



November 2015

Newsletter

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### **Board of Directors**

#### **Board Officers**

Chairperson

Adela Hathaway

Vice-Chairperson



### **A Message from Lui**

The month of November is one of my favorite times of the year. As we enter the Holiday season, we give thanks to those in our lives. I've been the Executive Director at VSC for over two years now and I've been truly impressed by how our community, VSC's Board of Directors, and our dedicated staff support the victims we serve.

Last week, the Victim Service Center team held its Annual Appreciation Event to thank those individuals that allow us to continue the work we do. We were grateful to have the

opportunity to celebrate our amazing partners, volunteers, and supporters. Clear Channel Outdoor and Baoery Asian Gastropub were our generous event sponsors and we cannot thank them enough!

I'd also like to recognize our Board of Directors. We currently have 13 dedicated board members who go above and beyond to support our community and the victims we serve. We appreciate their leadership, support, and guidance as we work towards ending sexual

Craig Swygert

violence and crime in Central Florida. [Read More](#)

Treasurer

Ana Fernandez

Secretary

Jacob Stuart, Jr.

**Board Members**

Allen Johnson

Amy Bosley

Bridget Keefe

Commissioner Scott Boyd

Major Nancy Brown

Karol Lucken, PhD

Kelly Trace

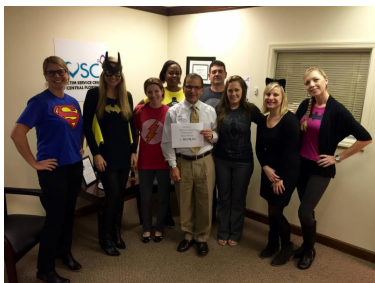
Laura Owens

LeeAnne Feagan

**VSC Founder**

Mary I. Johnson

**Celebrating Halloween at the VSC!**



It's a bird!... It's a plane!...

**Victim Service Center of Central Florida's Gift Registry Goes Live!**

Are you looking for a way to provide direct support today? We are excited to announce the launch of our new online Gift Registry! 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.

Through this Registry, VSC supporters can purchase items online and have them directly shipped to VSC from stores including Walmart, Amazon and Target. This is great way to support our cause and ensure that our clients receive critical items needed to provide immediate comfort. [View our Registry Here](#)



**1,891 Male Victims Received Services**



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

Sexual assault is a hot topic these days: from the multiple alleged campus sexual assaults in the media, to allegations of rape against beloved celebrities and athletes alike, it seems that one cannot go a day without a new allegation of sexual


It was a super duper celebration! VSC staff celebrated the superhero in all of us on Friday, October 30. While dressed up in superhero outfits and costumes, we spent quality time treating ourselves to a super-food potluck!

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### 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**



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### Wish List

Gift Cards in \$5-\$10 increments  
T-Shirts (Large and XL)  
Elastic Waist Pants in all sizes

misconduct levied against a man. When we know that 1 in 4 women will experience unwanted sexual contact in their lifetimes, it's not surprising that our headlines usually consist of such stories. However, what needs to be addressed is the fact that it is not just women who are victims of sexual violence. Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence, including a man of any sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, religion and ability. [Read More](#)

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## **New Partnerships: VSC and Orange County Public Schools**

On October 20th, Lui Damiani presented to Orange County Public School Administration officials on how sexual violence directly impacts our school system. During the presentation, Lui provided examples of how the VSC team is combating sexual violence every day.

As the Certified Rape Crisis Center in Orange and Osceola Counties serving victims ages 12 and older, we know from our experiences that sexual assaults are happening and directly impacting our youth. Our knowledge of the impact of sexual assault also comes from data from organizations, such as RAINN, showing that 29% of sexual assault and rape victims are between the ages of 12 and 17 years old. It's our goal to get into the school system and prevent the assault before it ever occurs through education, outreach, and trainings.

This new partnership will continue to work towards our goal of ending sexual violence by educating students on active bystander intervention, prevention techniques, and healthy relationship boundaries.

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## **Increase in Sexual Assaults over the Holidays**

Sports Bras  
Office Supplies  
Bus Passes

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

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### **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.



Recently, our Direct Care Team has reported a dramatic spike in the number of suspected rape cases. We had 10 cases in 5 days, almost double the number of cases from previous statistics.

Speaking about the increase, VSC's Program Director, JoEllen Revell told Channel 9 news on October 31, that "We are never going to blame the victim. Rapists shouldn't rape, but people should be aware of general safety considerations. Sometimes when people are out and having fun, they may forget to think about their personal safety."

In addition to the recent spike in the number of cases, the total number of forensic exams for Orange and Osceola Counties have jumped 16% over the past year. VSC associates the spike to a greater awareness on how victims can come forward for help.

Click [HERE](#) to view the story along with other recent media coverage.

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## **Mark Your Calendars**

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### **Volunteer Orientation**

Wednesday - December 2, 2015

3:00pm - 4:00pm

RSVP by emailing [Shannon Batten](#)

Held Every Other Month

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

