

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR

2016-2017

ORANGE COUNTY

HEALING BEGINS HERE

SEMINOLE COUNTY



VICTIM SERVICE CENTER
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Welcome to
KISSIMMEE

OUR ORGANIZATION

A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

The 2016-2017 fiscal year was a landmark year for the Victim Service Center of Central Florida. We hosted another successful Cheers to Change gala, championed Central Florida's Denim Day movement to raise awareness about sexual assault, and co-hosted an innovative Sexual Assault Awareness Month Conference with our Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) partners to train professionals from across the state on best practices related to sexual violence.

This year we have continued to expand our services by establishing a satellite office in Seminole County. Although we always have served Seminole County clients through our main office location in Orlando, now by opening an office in Seminole County we have been able to make our services even more accessible, similar to what we did in 2012 when we opened our Osceola County satellite office. Altogether we have seen a 30% increase in clients served over the prior year. And, as we have grown, our staff has risen to the occasion, continuing to strive for excellence and implement new strategies to better serve our clients.

Thanks to our grant funders and committed support network, we have also been fortunate enough to transcend traditional client services and embrace another core element of our mission: prevention and education. In the last year we launched our Be The Hero campaign that targets high school and college age students and teaches them how to safely intervene and prevent crime before it happens. Educating the community about sexual violence and providing them with the right tools for preventing crime helps us work toward our ultimate goal of transforming the lives of victims and putting an end to violence in our community.

We at the VSC are grateful for the commitment of our funders, partners, volunteers, and community members, and we feel honored to be able to serve and provide life changing services to the residents of Central Florida. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Lui Damiani, *Executive Director*



Adela Hathaway, *Chairperson*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adela Hathaway, *Chairperson*

Amy Bosley, *Vice-Chairperson*

Susan Fortini, *Secretary*

Sonia Narvaez, *Treasurer*

BOARD MEMBERS

Captain Al Rollins

Laura Owens

Bridget Keefe

Sam Azar

Commissioner Scott Boyd

Debbie Pusateri

Dr. Kristin Page

Allen Johnson

LeeAnne Feagan

Kelly Trace

MISSION:

To provide individualized services and resources to victims of sexual assault, violent crime and traumatic circumstances, through crisis response, advocacy, therapy and community awareness.



VISION:

To transform victims' lives and prevent violence in our community.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

VSC is the only Certified Rape Crisis Center serving both Orange and Osceola Counties. All services are free, confidential and victim-focused.

-  Advocacy
-  Victim Compensation
-  Information & Referral
-  Outreach
-  Therapy
-  Injunction for Protection
-  Crisis Counseling
-  24/7 Crisis Helpline
-  Medical & Forensics
-  Safety Planning
-  Prevention & Education
-  Sexual Battery Relocation

VSC SERVES VICTIMS OF:

Assault
Domestic Violence
DUI/DWI Crashes
Elder Abuse
Fraud
Hit & Run
Home Invasion
Homicide
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment
Mass Shootings
Robbery
Stalking

As the Certified Rape Crisis Center for Orange and Osceola Counties our advocates are called immediately to the scene to assist victims - we have 60 minutes to respond in Orange County and 75 minutes in Osceola County.

VSC AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME:

