



CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND SURVIVAL

The Center's annual fundraiser celebrated Women of Distinction and the Joan Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award winner at Churchill Downs on February 26. The 2015 Women of Distinction & 2015 Joan E. Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients Right to Left: Women of Distinction Audrey Tayse Haynes, Dorothy Ridings, Dawne Gee, Pat Byron, Carol Jordan and Joan E. Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award for Peacemaking winner Rita Phillips.



THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

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THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

More Than a Shelter

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER



SHOPPING FOR GOOD

Started by First Lady Jane Beshear, Shop and Share helps provide goods to domestic violence shelters across Kentucky. Area Kroger stores had a day-long drop off service available in store where a list of needed supplies was provided to any shopper wishing to donate items. The donations from the one day Shop and Share event help stock The Center's shelves with necessities like diapers and paper towels for almost an entire year! The Center received an overwhelming amount of donations this year, one carload is pictured here.



DOING BIG THINGS

Mollie Johnson stopped by The Center last month and made a contribution of \$140.00 made possible through the sales of jewelry she makes from hand. Mollie is photographed with Jeanine Triplett, Vice President of Development and Communications and Tamara Reif, Vice President of Programs. Her jewelry is made from "recycled" pieces and she is always looking for donations of old jewelry to help her keep her inventory stocked! Individuals interested in donating jewelry to Mollie can drop items off at one of our locations. Mollie is a wonderful example of how individuals (no matter their age) can make a difference in our community...it doesn't matter the size of the gift...large or small!



HARD AT WORK

The Center's West Louisville Campus is looking great thanks to volunteers from Nordstrom Rack. Volunteers worked hard to beautify the campus.



IN MEMORY

In March The Center lost a very dear friend. Nolen Allen, a longtime supporter and former board member passed away. The Center will be forever in his debt for the countless hours, compassion and support he unselfishly gave us.

From
LEMONS
to
LEMONADE
Block Party

FRIDAY JULY 31
12 noon - 3:00 pm
927 S. 2nd Street

Join The Center For Women and Families for a good ol' fashioned summertime block party. Enjoy a free glass of lemonade, grab a bite to eat from the Food Trucks, stroll the booths, and enjoy the musical stage performances as we celebrate our return to our 2nd street home and partner with our non-profit neighbors to highlight the amazing community work taking place all around The Center.

Food
Music
Activities
Tours



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Facebook and Twitter @thecenteronline



THE CENTER ON THE MOVE

- NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS SURVIVORS
- ONE SURVIVOR'S STORY OF HEALING

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



MARTA MARIA MIRANDA

Adversity will touch every human life. Falling down isn't the issue; getting back up is. Increasing resiliency isn't about blind optimism. It's quite the opposite. It's having the courage to face and meet life on life's terms. It's all about choosing to respond to each adversity with vision, confidence, hope, and resolve.

We are on our way back home, and we are thrilled. The past year found us in scattered sites, due to an unexpected and unfunded facility crisis. The severe winter of 2013 caused major damage to our building and demanded full evacuation, relocation of services, and the start of a redesign and repair process for the Joan E. Thomas Campus.

As we prepare to move back into our Second Street location, we do so with many lessons learned. If asked to describe the past year using one word, resiliency would be at the top of my list. According to Webster's dictionary, resiliency is defined as "the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties;

toughness." Throughout this year of challenges, our staff and clients have continued to show their toughness, resiliency, and dedication to our mission.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of our dedicated staff, supportive community partners, and our Board of Directors who provided unwavering support during this challenging time. The confidence of the Board, in particular, in our work, as well as their leap of faith in moving forward with the building renovation project without funding, speaks to their dedication to our mission.

We are looking forward to returning to our newly renovated home. Please come visit us during our Lemons to Lemonade block party.

Mil gracias por su apoyo,
(A thousand thanks for your support)

SPOTLIGHT LED TECHNOLOGY

NEW TECHNOLOGY BRINGS ABUSE TO LIGHT

New technical equipment that KentuckyOne Health purchased through a grant from the Verizon Foundation is now combatting domestic violence in the UofL SANE Clinic. Funded by profits from the Hopeline program, the grant from Verizon Wireless enables medical staff to further assist victims of violent crimes and capture evidence invisible to the naked eye.

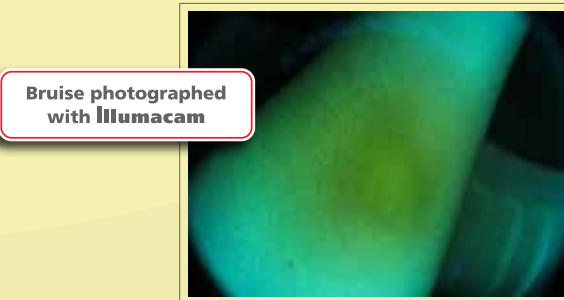
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners operate with the highest integrity to collect forensic evidence which can eventually assist in the prosecution of perpetrators. An exam performed by a SAFE nurse with the victim's permission may include obtaining hair samples, swabbing for DNA, conducting a pelvic exam, and drawing blood. All of the potential evidence gathered from the victim's body is sent to crime labs for analysis and can assist in the prosecution of the perpetrator.

