

A Personal Note from Our Therapist Anjana Freeman, LPC



Life changes after the experience of abuse or assault. One's view of the world and the people in it is dramatically altered. Worse yet, their

perception of themselves can be skewed and they may struggle in their roles and relationships.

Whatever emotional and psychological changes occur after a traumatic experience, there is one absolute requirement to begin healing. That is relationship.

It is within the context of relationship that one builds a general sense of trust and starts to see his or herself with compassion.

"I cannot imagine what it would have been like to go through the experience of reporting my assault without the angels at Rape Response. My advocate got to the hospital before the police and spent the day with me, at the hospital, meeting me at the police station and explaining every step of the process. She literally held my hand during my physical exam, and we stayed in steady contact through what would become the two hardest months of my life. Through my advocate, I joined the support group at Rape Response. We have become a bonded sisterhood of women from all walks of life who are learning to care, to trust and to receive love from others in a safe and loving environment."

Anjana and Paulette guide us, empathize with us and cry with us as we all walk this journey of healing and recovery."

– RR Support Group Member

Relationship creates a defined space; where healing is facilitated and where survivors' voices become powerful agents of change.

"Being heard, hearing myself and knowing that I'm being believed has changed the way I think about my future."

– RR Counseling Client

Relationship is the lens through which kindness and courage is revealed.

"I honestly thought I was alone in my own version of hell. Now, I believe there is more good than bad in the world. That changes everything."

– RR Counseling Client

Relationship is the invitation to those carrying the weight of trauma to be still and compassionately attend to their own wounds.

"My story was baggage that I hid and felt ashamed of. I've grown to accept that my story is a symbol of strength and it will help others someday."

– RR Counseling Client

Relationship is the footing on which survivors can finally obtain a clear view of hope.

"This is what will save my life."

– RR Counseling Client

Rape Response builds relationships that heal through therapy, advocacy, professional education and community outreach. Our supporters are an integral part of that collaboration. Thank you.



Meet RR's Newest Staff Member

Claudia DeLeon joined Rape Response in August 2017 as a bilingual staff advocate



Rape Response Staff

L-R: Rebeca Ruelas, Erica Autry, Angel Jackson, Jeanne Buffington, Claudia DeLeon, Gale Adams & Anjana Freeman



Prevention Educators

In 2010 RR had 1 contract prevention educator. Today that number has grown to 4 as our education numbers have more than doubled. We now offer prevention programs to 6th, 7th and 8th grades, high school, at-risk youth and parents. Above:

Natalie Millican teaches new RR volunteers; not pictured: Kim Glaze, CarrieAnne Hunt and Ven Tarnowski

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.

SURVIVOR QUOTE

"From the outside, it can be hard to understand what Rape Response does, and from the inside, it can be hard to explain it. Please know that every contribution you give to this essential service is literally saving lives and offering hope to those of us who at one time could not see any hope in our futures."

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 & White counties. Advocacy in action for fiscal year 2016-2017 included:

- **Survivors helped 439**
- **Crisis Calls answered 673**
- **Counseling provided 251** individual therapy sessions and weekly group sessions
- **Face-to-face Crisis Interventions** supported survivors as they processed the sexual assault & equipped them with essential tools needed on their path to recovery **196**
- **Information & Referrals** connected survivors to their community for continued support & healing **841**
- **Medical Accompaniment** provided support to survivors at the hospital during forensic medical exams **104**
- **Follow Up Calls** extended emotional support to survivors to address ongoing issues **882**
- **Aftercare Referrals & Information** offered survivors health care exams for STI's; paid for by RR & provided by local health departments **135**
- **Victims' Compensation Fund** referred survivors for information & application regarding reimbursement for medical expenses or counseling costs **104**
- **Personal Advocacy** helped survivors to navigate health care, law enforcement, criminal justice & other social service agencies **622**
- **Prevention Education** provided to **8,004** middle school students, **1,566** high school & college students, **810** at-risk youth & **140** parents
- **Court Accompaniment** supported survivors during trial and court proceedings **17** days
- **Collaborations** participated in interagency & professional engagement opportunities to benefit survivors **91** agencies/over **7,000** participants

**VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES DEDICATED
MORE THAN 1,533 HOURS IN 2017!**

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



College Interns

L-R: Lindsey Castille & Olivia Reeves; not pictured: Katiee McKinstry, Jordyn Burrow & Emily Ayers



Fall 2017 Volunteer Training

L-R: Angel Jackson, Caitlin Carlan, Destiny Curl, Silvia Loreda, Jaira Falcon, Tatiana Burkett, Cynthia Brinkley, Lindsey Castille, Andrea Dubois, Elizabeth Woodson, Olivia Reeves, Dot Cripps, Brook McQuay, Sydney Huff, Anna Knight, Rebeca Ruelas & Claudia DeLeon

VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Elsa Alvarez	Jasmine Fortson	Brooke Reed
Emily Ayers	Andrea Gaines	Jennifer Reed
Jazzmin Bailey	Alyssa Grindle	Olivia Reeves
Katie Bruner	Heather Hollimon	Melany Sanchez
Tatiana Burkett	Sydney Huff	Addrienne Session
Jordyn Burrow*	Ginger Imperiale*	Angela Slay*
Nancy Cancel*	Kalia Jordon	Sarah Smudde*
Caitlin Carlan	Daisy Kitchens	Sarah Strzemieniski
Lindsey Castille	Anna Knight	Ashley Sullins
Marjorie Cunningham	Jessica Ledbetter*	Cheyenne Thornton
Destiny Curl	Silvia Loreda	Christy Wade
Andrea Dubois	Dixie Mayes	Elizabeth Woodson
Debbie Edwards	Katiee McKinstry	Kara Wright
Christine Ela	Tiffany Myers	
Jaira Falcon	Kelsey Payne	

**Inactive Crisis Line Volunteers*



First Annual SAAM Jam

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year we held our 1st annual SAAM Jam, a fundraising Open Mic Night, to raise awareness around sexual assault. Over \$150 was raised – thank you to all who made SAAM Jam a success!

DONOR FAMILY

Grants

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council/State Funding & Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
Jackson EMC Foundation
North Georgia Community Foundation
United Way: CFC - Peach Belt, Dawson County, Forsyth County, Habersham County, Hall County, White County

Churches

First Presbyterian Church
Grace Episcopal Church

Local Government

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

Business & Community Organizations

Belk, Inc.♥
Chick-fil-A Gainesville & Flowery Branch*
Crystal Plate*
Georgia Legal Services Program
Gerald F. Lewis Trustees♥
IS Consulting*

Johnny's BBQ*
McDonald's*
Rushon & Company*
Syfan Logistics Charitable Fund♥
South Hall Kiwanis Club, Inc ♥

Honorariums

Sharon Coker♥ in honor of Jeyatashakalalo
Kris Jones in honor of Wendy Glasbrenner
Sheriff Janis Mangum in honor of Sande Bailey-Gwinn
Joe & Caryl Roark ♥ in honor of Jeanne Buffington
Kittie Ross ♥ in honor of Jeanne Buffington, Terri Comer, Evette & Edna Dale, Tammy Green, Lisa Lyle, Zack Murray, Kathy Palmer, Lucy Seabolt, Elaine Wade, Kay Walker, Amy Wethington
Gorden & Janet Tillirson in honor of Melissa King

Individuals

Anonymous♥
Lindsey Alexander
Jeanne Buffington♥
Wanda Bryant♥
Kris Brown♥
Manuel Castro-Ortiz♥
Harry Chapman♥

Sharon Coker♥
Susan Cole
Gerald Couch♥
Ellen Corinne
Katie Crumley
Debbie Edwards*
Ron and Martha Fritchley ♥
Elsa Ann Gaines ♥
Angie Hanes
Monica Hayman
Daphanie Howard
David & Shannon Hughs♥
Scott Jones ♥
Melissa King♥
Ginny Lay
Carol Martin♥
Darren & Shelly Martin ♥
Carmen Mas
Denika McCray
Sean McCusker
Johnathan Mermin♥
Martha & John Nesbitt
Judith Reece ♥
Deuce & Jennifer Roark♥
Joe & Caryl Roark♥
Dorothy Russ
Jim & Gail Sargent ♥
Lawrence & Sherrie Schrage♥
Marta Shelton
Carol Shirley♥
Laurie Spiess ♥
Robert & Laura Staub

