

# Family Justice Center Newsletter



November 2007

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The mission of the Family Justice Center of Hillsborough County is to improve the lives of family violence victims through community collaboration and the provision of comprehensive services in a single location.

## A letter from the FJC Executive Director

October was Domestic Violence Awareness month, a time to reflect on the struggles that so many victims face. Did you know that there are an average of about 27 calls for domestic violence to law enforcement *every day* in Hillsborough County? Of course, we also know that most domestic violence goes unreported. The impact of domestic violence on the family is extensive. Most of the children who have been placed in foster care have domestic violence in their family. It is a leading cause of homelessness, as families flee to safety without enough resources. It also contributes to academic difficulties, poor health, increased medical costs, lost time at work, and many other issues.

There were two women murdered in Hillsborough County in the week leading to Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Their murderers also killed themselves. This left 4 children without their mother or father for the rest of their lives. Two of the children, ages 5 and 8, witnessed the murder of their mother. Can you imagine the impact that will have on those children? I can't. During October, another woman in Hillsborough County was beaten to death by her boyfriend. These examples demonstrate the continued need for Domestic Violence Awareness every month. We need to lead our community by not tolerating abuse, educating everyone about where to get help, and making sure victims know they do not deserve to be abused. We need to help victims to become survivors.

Luckily, it is not all gloom and doom. I am proud to be a part of the Family Justice Center team. Together with our partners, we have served almost 2,000 families since we opened last year in September. It has been gratifying to watch all of the on site agencies work as one team for victims of domestic violence and their children. Everyone has been dedicated to this cause, with incredible results. Thank you all for all you have done to make this a safe place for victims to heal and have lives full of happiness.

Please read the editorial which appeared in the Tampa Tribune on October 27, 2007 <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2007/oct/27/na-acting-on-domestic-violence-saves-lives/?news-opinion-editorials>

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## FJC Open House Was a Success!

Celebrating 1 year of service, FJC staff, along with partner agencies, and the nearly 100 members of the community demonstrated their dedication to improving the lives of victims of domestic violence during the FJC Open House.



## Job Announcement!

FJC is accepting resumes for a Bi-Lingual Intake Worker to begin late November to early December.

This position requires a bachelor's degree in social work/psychology or related field. All interested applicants must be bi-lingual (English/Spanish).

Resumes can be e-mailed to [info@fjchc.org](mailto:info@fjchc.org)

## Community Meetings

- ✧ Family Justice Center Partner Meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2007 at 9:00am in the FJC Conference room.
- ✧ Hillsborough County Domestic Violence Task Force Meeting are held the 2nd Thursday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2007, 10:30am, at the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay.
- ✧ If you are a Volunteer Administrator, you are encouraged to join the Hillsborough Association of Volunteer Administrators, HAVA! Meeting's occur the 3rd Friday of every month at the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay from 9:00am-10:30am.

## Community Resources

- ✧ The 2007-2008 Many Faces of Trauma Lecture Series: Trauma Scholars  
<http://facesoftrauma.fmhi.usf.edu/>
- ✧ Positive Spin assists families in crisis  
<http://www.uwtb.org/subpage.asp?navid=0&id=48>
- ✧ Florida Department of Children and Families  
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/domesticviolence/>
- ✧ USF Harrell Center Training Announcement  
<http://harrellcenter.hsc.usf.edu/Training.htm>

## FJC Chaplain Program

Spiritual Support can provide much needed encouragement during a time of struggle. For many people, their spiritual questions take precedent when they are making major life decisions, especially when those decisions involve safety and abuse. That is the reason the FJC Chaplaincy Program exists, to provide a spiritual gift of presence for those seeking support from their faith.

The Chaplaincy Program serves FJC Guests each week. Thank you to our On-Call Chaplains, Chaplain Iman Elkadi, and Chaplain Mike Neely for their availability. We are in the process of training three new Chaplains who will have regular hours on-site at FJC. We are always in need of volunteer Chaplains willing to donate their time and support to our Guests. If you or Clergy you know would be interested in volunteering, please contact the FJC Program Coordinator at 813-490-9403.

## Volunteer News

Day of Caring Volunteers from Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc.



Family Justice Center has volunteers that offer free childcare services, for FJC Guests attending appointments, every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am—2:00pm.

Day of Caring Volunteers from Tampa Bay Trane.



- ✧ FJC Staff extends a very warm thank you to our United Way Day of Caring Volunteers. Several groups rooms and hallways were painted by the staff of Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc. and the staff of Tampa Bay Trane.
- ✧ Special thanks to Gulf Coast Legal and Wheel of Success for putting FJC Volunteers to work!
- ✧ An FJC Volunteer could be just what you need. Our volunteers can help **onsite partners** with paperwork, data entry, filing, research, and special projects or events. If you need volunteer please contact the Community Outreach Coordinator [info@fjchc.org](mailto:info@fjchc.org).
- ✧ We are continually recruiting new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who is interested applications are located on the FJC website [www.fjchc.org/public/potentialvolunteers.html](http://www.fjchc.org/public/potentialvolunteers.html).