Advocates: 37 minutes

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE): 40 minutes



SEMINOLE COUNTY: (321)972-4465

600 North Highway 17-92, Suite 168, Longwood, Florida, 32750
* Weekdays from 8am-5pm by appointment only

ORANGE COUNTY: (407)254-9415

2111 East Michigan Street, Suite 210, Orlando, Florida, 32806
* Weekdays from 8am-5pm, walk-ins welcome

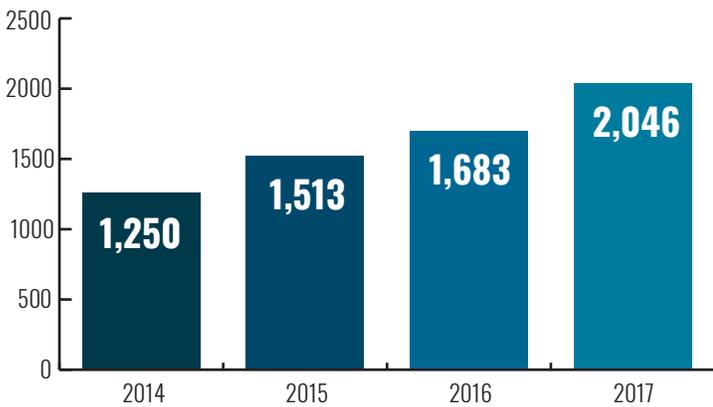
OSCEOLA COUNTY: (407)254-9415

100 West Neptune Road, Kissimmee, Florida 34741
* Weekdays from 8am-5pm by appointment only

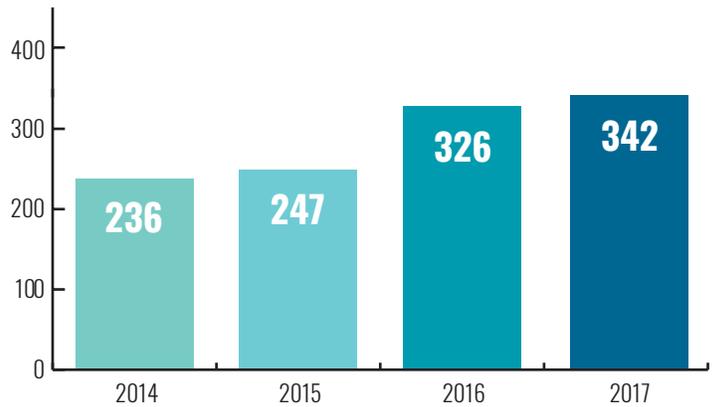
VSC BY THE NUMBERS



HELPLINE CALLS

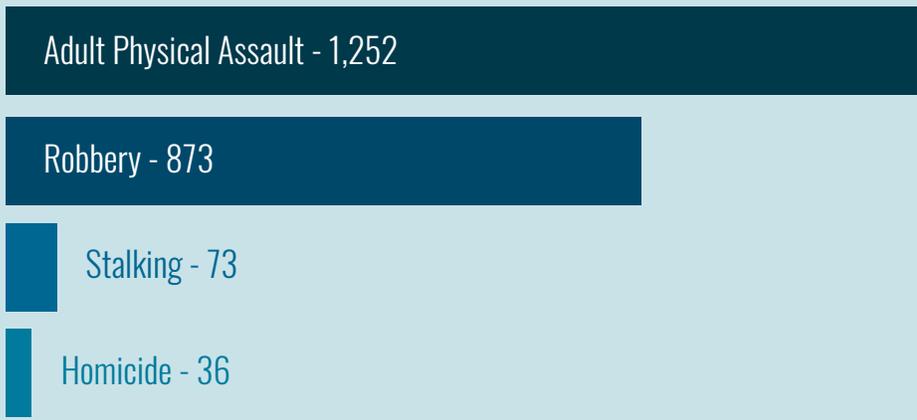


ACUTE CASES (within 120 hours of the assault)



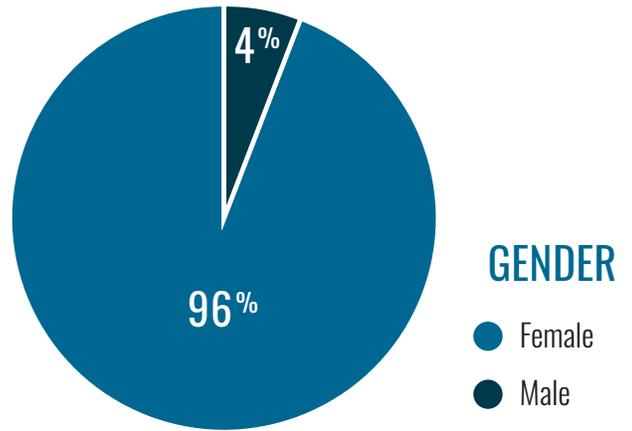
CRIME VICTIM CLIENTS

Types of Victimizations Served in 2016/2017



ACUTE SEXUAL ASSAULT CLIENTS

73% of Acute Cases reported to Law Enforcement at the time of exam



- Disabled - 10%
- Homeless - 7%
- Veteran - 2%
- LGBTQ+ - 23%



2,037 sexual violence clients served (45%)

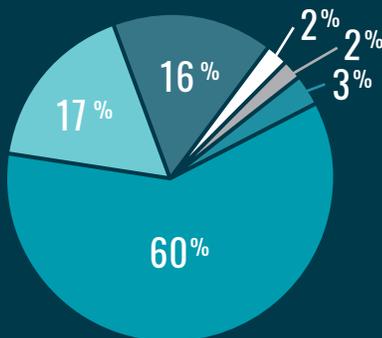


I was treated with respect, sympathy, empathy, and compassion. I was given hope and reassurance.”

