case moves forward that will be a comfort to this family who, through no fault of their own, has already been through so much.

This April we honor Janice's daughter and the other 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys who will experience a sexual assault before their 18th birthday.



5k Dash for Dawn Center a Success!!

The first annual 5k Dash for Dawn Center was even better than we hoped! Over one hundred people came out the morning of March 16th

"It was most helpful learning about the warning signs and cycle of abuse."



Join the Dawn Center Team

Dawn Center has a part-time (30 hours/wk) position available for a Primary Prevention Advocate. Position educates youth about healthy relationships as well as domestic and sexual violence dynamics. A successful applicant must work well independently and as a team member. Experience with performing educational presentations is a plus. Bachelors degree and two years experience is preferred.

E-mail resume and cover letter to Christine Wasson at cwasson@dawncenter.org or call (352)684-7191 to inquire.



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.ord



Volunteer opportunities available!

If you would like to volunteer please access

to run, walk, volunteer, or just support Dawn Center! The event was so much fun that we can't wait to do it again! Thank you to Brooksville Country Club for hosting the event in their beautiful setting! Thank you to all the event sponsors (listed below). Thank you to all the participants who came out on that chilly morning and ran their hearts out! Thank you to Red Mule Runners for their support in the event! Thank you to the Dash for Dawn Center planning committee for coordinating this wonderful event! Thank you in advance to all of you who will be coming out to Brooksville Country Club on March 22, 2014 to do it all again! Dawn Center programs are made possible by each and every one of you! If you didn't Dash for Dawn this year, here is what you can look forward to next year! Mark your calendars!









Thank you to our March 2013 supporters!

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our volunteer application on our website or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at mhoppes@dawncenter.org or (352) 684-7191.

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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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