



December 2015

Newsletter

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A Message from Lui

2015 has been a tremendous year for the Victim Service Center. We appreciate the many different ways our donors, funders and volunteers showed their support for the important work we do. Whether you shared the story of our mission with friends, volunteered in one of our facilities, tabled an event or made a donation, we thank you for being a part of our growth.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the year. **We recognize they were possible because of you.** In case you missed them, here are just a few that we can celebrate

together:

- Conducted an average of 23 Outreach and Prevention presentations/events per month reaching 155,844 people;
- Redesigned and relaunched our website: www.VictimServiceCenter.org;
- Educated students at Rollins College about preventing campus sexual assault and promoting safe bystander intervention;
- Organized several events including Cheers to Change, our Annual Gala. We also partnered with the Osceola County Sexual Assault Response Team and held our first Sexual Assault Awareness Conference, training over a 150 professionals;
- Our Therapy Department developed a Dialectical Behavior Therapy skills group and expanded our services in Osceola County by providing one full day of direct therapy sessions;
- Developed and launched a Billboard Campaign targeted to reach the Military, College Students, Men, Spanish & LGBTQ populations;
- Responded to 1,513 crisis calls through our 24/7 hotline and collected DNA evidence for 274 victims of sexual assault.

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Even with everything we have accomplished together, we can't continue the lifesaving work without you. Please consider [supporting a victim today.](#)

We look forward to an exciting 2016! Have a safe and happy holiday!

Karol Lucken, PhD
Kelly Trace
Laura Owens
LeeAnne Feagan

VSC Founder
Mary I. Johnson

A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers!



This year has been a memorable year for our Volunteer Program! We have had so many individual and group volunteers who have contributed immensely to our growth and successes. We are thankful for your support and are excited to have had the opportunity to work with you all in 2016. Have a happy holiday! We look forward to doing great work together next year!

Quick Links

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

 View on **Instagram**

View our profile on **Linked in**

View our videos on **You Tube**



Tips for Enjoying the Holidays



Written by: Chelsea Mandes, VSC's Victim Advocate Intern

Holiday gatherings aren't always what we hope they will be, whether they are work functions, family celebrations, or spontaneous get-togethers with old hometown friends. When dealing with a situation that you feel may trigger your memories of a sexual victimization, it's

important to give yourself permission to do what you need to do to take care of yourself. In some situations this may mean arriving with a prepared excuse in hand for when you are ready to leave, and it may mean declining an invitation altogether.

Below are some tips to help you take full advantage of the holiday gatherings you will be invited to attend, while maintaining your boundaries and continuing to take care of yourself first. [Read More](#)

New Contract Approved for Services in Osceola County



Over the past few years, the VSC has been providing services to victims in Osceola County through various fundraising efforts and support from funders. Earlier this month, we were awarded a two year contract to provide sexual assault services in Osceola County.

The Contract was awarded by the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners and covers the provision of a 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline, medical intervention, performance of forensic examinations, and rape crisis counseling services.

Although we have already established a protocol with law enforcement for handling sexual assault cases, this Contract creates a formal structure for law enforcement to call the 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline and for our Victim Advocates to activate a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Both teams will continue to respond to the Care Center location within 75 minutes of being called.

CNN's Screening of 'The Hunting Ground Puts Focus on Campus Sexual Assault

In November, CNN broadcast the documentary, "The Hunting



documentary "The Hunting Ground". The documentary makes the case that school administrators have often been indifferent to young female victims of sexual assault on college campuses.



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!](#)

Join a Support Group

VSC offers many opportunities for empowerment. Join one of our support groups to continue your growth and healing.

If you are interested in learning more information please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment (407) 254-9415.

While bringing sexual assault to the forefront, the documentary has since sparked a lot of discussions, including some criticisms and many articles about sexual assault. For us, as the Certified Rape Crisis in Orange and Osceola Counties, we are reminded on a daily basis the drastic and traumatic effects of sexual assault on victims. Following the screening of the documentary our Victim Advocates and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners had to respond to four new cases within a span of two days, a reminder that the issue of sexual assault is still very much prevalent in our community.

Mark Your Calendars

Lunch & Learn

Wednesday - January 27, 2016

12:00pm - 1:00pm

RSVP by calling (407) 254-9415 or e-mail [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. We hope to see you there!

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