– Sexual Assault Survivor

THERAPY CLIENTS

ETHNICITY

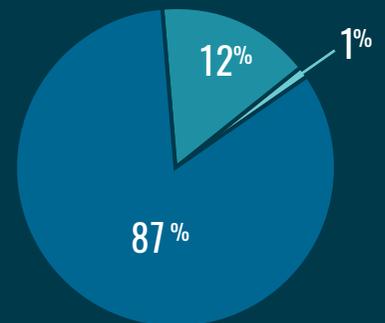


- Caucasian (60%)
- African American (17%)
- Hispanic Latino (16%)
- Asian (3%)
- Arabic (2%)
- Biracial (2%)

AVERAGE AGE

33

GENDER



- Female (87%)
- Transgender (12%)
- Male (1%)

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Our 4th Annual Cheers to Change Gala was Friday, April 7, 2017 with almost 400 attendees! With Owens Realty leading the way as our Platinum Sponsor, we raised more funds than ever before to continue the work we do to support victims in our community. The food, drinks and entertainment kept going all night! Thank you for continuing to support us through this event each year, without you we would not have had four successful years.

Denim Day is an international protest responding to the 1990's Italian Supreme Court decision to overrule the conviction of a rape case. Although the assailant had been found guilty at the trial, the Supreme Court argued that because jeans are difficult to remove, the assailant couldn't have done so without the help of the victim. Every year we encourage Central Florida to wear jeans in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault to let them know they are not alone.

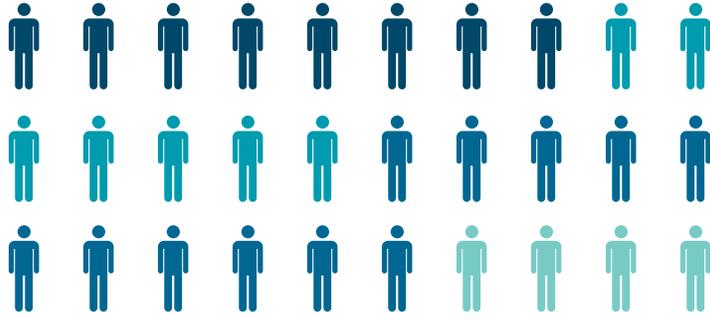


In 2017 we co-hosted a conference with our Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) partners with 100 attendees from around the state to discuss new and best practices in victim care. SART is comprised of all community partners providing care for victims of sexual assault, making this conference a great opportunity for everyone to come together and focus on providing the best care possible for victims of sexual violence.

OUTREACH

285 EVENTS

Reached a total audience of **136,540** people



Direct face to face contact with **7,283** people

492 individuals disclosed being a victim of crime to VSC staff at these events and were provided support and information



“Thank you for being so understanding and patient with me. It’s been so hard and it’s nice to know I have support when needed.”

-VSC Client



#BeTheHero

In April 2017 Be The Hero launched as a partnership program with Seminole State College to bring the training to all four campuses. Along with community presentations, an audience of 2,108 individuals were trained last year on active bystander intervention.

VSC EDUCATION & PREVENTION PRESENTATIONS:

- “Be The Hero” – Active Bystander Intervention Training
- Bullying
- Healthy Relationships
- Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Trauma Informed Care

Volunteer Program:

Last year over **900 hours** of volunteer service was dedicated to the VSC, saving the agency **\$21,846.70** with their gift of time.



JOANN'S STORY

Hi, I'm JoAnn, a silent victim. My husband was a victim of an attempted murder at his place of employment by a disgruntled ex-coworker who ended up stabbing him in his head with a pair of scissors. During his outpatient therapies, his speech therapist asked me if I was taking care of myself and talking to anyone because I am also a victim. She handed me a card to VSC.

