



CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND SURVIVAL

The Center's annual fundraiser celebrated and honored individuals who are making a difference in our community. This year's Women of Distinction honored are (left to right - front row) Sharon Currans, Sheila Schuster, and Laura Douglas. Second row, Joni Jenkins (left) and Eileen Recktenwald. The 2016 Joan E. Thomas Award for Peacemaking was presented to Christopher 2X (photographed front row).



THE
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FOR
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AND
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THE
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More Than a Shelter

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER



ELF ON A SHELF

Many thanks to Jana and East Louisville Pediatrics for their generous gifts. A big thank you to everyone who made donations during the holidays. Through your generosity we raised \$26,250 in gift cards for clients so they could shop for presents for the family.



Purple
Purse

ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

THE PURPLE PURSE CHALLENGE

The Center for Women and Families was selected to participate in The Purple Purse Challenge through the Allstate Foundation. The online fundraising challenge during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October was designed to raise awareness around the issue of economic abuse in domestic violence.

The Center competed with 159 other organizations across the country for over \$500,000 in prize money. In our first year, we finished in 12th place and raised approximately \$45,000 in donations and bonus challenges for the services we provide to survivors. Keep an eye for news about this year's challenge that will kick-off in October!



JOIN US FOR DENIM DAY IN THE USA

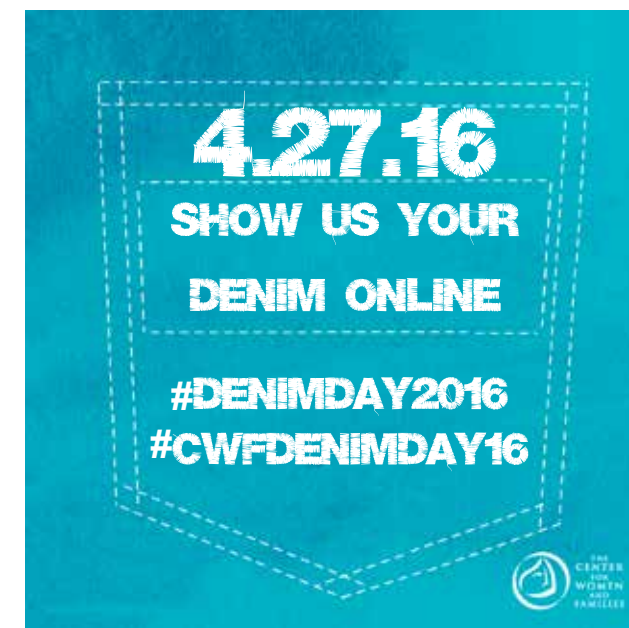
DENIM DAY IN THE USA is a campaign that raises community awareness about the devastating impacts of sexual violence and how to prevent it.

THE HISTORY: In 1992 an 18-year-old in Italy was raped by her driving instructor. She pressed charges and won her case, but the instructor appealed and the case went to the Italian High Court.

In 1999 the court overturned the conviction with a member of the High Court declaring that since the victim wore very tight jeans, the instructor could not have removed them himself; therefore, the victim must have willingly participated. Women of the Italian legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest.

Today, all around the world, organizations coordinate community-wide Denim Days to show support of survivors and raise awareness about the crimes of sexual assault.

Wear denim on April 27 and join the movement!



Visit our website to download our denim day kit, posters, flyers, infographics and more at www.thecenteronline.org.



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I AM THE CENTER

- PARTNERS FOR GOOD
- A SURVIVORS STORY

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EMPOWERMENT OFFICER



MARTA MARIA MIRANDA

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. At The Center for Women and Families, we proudly engage in month long awareness activities to highlight the problem and the solution presented by sexual violence. We are Louisville's Rape Crisis Center, we are the only organization that provides services to the survivors of sexual violence, sexual assault and rape we have been doing so since 1975.

On a college campus, first year students are the most vulnerable for sexual assault, one in three first year students will be sexually assaulted on a college campus. The victims often sit in classes with their rapists, their grades and functioning deteriorate and their dreams of a college experience are tainted by fear, nightmares, self-doubt and isolation. Many colleges are engaged in providing bystander training and many other prevention efforts to support vulnerable students.

Let's remember that sexual assault is about power and control, not about sex, so anyone who is vulnerable is at risk. Rape is a weapon, used at home and abroad to gain power over the victim.. Sexual Violence is a public health Issue Nationally one in five women and one in fifty-nine men will

be raped during their lifetime. Nearly one in two women and one in five men have experienced some form of sexual violence. Kentucky and Indiana have higher than national incidence of sexual violence.

Please join The Center in creating a culture of safety and encouraging gender respect, engage with us in learning how to be an active bystander. Here are some things we all can do. You do not have to do everything but everyone MUST do something.

- Don't Blame Victims
- Intervene and question concerning behaviors
- Promote healthy masculinity
- Model gender respect
- Create prevention policies at your workplace
- Contact policy makers/legislators to gain support for prevention and victims services
- Teach that NO means NO
- Promote that Consent is Sexy
- Be the Center. Volunteer and help us provide medical and legal advocacy for survivors

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

PARTNERS FOR GOOD

DOING SOME SPRING CLEANING AND LOOKING TO DONATE?

