



Hamilton County
Chattanooga Family
Justice Center

5705 Uptain Rd.
Chattanooga, Tn.
37411

423-643-7600

**(NCADV) 1 in 4
women will
experience intimate
partner violence in
their lifetime.**

**Up to 68 % will
suffer near-fatal
strangulation at the
hands of their
partner.**

**IPV accounts for
15% of all violent
crime**

Family Justice Center News

Quarterly Newsletter October 2021

The Family Justice Center and our partners and allies work together to put an end to intimate partner violence and support survivors while holding offenders accountable. We as a collaborative seek to meet people where they are and provide inclusive services that promote healing, transformation and hope for the future. "Working together creating pathways to safety and hope". We are committed to providing safe spaces where survivors' needs are met, children protected, and hope realized. FJC staff, community partners, and allies work together with transparency, respect, and trust. We Believe... Every person has the right to live free of fear and violence and every person should have a place to tell their story. Nourishing hope in survivors creates pathways to healing and thriving.

True collaboration and transparency allow us to become the best version of ourselves for our survivors.

Our offices are open, and we are accepting walk-ins.

The month of October is "Domestic Violence Awareness month" and allows us as a community to remember and honor victims and survivors of intimate partner violence. The theme is "We are resilient".

We would like to highlight the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults Family Violence Shelter Services for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. They have served our community for 35 years. They support victims with 24/7 hotline, safe shelter, safety planning, support groups, counseling and court advocacy and they are an onsite partner at the Family Justice Center. We are proud to partner with them.

The hotline number is 423-755-2700



Letter from the Director

Mayor Tim Kelly and Mayor Jim Coppinger have proclaimed October Domestic Violence Awareness month in Chattanooga and Hamilton County. We are thankful for their support in our community journey to support survivors and hold offenders accountable. The Family Justice Center and our partners share a collective vision in which we provide safe spaces where survivors needs are met, children protected and hope realized. With our partners and allies, we are able to ensure all voices are represented, promote safe healthy families and drive social change and justice

The decision for a survivor to leave is a courageous, brave and many times extremely dangerous one. Family, friends, community and service providers help to make the journey successful and support their resiliency. We believe and honor the choices that survivors make, knowing that they are the experts of their own safety. Research tells us that hope is “the single best predictor of well-being”. Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past and that you actually have a role to play in making it better.

Survivors are resilient when they choose to stay because it's too dangerous to leave today,
Survivors are resilient when they choose to leave and start a new path free from abuse.
Survivors are resilient when they choose to stand and let their voice be heard loud and strong “No more abuse”
Communities are resilient when we choose to support survivor’s pathway to safety and hope.
We as a community are resilient when we collaborate to ensure needed services are identified and provided.
We as a community are resilient when we support legislation that offers protection to survivors and accountability to offenders.
We are all resilient when we choose Hope.

Regina McDevitt

The Hamilton County Chattanooga Family Justice Center and their partner organizations: Chattanooga Police Department/ Special Victims Unit, the Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County, Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Hamilton County Mental Health Court, Nurture the Next, Street Grace, Partnership for Families Children and Adults, Southern Adventist University School of Social Work, McKamey Animal Center, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Loves Arm, Rise Up, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Hamilton County District Attorney's Office seek opportunities to educate the public on the seriousness of interpersonal violence and the prevalence of this epidemic in our lives.

#WeAreResilient
 #DVAM2021
 #PowerUP

Proclamation Reading by Mayor Jim Coppinger and Mayor Tim Kelly

Oct. 1, 2021

Thank you to Mayor Tim Kelly and Mayor Jim Coppinger for the reading of and declaring the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. FJC staff and partners are moving the needle in our community to keep survivors safe and hold offenders accountable.



Proclamation

Whereas: The family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community and it is a goal of these sovereign jurisdictions for our communities to be safe and

Whereas: domestic violence impacts individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality, to which children are also affected. More than half of the crime against persons in Tennessee are domestic violence related and

Whereas: the Tennessee and Florida laws regarding intimate partner violence and gender transgender people and people with disabilities, including those who are deaf are experiencing significant rates of victimization. Victims are deprived of their autonomy, liberty, security, and face tremendous threats to their health and safety and

Whereas: while domestic violence is not always manifested as physical abuse, it is also any pattern of behavior that attempts to control and isolate a partner in a family, such as through neglect, manipulation, isolation, financial abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, mental abuse, and/or verbal abuse. While physical injury with visible marks may often be the most obvious sign of harm, the true physical and mental trauma is much deeper and can have life-long consequences, including emotional, social, physically, and long-term health, financial insecurity. Children who are witnesses often experience feelings, trauma, and