Visible marks on a victim's body, like cuts or bruises, are often results of intense strangulation and battery. However, this visual evidence cannot be collected like DNA samples and must be documented with photography. This evidence is of the utmost importance because it can accurately document the physical severity of an assault and can provide law enforcement with the means to detain a suspect of a violent crime.

However, bruises can take hours and even days to fully come to the skin's surface. With the help of the new LED camera equipment funded by the philanthropy of Verizon Wireless, documenting bruises at the UofL SANE Clinic is no longer an issue. This radical photographic technology can now capture pictures of forming bruises and illuminate the areas in which the bruise will fully develop.



Bruise photographed with digital camera



Bruise photographed with Illumacam

* Photographs courtesy of CrimeSciences Inc.

The Center for Women and Families is excited to see cutting edge forensic technology assist our clients during their exams. Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence often feel that they cannot offer enough evidence to assist law enforcement, leaving them feeling inadequate or not believed. In the same way that we validate the experiences of our clients when they need services, this new technology believes them too. Now, these cameras can capture the full extent of an assault that may be invisible, providing a sense of relief to clients and simultaneously gathering evidence to prosecute perpetrators.

SURVIVOR STRONG A LETTER FROM DANA LACKEY

When I was 24 years old I had my life pretty much planned out. I was married and had already had my first child, a little boy, he was 18 months old, and we were starting to try for the second one. I worked full time, we owned our first home, and life was good. One thing that I had not planned for, and had not entered into our "budget" for life, was being raped. But suddenly one fall morning in 1990, my plans changed. I came back home one morning after dropping my son off at the daycare to do some things around the house before going into the office. What I did not realize is that someone had broken into my home in the short time I was gone and was still in there when I returned.

The intruder physically attacked me and then sexually assaulted me. After he was finished he roamed about my home for several minutes. All together he was in the house with me for about 40 minutes. The longest 40 minutes of my life.

At the hospital, a volunteer from The Center showed up and stayed with me throughout the remainder of my stay there. It took about five hours at the hospital to complete all the necessary medical treatments, tests, police interviews, and rape exams. The next morning my husband called The Center and made an appointment for us to start counseling right away. We attended sessions both together and individually. We did so for several months. About a year or so later, I went back for a few sessions on my own, as I had a few more things I needed to talk through. The help I received from The Center made me realize that what I was experiencing was normal, and I wasn't losing my mind. I had always been a very strong and stubborn woman, and suddenly I was questioning myself, and feeling inferior. These were things I was not sure how to process. But The Center helped me process things so that I could make sense of them. So I felt, once again, that I had control of my life.

It took 16 years for my attacker to be located. His conviction came 20 years after the attack happened. He was arrested on other charges in 2006, when he entered into the prison system he was required to give a DNA sample, which is standard procedure now. When a detective working cold cases here in Louisville later that year came across my case and decided to run another check through the program, there he was. So after all those years of nothing, suddenly, we had a match. You can imagine my surprise when I got a visit at my office

ON THE COVER: Staff and Center friends say NO MORE (NO MORE SILENCE, NO MORE VIOLENCE) at the Denim Day press conference. Denim Day began in Italy in 1999 when the Italian High Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans. Women of the Italian legislature protested by wearing jeans the next day and the observance of Denim Day worldwide had begun. People all over Kentuckiana and the USA joined in sporting their denim.



Board member Dana Lackey speaks out at the Denim Day press conference.

from the detective from the Special Victims Unit. Talk about Bitter Sweet. It took us 4 years to get to trial. And there were many times during those four years that I had wished they had never found him. But never once did I regret pushing forward with the prosecution. The end result was far better than I could have ever imagined. My attacker is now serving a 200 year prison sentence for multiple convictions, including my assault.

I am thankful to have found The Center during that horrific time in my life. Thanks to their services and support I can now speak out and advocate for other survivors.

Dana Lackey,
Vice President- Cash Management Old National Bank
Board of Directors The Center for Women and Families



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THANK YOU

Thanks you to all of the generous donors and sponsors who made the 28th Celebration of Service and Survival a success.

\$281,000 was raised for The Center!

Racing Towards a World without Violence

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



The Center is honored to recognize businesses and organizations who make a huge difference in our ability to fulfill our mission each and every day. Norton Healthcare has a longstanding relationship with The Center for Women and Families. For more than 25 years Norton Healthcare has provided board level leadership and financial support to advance the work of The Center's mission. They have provided over a half-million dollars in financial support to The Center since 1989. As the leading healthcare provider in the region responding to the unique needs of women and children we are vitally concerned about issues of family violence and financial self sufficiency. A sincere and heartfelt thanks to Norton Healthcare for their continued support. Their financial and board leadership support has made a true difference in the lives of so many individuals and families in the Louisville and Southern Indiana communities.



LEFT: Charlotte Ipan, Chief Administrative Officer, Norton Women's & Kosair Children's Hospital

CENTER: Lynn Meyer, System Vice President, Women's and Children's Community Partnerships, and Chief Development Officer



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We welcome your feedback. Questions or comments about *More Than a Shelter* can be directed to media@cwfempower.org or (502) 581-7261. Opt out of receiving the paper version of *More Than a Shelter* and receive an electronic version instead by emailing media@cwfempower.org.

Have you remembered The Center in your estate plans? For more information on The Center's Planned Giving Program contact Jeanine Triplett at 502.581.7207.