



October 2015

Newsletter

### In This Issue

[A Message from Lui](#)

[Increase in Cases](#)

[New Location- Appreciation Event](#)

[VSC's Staff Discuss Human Trafficking on WFME](#)

[Lunch & Learn](#)

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Adela Hathaway

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### **A Message from Lui**

Unfortunately, on a daily basis, the Victim Service Center team encounters victim blaming. One challenge we face as the voice of the victims we serve, is having individuals in our community really understand that it is **NEVER** the fault of a victim when a sexual assault occurs.

Recently in the media, a story which now has garnered national attention, involved a judge publicly scolding a victim of domestic violence, going as far as to sentence her to jail for not showing up to face her abuser. This is another classic example of victim blaming.

A sexual assault victim may feel many varying emotions following a sexual assault which may include shame, guilt, fear and embarrassment. Oftentimes, these emotions will actually prevent a victim from coming forward. We hear victims all of the time say, "I could have done something differently" or "I could have prevented this." However, the truth is: the victim never

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causes the assault and is never to blame- the perpetrator made a conscious decision to attack the victim. [Read More](#)

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## Increase in Forensic Examinations



The Victim Service Center has seen a dramatic increase in sexual assault cases resulting in a significant increase in DNA evidence collection through a forensic examination. Over the past three years, we have witnessed an increase of over 27% in the number of victims we have served at one of our two confidential exam locations. During our 2012/2013 Fiscal Year, the VSC team responded to 200 victims in crisis requesting forensic examinations. We just wrapped up our 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, responding to 274 victims- a dramatic increase in

the number of victims. [View the Graph Here](#)

With the support of our community, we have been actively working to increase awareness of VSC programs and services to which we attribute the increase. In the past year, we have relaunched our website, developed outstanding partnerships in our community, and have increased awareness through a massive billboard campaign generously sponsored by Clear Channel Outdoor.

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## New Location for VSC's Annual Appreciation Event!

View our videos on 



### **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 New Online Registry!](#)

### **Welcome to our New Volunteer and Events Coordinator!**

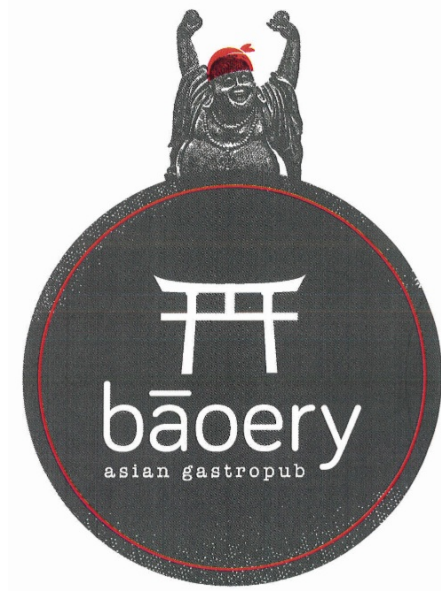
VSC is happy to welcome our new Volunteer and Events Coordinator, Shannon Batten! Shannon holds a BA in Psychology from Rollins College as well as a Certificate in Volunteer Management from the Rollins College Philanthropy and

On Thursday, November 5, the Victim Service Center Team will host an event to thank our supporters, volunteers, and community partners.

The event will take place at a new location, Baoery. This brand new restaurant is located in Thornton Park in Downtown Orlando.

Baoery (Formerly Cityfish)  
617 East Central Blvd.  
Orlando, FL, 32801  
Event time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Complimentary light bites and cocktails will be served. For more information or to RSVP for this event, please [email us](#). RSVP's are required to attend.



### **VSC Staff Talks about Human Trafficking on WFME Radio**



On September 29, VSC's Advocate Coordinator, Sarah Webb was invited to take part in a panel discussion by 90.7 WFME Radio.

The panel discussion centered around combating Human Trafficking and helping victims in Central Florida following the recent human trafficking sting in Orange County.

Speaking about the Sting, Sarah stated " We were proud to be part of the sting and to be on the front lines not only to provide basic needs like water and food but to discuss what the situation was and establish rapport/trust with the victims".

Nonprofit Leadership  
Center. Welcome!

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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.

Statistics rank Florida as the third highest trafficking destination in the country, with half of all trafficking victims under the age of 18.

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## **Mark Your Calendars**

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### **Lunch & Learn**

Wednesday - October 28, 2015

12:00pm - 1:00pm

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

Held the Last Wednesday of Every Month

By attending, 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)

