



# VICTIM SERVICE CENTER OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

July 2014

Newsletter

*Let The Healing Begin Here*



## In This Issue

- [Happy 4th of July!](#)
- [43 Days Initiative](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Recycle Your Cell Phone](#)
- [Wish List](#)
- [Outreach & Prevention](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

## Sign-Up for Our Newsletter



Click the above button and follow the prompts to join our mailing list!

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**



The VSC family wishes you a fun-filled Independence Day!



**"Florida ranks 48th out of 50 states when it comes to the statute of limitation for reporting Sexual Battery for adults ages 16+."**

What is the 43 Days Initiative?

The 43 Days Initiative mission is to eliminate the Statute of Limitations on Sexual Battery for Adults Ages 16+. This is the story of how it started.

I am a 40-year old professional, wife, and mother of 3 young children, and a little over 4 years ago, I was raped by a former employer on an out of town business trip. I don't fit into the typical demographics of what society sees as "Rape Victim", but it happened nonetheless, and I am a survivor.

I hid my secret from my friends, co-workers, and even my husband - ashamed of what happened and overwhelmed with reporting the assault due to the fact that the authority having jurisdiction was over 130 miles away. My husband's business was struggling due to the economic downturn in 2009 and we relied on my salary to make it through. Coming out with my story and reporting to police meant jeopardizing my job, my business reputation, and putting my family in jeopardy. During this time I learned an acquaintance of mine had been a victim of

Donate



### Volunteer Opportunities

- Guest Speaker - Join our Speakers Bureau and help educate the community about the many ways the Victim Service Center can help.
- Host an awareness event or fundraiser.
- Virtual Volunteer- invite others to join the the Victim Service Center team online through social media.
- Be on the look out for more volunteer opportunities!

### Give New Purpose to an Old Cell Phone!

Did you know the Victim Service Center collects used cell phones and chargers for reuse?

Cell phones that are not activated can still be used to call for help during emergencies. The Victim Service Center gives the re-purposed cell phones to clients. This safety measure is a lifeline for survivors.

Help save lives! Bring your cell phone and charger to our office, and we'll take care of the rest.

this same man, shortly before I was. After 8 months of internalizing the stress and pain, and on the cusp of ruining my marriage, I had a major breakdown and admitted to my husband and family what had happened. They understood my decision to keep the secret and reluctantly agreed with me that I needed to keep my job for the time being. I continued to work for my boss for another 4 months until my husband and I could secure work out of town, then we moved - ironically to the city where the rape occurred. I thought this would be the end.

I continued to live with the assault on a daily basis. I thought time would lessen the pain. Two years later I had a major anxiety attack at work and found myself curled into a fetal position on the floor of a bathroom stall. I realized it was time to get help. I started seeing a psychiatrist who diagnosed me with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which is common with rape victims. She put me on medication to treat my major depression and anxiety. At the same time, I started seeing a mental health counselor once a week. Then I reached out to my local Victim Service Center and started group therapy, as well as specialized workshops. About a year into my healing process, I felt I was strong enough to report the assault. I made a trip to the local Sheriff's Department, gave a verbal and written statement, and later met with a detective that seemed to think I had a case.

I received a call a week later and was told that the statute of limitations on my case had run out - 43 days prior to me reporting. The case was dead. You see, Florida, unlike many states in the U.S., has a statute of limitations for reporting rape of 4 years. I had waited **4 years and 43 days**.

It's sad to think that if I had been raped in another state, my assailant could still be prosecuted, but because I live in Florida he escapes being held accountable. It's time to make a change in Florida and bring our standards up in line with the rest of the nation. -- Danielle Sullivan, Survivor



### Central Florida Community Foundation DonorEdge Portrait

Learn more about the Victim Service Center - visit our DonorEdge portrait, established by the Community Foundation of Central Florida - helping donors validate the organizations they support.

Click [here](#) to see our Victim Service Center portrait.

### Wish List Items

- ~~New under garments in all sizes~~-(Thank You Donors!)
- ~~Comfortable clothing~~-(Thank You Donors!)
- Office Supplies
- Individually wrapped snacks for survivors
- ~~Hygiene products~~(Thank You Clean the World!)
- Bedding - non-fitted sheets - Twin Size
- Gift Cards for client needs - Bus Passes, Wal-Mart, Target, Publix

Thank you for all of your

The Victim Service Center of Central Florida is proud to support survivors and The 43 Days Initiative. For more information please visit [www.43daysinitiative.org](http://www.43daysinitiative.org).

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Join Us for our Monthly Lunch and Learn!

Last Wednesday of Every Month

#### Next Lunch and Learn

Wednesday - July 30, 2014

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Victim Service Center

2111 E Michigan St, Suite 210

Orlando, Florida 32806

By attending, you will learn about our history, mission, services, goals, and ways to get involved.

Please let us know by close of business Friday, July 25, 2014 if you will be attending; space is limited and lunch will be provided. We hope to see you there!

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

---

### Support Groups

The Victim Service Center offers many opportunities for empowerment. Join one of our support groups to continue your healing and growth.

- **Support Group for Sexual Assault Survivors**
  - Every Tuesday 5:30pm -6:30 pm
- **Art of Healing**
  - Therapy group for trauma survivors using art therapy.
  - Every Friday from 12:00pm - 1:00pm
- **Evolve (2 groups)**
  - Therapy group for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and incest (12-wk program)
  - Therapy group for survivors of sexual assault

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

support. Call the Victim Service Center at (407) 254-9415 if you have questions about how to donate these items or [visit our website](#) to learn more. Thank you for your consideration in helping to meet this need.

### Outreach and Prevention

Learn how you can make your community safer! Schedule a personalized training with our Outreach and Prevention Specialist! You can find out more information about:

- Sexual Assault
- Stalking
- How Men Can Prevent Sexual Violence (Sensitivity Training)
- Crime & Crime Prevention
- Bullying
- Healthy Relationships (Teens)
- Intimate Partner Sexual Violence
- Identity Theft/Internet Safety
- Personal Safety Planning

Call (407) 254-9415 or email [Rhonda here](#) to schedule a presentation.

### 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  
Toll Free: 1(866) 757-2046

[VictimServiceCenter.org](http://VictimServiceCenter.org)

VICTIM SERVICE CENTER OF CENTRAL FLORIDA IS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS #CH18390. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law; the Victim Service Center is registered with the state under the Solicitation of Contributions Act, 1992, under Federal Tax Identification Number: 75-2978885.

---

**The Victim Service Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization  
A Private/Public Partnership - Providing Services to Victims of Crime and Sexual Violence**

*This program is funded in part by Orange County, Florida*