Whereas: when children are involved, domestic violence perpetration choices to be violent and abusive are parenting choices that often have a devastating and far-reaching adverse impact on the safety and well-being of children and their communities, parents, and

Whereas: the Hamilton County Chattanooga Family Justice Center and their partner organizations: Chattanooga Police Department's Special Victims Unit, the Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County, Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Hamilton County Mental Health Court, Nurture the Next, Street Grace, Partnership for Families Children and Adults, Southern Adventist University School of Social Work, McKamey Animal Center, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Loves Arm, Rise Up, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Hamilton County District Attorney's Office seek opportunities to educate the public on the prevalence of interpersonal violence and the prevalence of this epidemic in our lives and

Whereas: ending domestic violence requires a collaborative effort involving every part of our society and requires our law enforcement, the justice system, and service providers to work together as a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response team to identify, investigate, and to hold offenders accountable, reduce recidivism, and to protect and improve our victims and their children and

Whereas: during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to forging a community where no one suffers the hurt and hardship that domestic violence causes and we recommit to doing everything in our power to uphold the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse and

Whereas: Chattanooga and Hamilton County join with their sister Tennessee's the National in supporting victims of domestic violence and share the worthy goals of this month-long observance and likewise support the work of public & private entities that strive to provide the best coordinated response to domestic violence in consultation to our state, sending a loud and clear message to show that domestic violence is not tolerated in Chattanooga & Hamilton County.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Tim Kelly Mayor of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Jim Coppinger, Mayor of Hamilton County, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as

"Domestic Violence Awareness Month"

Within the City of Chattanooga and the County of Hamilton, and urge all citizens to pay special tribute to this important observance.

Tim Kelly, City Mayor

Jim M. Coppinger, County Mayor

The Red Sand Project

Facts according to TBI:

In the United States, on average, every two minutes, a child is bought or sold for sex.

The average age of a child sold for sex is 13 years old.

Human Trafficking is the second-fastest growing criminal industry, just behind Drug Trafficking.

For more information call The Hamilton County Chattanooga Family Justice Center at 423-643-7600. If you are working with an individual who has disclosed a trafficking history, call the End Slavery Tennessee referral line at (615) 806-6899 ext. 18.



July 29, 2021

The Hamilton County Chattanooga Family Justice Center along with partnering agencies, Willow Bend, Street Grace, Love's Arms, 7th Well, TBI, Cry for the Broken, CPD, and a survivor participated in the Red Sand Project to bring awareness to and action against vulnerabilities that lead to human trafficking and exploitation. Red sand was carefully poured into cracks of the sidewalk and used to write empowering words like, 'END HUMAN TRAFFICKING' 'Demand An End' and '#REDSANDPROJECT' in the front entryway of the Family Justice Center's building to represent the survivors who slip through the cracks.

"During the coronavirus pandemic, human trafficking has been driven increasingly underground, fueling fears of more violent means of control used against victims who are being exploited during the pandemic.

Traffickers have also expanded their reach through the misuse of internet and communication technology to advertise, recruit and exploit persons, and especially lure children whom they groom for sexual online exploitation." -JOHN COTTON RICHMOND, UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Red Sand Project

Red Sand Project

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Thank you to all the participating agencies who came together with the Hamilton County Chattanooga Family Justice Center on The Red Sand Project.

Red Sand Project is a participatory artwork created by Molly Gochman that uses sidewalk interventions and earthwork installations to create opportunities for people to question, connect and take action against vulnerabilities that can lead to human trafficking and exploitation.

The City of Chattanooga Office of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (OHS) has recently housed many families and unsheltered Chattanoogaans at a higher success rate than previous months. We are holding a donation drive for our newly housed clients to help create a home with dignity and coziness.

City of Chattanooga Office of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (OHS)

Donation Drive



Items needed: (new or gently used)



- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Shampoo | Pots | Bed sheets | Laundry detergent |
| Conditioner | Pans | Pillows | Toilet paper |
| Bodywash | Silverware | Bath mats | Broom/mop |
| Toothbrush | Plates | Shower Curtain | Paper towels |
| Toothpaste | Bowls | Blankets | |
| Hair Brush | Bakeware | Deodorant | |
| Bath Towels | Cookware | Lotion | |
| Wash Cloths | Canned Goods | Wipes | |
| | Non-perishable Food | | |



Kitchen supplies

Toiletries

Household Items

Donations can be made to:
1714 Duncan Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Questions or Inquiries:
rharkins@chattanooga.gov

