

The Advocates Expressway

“Supporting with a Helping Hand”

Support for Non-offending Members of Victims Families

In instances of child abuse, there is always more than one solitary victim. The effects of abuse often times has a ripple affect on every family member to some extent. Many times it is difficult for some to believe that the offender has indeed committed the crime. Tension rises within the family unit, suspicions and questions abound, and the once ignored issues regarding parenting and protecting become illuminated to everyone. If there is a loss in much needed income, it adds an additional dimension of pressure and anxiety on the remaining family members who are forced to modify their lifestyles in alignment with their decreased income.



“Families Helping Families”

Kids First, Inc. Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention Center, has shown they understand this concept and the need to support the victim as well as the family. Most non-offending parents have no experience with the court system or the process through which they and their child will be going through. It is vital that they be given support throughout this ordeal in order to preserve as much stability as possible. The staff at Kids First, Inc. provides this support from the time the parent and child walk through the doors until the end of the case. Kids First, Inc. provides a space within their facility that is designed to be supportive by the very presence of the atmosphere alone. This unique space is called the "Resource and Reflection Room." This area is where their highly important caregivers can spend quiet time reading, resting, gaining knowledge on various topics of interest to parents, or just relaxing in a comfortable rocking chair listening to soothing music for a break from the stress while their child is in therapy. This space is credited to their Administrative Assistant, Courtney Cottrell, who thought of the need and how comforting such a place could be. For more information on Kids First, Inc., please contact them at www.kidsfirstinc.org or call them at 1-252-338-5658.

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Remembering our Children

Angel of Hope Bricks, is an exceptional addition to the Edisto Memorial Gardens and is dedicated to the memory of children who have passed away, preceding their parents. Orangeburg’s Angel of Hope sculpture is the 100th in existence and the only one located in South Carolina. Staff of the Parks and Recreation worked with local citizens and the Christmas Box Angel organization of Salt Lake City, Utah on the project. This organization evolved as the result of a fictional book by Richard Paul Evans, The Christmas Box. The garden is a place of healing for family and friends while remembering our children.

December: National AIDS Awareness Month



December is National AIDS Awareness Month. This awareness is intended to encourage, boost, and promote individuals to know their status and provide educational awareness of the importance of knowing their status. This is a time designated to remember that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome continues to remain a threat in the United States and around the world.

One may say what exactly is AIDS? This acronym stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. This is the life-threatening stage of HIV disease, also called Advanced HIV Disease. It is a medical diagnosis for someone whose immune system is so damaged that certain diseases (opportunistic infections) or cancers can develop.

About 1.2 million persons in the United States are infected with HIV and 1 in five (about 240,000) don't know they are infected. Getting an HIV test can lead to getting proper medical care needed to stay healthier longer. Many people with HIV do not receive the proper medical care they need to treat this deadly disease. Only 28 percent of all persons with HIV receive the care needed to manage the disease and keep the virus under control. The latest data indicates that less than 40% of young people have basic information about HIV and less than 40% of people living with HIV know their status.

The number of new HIV infections continues to surpass the numbers in treatment—for every two people starting treatment, another five become infected with the virus.

While the prediction for Americans who contract HIV improved intensely in the 1990s, thanks to developments in drug treatments, the disease continues to claim an estimated 2 million lives each year. In addition, after decreasing for many years due to comprehensive education, new HIV diagnoses are on the rise in the U.S.

For more information about HIV and AIDS, visit www.AIDS.gov.

"Providing Awareness' & Education to Victim Service Providers by Increasing Community Awareness' of Victim Services."

The Editor's Corner

Seasons Greetings! I am Shameeshia Glover, the SOVA Outreach Victim Services Coordinator of the First Judicial Circuit covering the Orangeburg, Calhoun, and Dorchester County areas. You have just been enlightened by The Advocates' Expressway again! Where our primary objective is to fight for victims' rights and provide education on the crime victims compensation program. Also, as the facilitator and coordinator for the Victims First Task Force, I would like to request that you contact me if you are interested in being a part of our Task Force Team for the 1st Judicial Circuit. This newsletter as always will keep you informed with the latest information in our community. Continue enjoying this ride as we journey to servicing crime victims! Be safe and Happy Holidays!