The Center is very thankful for the many donations we receive throughout the year. Donations to The Center not only include cash but also the donation of goods as well. Due to limited space at the Center's locations and staff available to manage the donation of items, the Center partners with Goodwill Industries of Kentucky and Bridgepointe Goodwill of Southern Indiana to process used clothing and goods - this partnership is a win-win for both organizations.

Help empower our Clients! Here's how the partnership works;

- Drop off your donations of clothing and items to your local Goodwill Industries Stores of Kentucky or Bridgepointe Goodwill of Southern Indiana. Tell the representative accepting your donation that it is for the Center for Women and Families.
- Goodwill receives and processes donations and in turn gives The Center vouchers in the amount of the estimated value of your donation.
- These vouchers are in turn given to our clients.
- Our clients shop for themselves and their family members which ensures every resident and client - regardless of age, size, or special needs receives clothing that fits properly. This fosters autonomy and independence providing an opportunity for continued empowerment.

Finally, you can feel good about your donation as it will benefit two great organizations while at the same time empowering our clients to buy the items they need most.



I AM THE CENTER// A SURVIVORS STORY



Survivor Patti Barron speaks out at the 2016 Celebration of Service and Survival.

Patti Cazee Barron, was once terrified that someone would find out her secret, she now stands before public audiences sharing that she was repeatedly sexually abused in her early childhood and that she is a date rape survivor. Through her journey, Patti has found her voice that was silenced so many years ago; now she is free of unwarranted shame and guilt and openly shares her story with others.

Patti was a good girl born in the *Leave it To Beaver* and *Father Knows Best* era of perfect families where bad things didn't happen and good girls never got angry or had any need to cry. Patti, who was a very good girl, remained silent and kept the secret about her years of childhood sexual abuse. When she was date raped as a teenager, Patti did what she had always done - cleaned herself up, buried the memory, repressed her rage and tears of shame, put on a smile and went on about her "perfect" life in the upper middle class east end Louisville. She completed undergraduate, graduate and post graduate degrees, married, had three children and a successful professional life as a teacher and later as an elementary school principal. All these trappings of success brought and appearance of worth to Patti's shattered and damaged self image and the little voice in her head that whispered, *"You are worthless. No one would ever believe you if you told. And, no one could ever love you if they knew the truth."*

After a personal challenge resulted in family counseling with a therapist, Patti began individual therapy. Her private therapist suggested that she seek group therapy services provided by the Center for Women and Families. Patti began what would be a significant phase of her healing journey in The Center's Adult Women Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse group. In that group, for the first time in her life, Patti didn't feel so alone and so different. In the four years that followed, the group and The Center therapists accompanied Patti through the arduous process of uncovering layers and layers of pain, rage, and shame. They helped her dismantle the lies that accompany sexual abuse and assault that she had believed her whole life.

Patti stated *"Group therapy provided several crucial experiences that could not have happened through any other avenue. Art therapy built community among us in a safe and even sacred place where we could express all the rage, grief, and pain revealed in the art we created."* Patti, who has been inspired to give back to the community, gives voice to those who have yet to find their own. She works to increase awareness of sexual abuse and assault through her participation in the Survivor's Network at The Center.

WE ARE KENTUCKIANA'S RAPE CRISIS CENTER

We offer assistance to female and male victims of sexual assault as well as family, friends, partners and others close to survivors of any type of sexual violence.

Our services are always free of charge.

Crisis services are available 24/7 every day of the year.

Our services include:

- Rape crisis hotline
- Medical advocacy
- Legal advocacy
- Individual & group counseling
- Community education & prevention
- Sexual Assault Forensic Exams

TOLL FREE CRISIS LINE 1-844-BE-SAFE-1

ON THE COVER: Raising hands in support of The Center at The 2016 Celebration of Service and Survival, Lighting the Way.



2016 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND SURVIVAL

Thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and generous donors we raised a record breaking \$270,000 at the 29th Celebration of Service and Survival!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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Jean Frazier

Juanita Beach

I AM THE CENTER// GIVING BACK

The word "philanthropy" is a combination of two ancient Greek words: philos (love) and anthropos (humankind). This translates to mean "the love of humankind". In today's world, philanthropy has come to mean giving of oneself to benevolent causes, but such an act of kindness is certainly due to an innate love for and desire to help other human beings.

We at the Center for Women and Families are humbled daily by the inspirational stories of people who follow a passion to help others and positively impact the world around them. These philanthropists are everyday people who find joy in going above and beyond to share with us their resources that in turn help us serve our clients. We're honored to highlight Kathy Mershon who has made giving to the Center a priority.



"Why I believe it is important to give to the Center?" *Intimate partner violence has a debilitating effect on families and their ability to thrive. It creates a generational cycle where violent behaviors are modeled by one generation to the next. I have seen The Center for Women and Families change the lives of victims of violence, primarily women and children, learn to value themselves, gain the confidence to take control of their lives, and become self-sustaining, contributing members of this community.*

I support The Center because it has demonstrated for decades, the capacity to enable our neighbors to flourish and, when our neighbors flourish, the entire community can flourish. We all benefit by the work of The Center.

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 or jeanine.triplett@cwfempower.org

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[as of April 1, 2016]