Julia Strong
Michelle Taylor
Vince Tillirson♥
Samantha Tinch
Wanda Vance
Elisabeth Vaughan
John & Janet Walden ♥
Sally Walden-Crowe ♥
Lisa Warwick
Valerie Wells
Janelle Whalen ♥
Crevolyn Wiley*
Sally Wise
Marinel Wood ♥
Mary Beth Wood♥
Trey & Morgan Wood♥
Victoria Wujcik

Memorials

Dennis & Mildred Carpenter in memory of Nellie McDonald ♥
Steve Cronin in memory of Doris Cronin
Steve & Kittie Ross in memory of Hazel Propes & Helen Ross♥

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

Thank you to all who made Dancing for a Cause a huge success!

Presentations & Collaborations

- Caminar Latino
- Department of Family & Children's Services
- DV Task Force: Dawson, Forsyth, Hall, Lumpkin & Mountain
- Family Connection: Dawson, Forsyth, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin & White
- First Presbyterian Church Conf. Mission
- Forsyth County Faith Leaders
- Georgia Mountain WorkSource
- Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault
- Good News at Noon
- Habersham Chamber of Commerce
- Habersham Drug Court
- Hall County Juvenile Court
- Hall DA's & Solicitor's Offices
- Hall/Dawson Treatment Court
- Law Enforcement: Brenau, Dawson, Gainesville PD, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin & White
- Rabun County Board of Education
- White County Chamber of Commerce
- University Police Chiefs – 17 Campuses



Jackson EMC Foundation; L-R: Jeanne Buffington, Rebeca Ruelas, Gale Adams, Erica Autry, Angel Jackson & Bill Sanders



Dancing for a Cause Fundraiser; L-R: Michelle Taylor, Erica Autry, Angel Jackson, Anjana Freeman, Jeanne Buffington, Gale Adams & Wanda Bryant



Rape Response staff, Rebeca Reulas, attending a Caminar Latino community meeting



North Georgia Community Foundation Community Impact Grant Award; L-R: NGCF Staff & RR Executive Committee



Children's Center for Hope & Healing Conference L-R: Jordyn Burrow, Sarah Strzeminski, Angel Jackson & Rebeca Ruelas



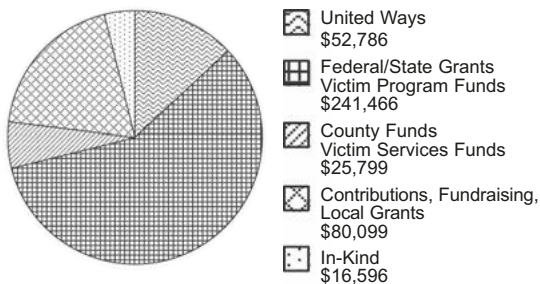
Habersham County Clay Shoot; L-R: John Walden, Jeanne Buffington, Jenna Tilton



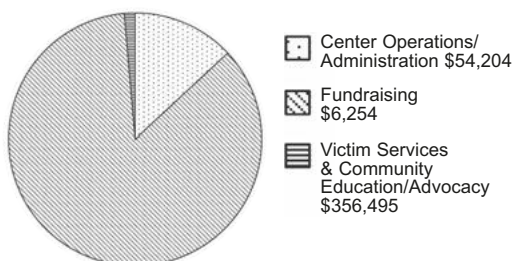
CFC-Peach Belt*Dawson*Forsyth*Habersham*Hall*White

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE – \$416,746



EXPENSES – \$416,953



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee 2016-2017

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	Carol Shirley
Wanda Bryant	Leigh Stallings-Wood
Katie Crumley	Michelle Taylor
Chris Gailey	Wanda Vance
Angie Hanes	Elisabeth Vaughan
Monica Hayman	Camille Viera
Scott Jones	John Walden
Ginny Lay	Trey Wood
Shelly Martin	