## SAIN Conference

The Sexual Abuse Intervention Network (SAIN) of Hillsborough County was honored to host a three day “train the trainer” workshop with Gail Ryan on October 1-3. Gail Ryan is a well known and respected author, therapist and trainer working for over 30 years in the field of youth with sexual behavior problems. She is the director of the Kempe Center for Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect in Denver, Colorado and the Facilitator of the National Adolescent Perpetration Network. The Family Justice Center provided the training site to over 20 professionals from all over the state of Florida.



This training will allow each attendee to provide training to their community regarding sexual abuse prevention & intervention, understanding & responding to the sexual behaviors of children, informed supervision of juveniles at risk for sexual offense and the therapeutic caregiver’s role in treatment of juveniles. Thanks also to the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County for funding the SAIN program and making trainings like these possible.

## FJC Training Academy

**November 13, 2007 from 9:00am-11:00am**

### **Children with Sexual Acting Out Behaviors (2 CEU's)**

This is a two hour introductory course for professionals working with children. This course enables participants to distinguish between normal and problematic sexual behaviors in children. Topics include characteristics of sexually abusive youth, defining childhood sexual abuse, strategies for preventing further victimization, and the legal process in Hillsborough County.

Remaining 2007 Dates: Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

**November 13, 2007 from 4:00pm-7:00pm**

### **Helping Hands: Volunteer Training**

This training focuses on the specifics of the volunteer program. Volunteers will learn the dynamics of domestic violence, safety and security, and Guest Care. security policies of the FJC, volunteer scheduling, and other topics specific to volunteers in the program. This training will be held in the FJC Video Conferencing Room.

**November 19, 2007 from 8:30am-12:00pm**

### **FJC Orientation**

This training is an orientation to cover the basic operational procedures of the FJC and well as the vital safety policies and procedures. In addition, this training will cover the FJC phone system, equipment (fax, copy, etc), computer system, and scheduling procedure between agencies. This training is required for On-Site Partner Agency Staff, Interns, and new FJC staff. Training is held in the FJC Video Conferencing Room.

**November 20, 2007 from 1:30pm-5:00pm**

### **A Gift of Presence: Interfaith Chaplaincy Training (2 CEU's)**

This training for clergy and lay people on the complex issues of providing spiritual support to victims of domestic violence. Training addresses the key faith issues a domestic violence victim may face and teaches clergy how to offer victim-center support that focuses on safety, it also addresses the issue of providing the Gift of Presence in a non-sectarian, non-proselytizing fashion. While this class is designed for clergy that serve as Chaplains in the FJC Interfaith Chaplaincy Program anyone in the faith community is welcome to attend. This training will be held in the FJC Video Conferencing Room.

**November 26 & 27, 2007 from 8:30am-4:30pm**

### **Nut And Bolts: The Basics of Domestic Violence Advocacy (12 CEU's)**

This is a four part, 2 Day training offered to advocates, volunteers, interns, clergy, and other community based providers who work with victims of domestic violence. Topics include, dynamics of domestic violence, safety planning, lethality assessment, confidentiality, boundaries, working with diverse populations, dating violence, and effects of domestic violence on children and adolescents.

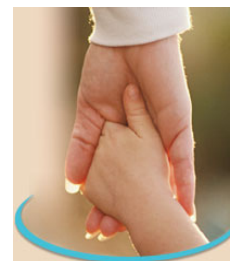
**Registration:** The Training Academy is free. Please register online:

<http://www.fjchc.org/public/events.html>

**Trainings To Go:** All trainings offered by FJC Training Academy can be brought to your agency on a day and time convenient for you and your staff, contact [info@fjchc.org](mailto:info@fjchc.org).



The FJC Training Academy is made possible by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County.





## National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2007

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Families are indispensable to a stable society, and they should be a place of support to instill responsibility and values in the next generation . When a family member is abused , it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large. Our society must continue to work to prevent domestic violence and help create a loving and stable environment for our children and grandchildren.

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to renew our commitment to preventing domestic violence and to assisting those who suffer from its devastating effects. My Administration is dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. The Family Justice Center Initiative, announced in 2003, continues to work towards eradicating domestic violence in our Nation. This program provides assistance and services for victims of domestic violence by bringing professionals, advocates, law enforcement, and organizations together at centers nationwide. In 2006, I signed legislation that reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act to fight domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We also are working with faith-based and community organizations to assist victims in need. In addition, the Department of Justice's Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Assistance Program provides access to transitional housing services while working to move victims of violence into permanent housing.

As we observe National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we underscore our commitment to building an America where all citizens can live with dignity, work productively, and achieve their dreams. We encourage victims and their families and friends to seek assistance through Family Justice Centers and to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Together, we can help prevent , recognize, and stop domestic violence in America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States , do hereby proclaim October 2007 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to those who have been abused and help educate people about the vital importance of ending domestic violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH