

RAPE RESPONSE INC. support, education & advocacy

ANNUAL REPORT NEWSLETTER
October 2014 – September 2015

Published November 2015
...with current news & opportunities



A Personal Note... **From Executive Director,** **Jeanne Buffington**

During a recent professional training, I was discussing our work with survivors and the services provided by Rape Response. It made me realize just how much growth we have recently experienced.

In 1988 Rape Response began providing services in Dawson, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin and White Counties. In 2012, seeing our Forsyth numbers increasing and recognizing Forsyth County didn't have a dedicated Sexual Assault Center, we began building collaborative relationships and providing services there.

In 1993 a prevention education program was created and taught to 8th grade students in middle schools. This school year our 8th grade curriculum *Keeping it Safe* will be taught in 15 schools, *Healthy Relationships* will be taught to 7th graders in 12 schools and our *Smart Response* parent education program has been taught in 4 of our 6 counties already this fall. We are active on every college campus and technical school in our service area and are getting more requests for high school prevention programs.

In 2015 our Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) included professionals from 4 of our 6 counties and Rape Response provided administrative support to Chief Judge Murphy Miller in the creation of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol.

While this growth has been exciting, our priority remains direct victim services for survivors of sexual assault. Whether the assault occurred 10 minutes, 10 days or 10 or more years ago, Rape Response is available and ready to provide support as survivors recover from the sexual assault. It is truly an honor and privilege to walk with and support survivors throughout the medical, law enforcement and judicial processes.

Support from donors is allowing for increased staff to meet the growing needs of survivors and our communities. Thank you to all who make it possible for us to remain faithful to our mission – providing support, advocacy and education... We could not do this work without your support!

Welcome New Board Members!



Join RR in welcoming New Board Members,
Katie Crumley
(left) &
Ginny Lay
(right)!



MISSION

Rape Response serves as a system of support, advocacy and education, providing services to the community and survivors of sexual assault while safeguarding the dignity of each person served.



Meet RR's newest Staff Advocate, **Angel Footman!**



L-R: Sheriff Gerald Couch, Jeanne Buffington, Chief Carol Martin



RR staff and volunteers attending the Georgia Commission on Family Violence Conference in Athens, GA.

L-R: Jennifer Thomas (GCFV), Melissa K., Gale A., Erica A., Katie B., Jeanne B., Cheyenne T.

More Than a Crisis Line...

Rape Response is a nonprofit agency providing 24/7 services to sexual assault survivors ages 13 and older in Dawson, Forsyth, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin and White counties. Advocacy in action for 2015 included:

- **Crisis calls answered 390**
- **Face-to-face crisis interventions** supported survivors as they processed the sexual assault and equipped them with essential tools needed on their path to recovery **62**
- **Information and referrals** connected survivors to their community for continued support and healing **470**
- **Hospital accompaniment** provided support to survivors at the hospital during sexual assault forensic medical exams **68**
- **Follow up calls** extended emotional support to survivors to address ongoing issues **377**
- **Aftercare** referrals and information offered survivors health care exams for STIs paid for by Rape Response and provided by local health departments **83**
- **Victims' compensation fund** referred survivors for information and application regarding reimbursement for medical expenses or counseling costs **83**
- **Personal advocacy** helped survivors to navigate health care, law enforcement, criminal justice and other social service agencies **380**
- **Prevention education** provided to **3,782** middle school students and **2,431** high school and college students
- **Court accompaniment** supported survivors during pre-trial and trial activities **21 days**
- **Collaborations** participated in interagency and professional engagement opportunities to benefit survivors **101 agencies/over 350 referrals**

Volunteer Advocates dedicated more than 864 hours in 2015!

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Fall 2015 Volunteer Training

Front L-R: Anjana F., Erica A., Gale A., Heather H.;
Back L-R: Madeline P., Tiffany M., Brianna R., Karen R., Brad R.,
Ashley S., Sarah D.; Not pictured: Marjorie C.

RR welcomed 14 new volunteers in 2015!



"I love volunteering with RR because there is something very healing for these survivors in the fact that they are not alone in their process. We are there for them. We are there to listen. To provide an encouraging ear. To believe them. But most importantly, to just sit with them."

Cheyenne Thornton - Volunteer

Volunteer Roster

Carmen Adams	Tellia Edmonds	Jessica Ledbetter
Casey Adams	Debbie Edwards	Jolinda Martin
Elsa Alvarez	Betsy Escamilla	Tiffany Meyers
Jazzmin Bailey	Jean Ferris	Amber Merritt
Sarah Bergren	Jasmine Fortson	Madeline Portscher
Tiffany Bockholt	Anjana Freeman*	Brianna Rice
Katie Bruner	Amber Glaspie*	Charnella Rosas
Alicia Bryan	Rachel Glazer	Rebeca Ruelas
Nancy Butcher	Heather Hollimon	Addrienne Session
Erin Cansler	Ginger Imperiale	Kathy Strebe*
Tennile Chapman	Sherry Jackson	Brianna Stewart
Macayla Coleman*	Claire Jones*	Sarah Strzeminski
Sue Cronmiller*	Kalia Jordan	Ashley Sullins
Marjorie Cunningham	Melissa King	Kathy Thompson
Carly Dale	Daisy Kitchens	Cheyenne Thornton
Stephanie Daniell	Ansley Lawson	Savanna Wardlaw*
Sarah Deitsch	Virginia Lay*	

*Inactive Crisis Line Volunteers



L-R: Casey Adams, Jasmine Fortson, Kathy Thompson

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770-503-7273 800-721-1999 www.raperesponse.com

DONOR FAMILY

Government Grants

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council/State
Victims of Crime Act

Churches

First Presbyterian Church
Gainesville First United
Methodist Church
Grace Episcopal Church

