

# Victim Service Center of Central Florida Newsletter

May 2016

Newsletter

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## A Message from Lui



The Orlando Eye in TEAL!

support for victims in Central Florida. So far this year, our Crisis Response Team has responded to 176 sexual assault cases, a 13% increase from last year. While we have already seen an increase, we are gearing up for another increase over the summer months. Every summer, VSC sees a spike in the number of sexual assaults in Central Florida.

[Read More](#)

The VSC Team and our supporters were busy during the month of April. We honored victims of sexual violence, raised awareness in the Central Florida community, and continued to provide expert care to our clients.

Denim Day took place on Wednesday, April 27th, and was a huge success! Our community came together to wear denim in honor of sexual violence victims, and businesses, companies, and local government lit iconic landmarks in teal! Over 30 businesses, 900 participants, and 16 landmarks participated during Denim Day. We sparked the conversation about sexual violence and took a stand for victims. Thank you for making this the best Denim Day yet. We cannot wait to see what you do next year!

In addition to spreading awareness of VSC's programs and services, we have continued to provide crisis intervention, therapy, and ongoing

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## Rachel's Story



VSC Founder  
Mary I. Johnson

## Staff Updates

This month, we recognize VSC's Lead Advocate, Sarah Webb, who celebrates her 5 year anniversary at VSC! Sarah is an amazing asset to the team and provides expert care and support to the victims we serve. Thank you, Sarah, for all you do!



Sarah Webb



## Quick Links

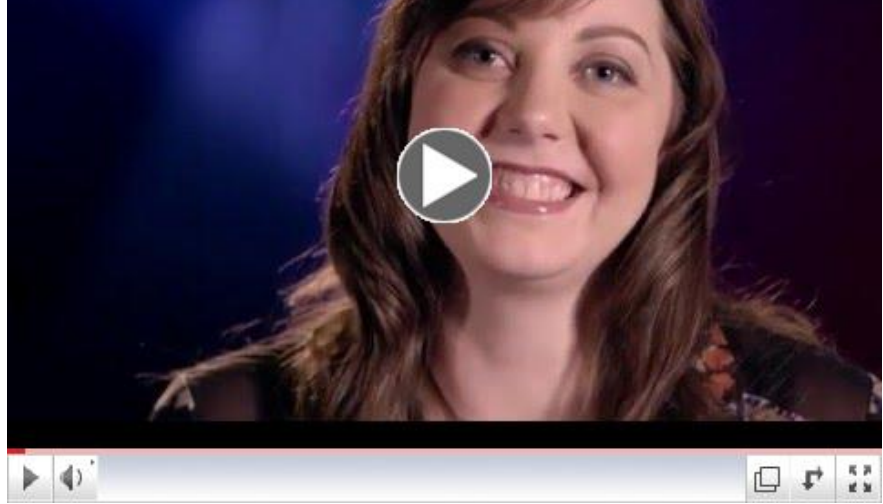
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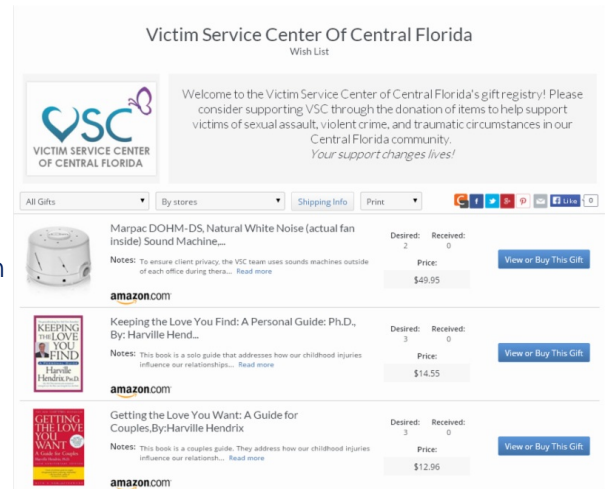
If you weren't able to make it to our Annual Gala, Cheers to Change, you may have missed Rachel's Story. In 2007, Rachel was the victim of sexual assault. She is now an active volunteer at VSC helping countless victims, sharing her story, and shining a light on the often overlooked issue of sexual violence. It's a must-watch if you haven't seen it. [Here is Rachel's Story.](#)

## VSC's Client Registry

Are you looking for a way to help? Consider supporting our clients by ordering supplies off the VSC Registry. It works similarly to a wedding or baby shower registry. However, the items will go directly to support a victim. VSC supporters can purchase items online and have them directly shipped to VSC from stores including Walmart, Amazon and Target.

Following a sexual assault, the victim's clothing and personal belongings are taken from them as they may contain DNA evidence. VSC provides each victim with new clothing, food, drinks, a clean towel to shower if they choose, and a blanket to help them feel more comfortable. This is one way we are able to provide some sense of comfort for our clients.

The Registry identifies specific needs and quantities, and provides an easy and impactful way for donors and supporters to purchase products that directly helps our clients in the immediate hours following a sexual assault or during one of our therapy support groups. Can you help? [View our Registry here.](#)



## Men's Support Group



Men of all ages, races, faiths, levels of education, and all aspects of identity may have experienced sexual abuse and assault. In fact, it is believed that 1 in 6 men experience unwanted sexual contact before age 18. And, unwanted sexual



contact does not discriminate in any way, including gender.

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."

This Monthly Men's Group is held the first Thursday of every month from 5:30-6:30pm. If you or someone you know are interested in learning more or registering to attend, please [email us](#) or call (407)254-9415.

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## FCASV Summit and Secondary Victims

During the FCASV Bi-Annual Summit, VSC Program Director and Speakers Bureau volunteers Diana and Rachel, along with their spouses Tom and Dave, had the opportunity to present on the topic of working with secondary victims of sexual violence. The purpose was to gain insight on the impact of sexual assault on relationships with spouses and intimate partners.



Both Tom and Dave provided a unique perspective on the event, its impact and what they needed and wanted to aid in coping with their loved ones victimization. The presentation demonstrated that successful relationships are possible after a traumatic event. Even after the serious impact of the victimization, they are coping today and, in many ways, VSC has provided the opportunity for secondary victims to further their healing. Participants expressed from their perspective the importance of support from Victim Service Center of Central Florida.

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## Mark Your Calendars

### [Lunch & Learn](#)

Wednesday - May 25, 2016

12:00pm - 1:00pm

RSVP by calling (407) 254-9415 or e-mail [Shannon](#).

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.

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

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