All donations can be collected at our office located at: 1714 Duncan Ave Chattanooga, TN 37404. Donation pickup can also be arranged via email: rharkins@chattanooga.gov Chattanooga, TN



Partnership
for Families, Children and Adults

Camp Hope



August 2021



To contact Camp Hope for more information, go to <https://www.partnershipfca.com/157.273/contact-camp-hope>

Or call Partnership for Families Children and Adults at 423-755-2822

Camp HOPE is values-based, trauma informed, and a 'Challenge by Choice' program with a focus on building relationships and praising children for observing and developing character traits. The Challenge by Choice activities encourage them to try new activities with perceived danger or risk (rock climbing, zip-lining, and canoeing) while allowing them to opt out of those activities if the challenge creates unmanageable stress or fear. This allows them to build self-awareness as well as confidence in being able to overcome challenges, choosing to step outside of their comfort zone while setting boundaries for themselves.

School is Back in Hamilton County



Children's schedules have become disarranged over the pandemic year, with many eating and sleeping at odd hours.

To help your kids get back on track before school starts,

Return to your regular school-year routine now:

Enforce regular sleep and wake times (with a "no screen" rule for at least an hour before bed),

Try to keep meal times consistent — with dinner not too late and breakfast early enough to be eaten before school.

Yes indeed! School is back in session and back in person. Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction 2021 has been a priority.

Because of Covid and the Delta variant infecting children at a much more rapid rate, the effects of this variant seem to be more damaging to children. We are seeing Hamilton County take precautions when it comes to protecting our children who may be vulnerable to Covid or any variant of Covid. Students and staff in Hamilton County Schools are required to wear masks while inside buildings and on the school bus. Students, teachers, and staff are advised to stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

For more information on prevention in K-12 schools, visit the cdc website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>



CRITI is in need! If you or someone you know can assist CRITI with the items below, please call 423.624.6144. These items will help us meet our participant's current needs.

Individually wrapped kids snacks:

Gold Fish
Chips
Cookies
Apple Sauce
Pop Tarts
Oranges
Bananas
Fruit Snacks
Pudding Cups

Drinks:

Individual juice drinks for children and adults (children's can be boxed)

Pedialyte Electrolyte Packs

Propel Electrolyte Packs

Paper Towels

Paper Mask

Activity Bags for

Children:

2 year old boy

3 year old girl

7 year old girl

10 year old girl

12 year old girl

Happy 33rd Birthday to Chattanooga Room in the Inn!

CHATTANOOGA



We are so happy to celebrate with Chattanooga Room in the Inn (CRITI) which is a program for homeless women and children individualized to the participant's circumstances and progress. Services provided at CRITI are free of charge and include transitional housing, one meal a day provided by volunteers, access to affordable or free health care, life skills training, educational assistance, parenting classes, mentoring, assistance with finding affordable housing, and case management services. This program allows the women and their children to find stability, thereby increasing their opportunities and chances for independence when they leave the program.

Chattanooga Room in the Inn (CRITI) provides more than just shelter. In the loving arms of our program, women can address the issues that brought them to our door, learn how to pave the way to a brighter future and never be homeless again.

Finding Healing Peer Support Group has started!

Center for Living and Thriving is offering a virtual support group to help understand how trauma impacts us and our relationships.

Hamilton County
Family Justice Center
Center for Living and
Thriving
423-643-7600


CRYSTAL HAMMAR, LMFT &
SHARON RATCHFORD, LMSW
PRESENT:

FINDING HEALING PEER SUPPORT GROUP

A safe space to gain understanding of how
trauma impacts us and our relationships.
*Topics: Learn ways to manage anxiety, Address
family conflicts, Types of trauma, and Day-to-day
stressors.*

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 @ 10:00 AM
2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH
VIRTUAL

<https://v.ringcentral.com/join/643998499> Type
or
Scan
Password: Healing



Sponsored By: Hamilton County Family Justice Center
Center for Living and Thriving
5705 Uptain Rd. Chattanooga, TN 37411
Phone: 423-643-7600

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

This is our calendar of events flyer we are having in October:

#WeAreResilient

#DVAM2021

#PowerUp

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Chattanooga Hamilton County Family Justice Center
Presents:
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

OCT 1

- ▶ Pinwheel display at FJC, representing the 90 domestic violence murder victims in TN in 2020
- ▶ Proclamation (Recorded)
- ▶ October: Month of Domestic Violence Awareness
- ▶ Purple lighting display of the FJC
- ▶ #WeAreResilient