Local Government

City of Gainesville
County Board of Commissioners:
Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin
& White (5% Funds)
Hall County Government

Corporations & Small Business

Belk, Inc.♥
Chick-fil-A* - Gainesville &
Flowery Branch
Flip Your Dog Yoga♥
Gerald F. Lewis Trustees♥
Georgia State Merit
Employee Fund
Information Technology
Group, LLC
Masterpiece Mixers, LLC♥
McDonald's*
Northside Hospital Employee
Fund♥
Rahab's Rope*

South State Bank♥
SunTrust United Way Campaign♥

Organizations

Gainesville Optimist Youth &
Community Service Fund at
the North Georgia Community
Foundation♥
Georgia Legal Services
Program, Inc.♥
North Georgia Community
Foundation♥
Wells Fargo Foundation♥

United Way

Dawson County
Forsyth County
Greater Atlanta
Habersham County
Hall County
White County

Honorariums

Jeanne Buffington♥ in honor of
Bonnie Lofreddo
Katie Bruner in honor of
Michelle Alexander
Sharon Coker♥ in honor of
Christa P., Jeanne B.,
Laura S. & Tonya D.
Alan & Loretta Nichols♥ in
honor of Amber Nichols
Valerie Orange in honor of
Deborah Porter

Joe & Caryl Roark♥ in honor of
Jeanne Buffington
Laurie Spiess♥ in honor of
Jeanne Buffington

Individuals

Casey Adams♥
Gale Adams
Jazzmin Bailey
Ellen Corinne Briggs
Kris Brown♥
Jeanne Buffington♥
April Chrisman♥
Sharon & Miles Coker♥
Susan Cole♥
Jackie Cooley♥
Gerald Couch♥
Carly Dale
Ron & Martha Fritchley♥
Chris Gailey♥
Elsa Ann Gaines♥
Jason & Kimberly Glaze♥
Vickie Grear
Claire Jones♥
Scott Jones
Monica Hayman
Susan Hosford
Elisabeth Kendrick
Ginny Lay
Jessica Ledbetter
Carol Martin♥
Shelly Martin
Carmen Mas♥

Sean McCusker
John O'Sullivan
Joe & Caryl Roark♥
Kittie Ross
Karen Russ
Jim & Gail Sargent♥
Velma Scott
Marta Shelton
Carol Shirley♥
Leigh Stallings-Wood♥
Dr. Nancy Stead♥
Lori Ann Tasker
William Thompson
Vincent Tillirson♥
Samantha Tinch
Wanda Vance
Cheryl & Jerry Vandiver
Camille Viera-Hewell♥
John & Janet Walden♥
Sally Walden-Crowe♥
Kay Walker
Steve & Lisa Warwick
Piper Williams
Sally Wise
Trey & Morgan Wood♥

Memorials

Dana Miller, Martha Shell,
Ann Hollobaugh, Timothy &
McKemie West, Helen Pirkle
in memory of Frances Ruff

♥ Donors giving \$100 or more
* In Kind Goods or Services

COLLEGE INTERNS



Carly Dale



Thank you to all who made Dancing for a Cause a success!
This event raised more than \$140,000 for Alliance for
Literacy, Center Point, Rape Response
& Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.



Jazzmin Bailey

*"I can't tell you how much you have
changed my life – just knowing you
are there no matter what and without
judgment. You have given me the
space to start healing. Thank you."*

-Survivor

2015 Professional Trainings & Agency Presentations:

- Georgia Legal Services
- Hall County District Attorney's Office
- Hall County Solicitor's Office
- Law Enforcement (HCSO & UNG)
- Colleges & Universities
- Northeast Georgia Probation Services
- Domestic Violence Task Forces
- Family Connection Meetings



Masterpiece Mixers – Gainesville hosted an Art for the Heart Fundraising Paint Night! The event raised awareness and over \$400 for Rape Response!

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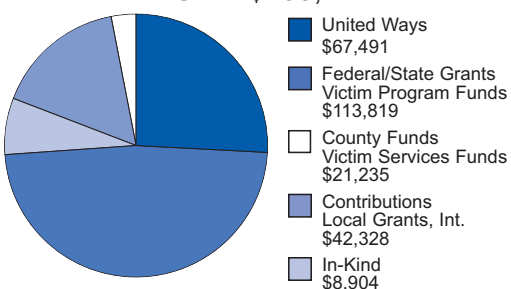
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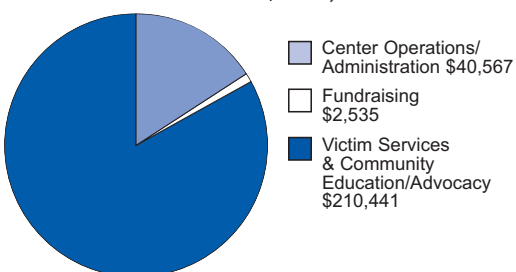
Dawson*Forsyth*Habersham*Hall*Metro Atlanta*White

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE – \$253,777



EXPENSES – \$253,543



Note: Federal and state reimbursement schedules and grant cycles overlap fiscal years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee 2015-2016

President	<i>Carol Martin</i>
Vice President	<i>Sean McCusker</i>
Past President	<i>Sally Walden-Crowe</i>
Secretary	<i>Melissa King</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jeremy Perry</i>

Members-at-Large

Kris Brown	Ginny Lay
Andrea Conarro	Shelly Martin
Katie Crumley	Carol Shirley
Chris Gailey	Leigh Stallings-Wood
Elsa Ann Gaines*	Wanda Vance
Angie Hanes	Camille Viera
Monica Hayman	John Walden
Scott Jones	Morgan Wood*
Lori Duke Jones	Trey Wood
Elisabeth Kendrick	

*Rotated off board