OCT 13

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
▶ email will be sent with more details

OCT 20

Domestic Violence Advocates Appreciation Day
▶ email will be sent with more details

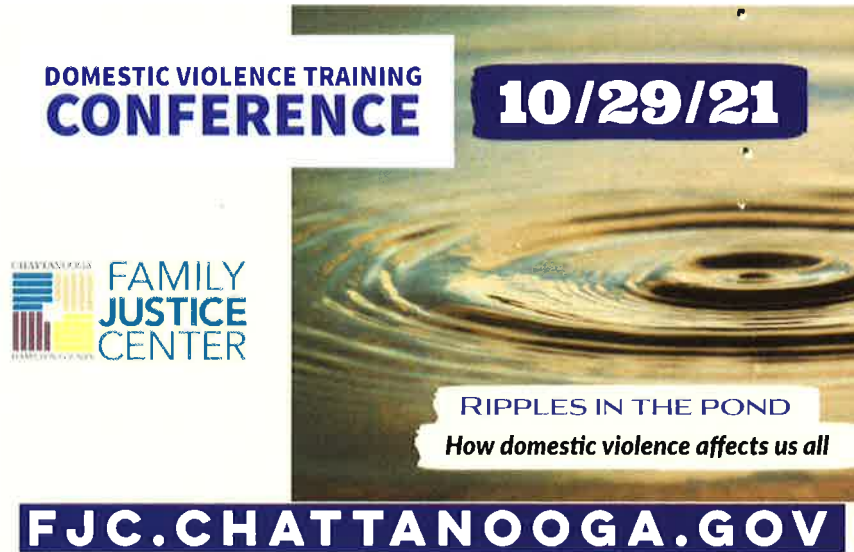
OCT 21

National Wear Purple Day

OCT 29

Domestic Violence Training Conference
"Ripples in the Pond: How Domestic Violence Affects Us All"
9am - 4pm
Open to all professionals
Registration opens October 1, email admffc@chattanooga.gov

Domestic Violence Training Conference 10/29/2021



For more information, contact Patti Childers at (423)643-7603 or email pchilders@chattanooga.gov.

Registration:
<https://forms.gle/WiDLVFkAjzgB6XYL9>

This year's conference will be held virtually via Zoom. This educational conference for professionals offers the opportunity to learn about innovative approaches, current issues in domestic violence, community resources, opportunities for development, and more. This conference will promote a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that domestic violence victims face.

The virtual conference will be held on Friday, October 29th, 2021, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Keynote Topics:

Domestic Violence as a Public Health Concern

The Strangulation Forensic Medical Exam

Breakout Sessions with local experts on topics to include Leadership, Self-care, a survivor panel, and more!

**The conference is FREE; registration is required.

Continuing Education Units (CEU) will be available

Deana's Nugget

'Shadow Pandemic'

We are, and have been, living in the world of a pandemic. "Pandemic" means "occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population: an outbreak or product of sudden rapid spread, growth, or development".

Today when we hear the word pandemic, we usually think of the prevalent Covid-19 virus, but what about the pandemic of domestic violence? You may have heard the term 'shadow pandemic' as it refers to the growing number of domestic violence against around the world amid Covid-19. International agencies, research agencies, NGOs and activists have all used the term shadow pandemic in describing the rise in domestic violence since the lockdowns of Covid-19. Hearing 'shadow pandemic', the term may seem to indicate that domestic violence is in the shadows, the background, or that it's sort of invisible to some. It may sound to some that it is only a shadow to Covid-19. I think the term sounds like, since covid lockdowns have exacerbated the growing numbers of domestic violence, it is an under-reporting of domestic violence.

But does the term 'shadow pandemic' fail to acknowledge the fact that domestic violence was a true pandemic we have confronted before Covid-19 as well as long after? Are we watering down the fact that domestic violence is more prevalent since the lockdowns but less reported? Does 'shadow pandemic' sound like it is a short-term issue?

Since Covid-19, we have witnessed the strain on essential services, domestic violence shelters, and hotlines worldwide. Even our courts are backed up and overwhelmed. We have had ninety victims of domestic violence murder in Tennessee in 2020 according to TBI.

While we have politicians, physicians, and others working around the clock to have and encourage vaccines and declaring they want everyone healthy and safe, we have the extenuating circumstances of Covid-19 that are amplifying danger for victims and survivors of domestic violence. I would love to see the same efforts that are exerted on Covid-19 to also be prioritized for awareness, education, victim services, and offender accountability.