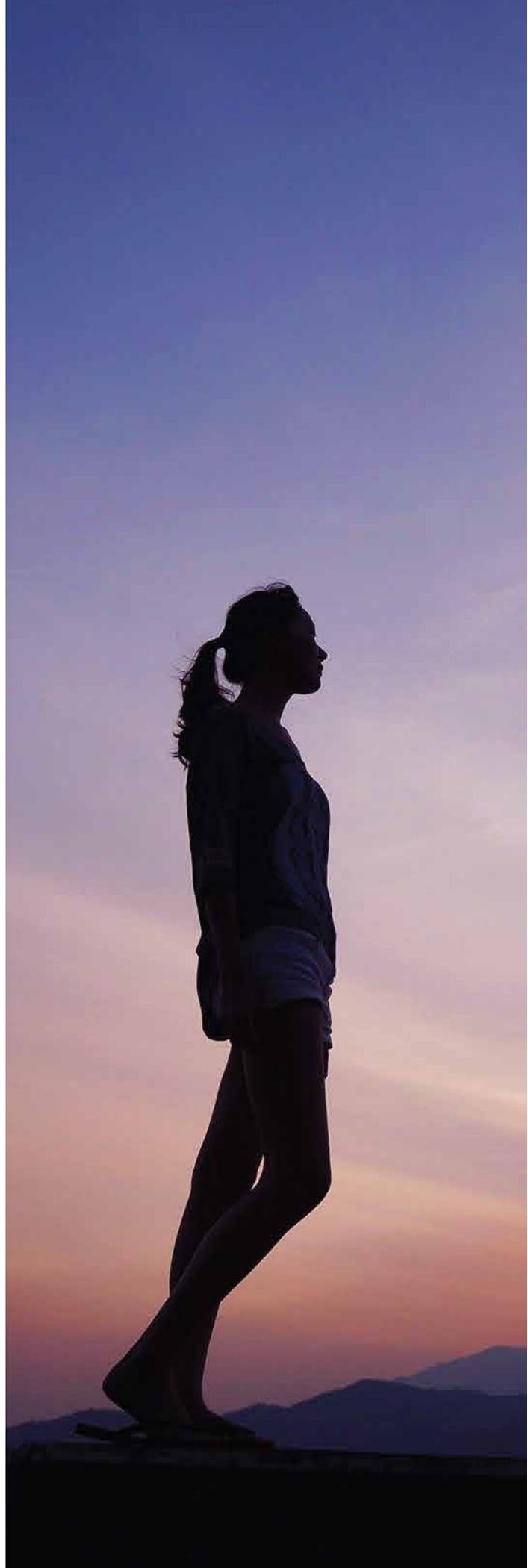
I called immediately and was able to come in, fill out their information sheet and just a couple weeks later I was meeting with both an Advocate and Therapist, who I still see today even though the attack on my husband happened on Jan 1, 2016.

When I first came to VSC, I was so overwhelmed with emotions. Waking up that morning to a phone call telling me there was an incident between my husband and his attacker and he'd been taken to the hospital, only later to discover he had been stabbed in the head with a pair of scissors, with only a 50/50 chance of survival. As the days went on, watching him in a coma not knowing if when he woke up if he would remember me or what disabilities he might have. When he did awake and knew who I was, our next hurdle was relearning how to walk, speak, write, read, which correct utensils to use while eating. Watching a grown man, anyone you love having to relearn these basic developmental skills like they were a child, is one of the hardest things I've ever had to watch. My emotions were everywhere! From happy he was alive, to heartbroken watching him try to read a book like "See Spot Run", to anger at the man who did this. I felt ALONE.....

VSC has been a life saver for me. My Advocate was able to help me with the criminal trial for my husband's attacker. She was a huge help guiding me in the direction I wanted to go with my Victim Impact Statement. I wanted to keep it professional yet get my word across to the Judge explaining how this act of violence had affected me just as much as my husband. Luckily, my Advocate was able to attend the trial which helped more when it came to time to read my statement at the sentencing and being there for the support I needed to get through this.

I also see a therapist at VSC, she continues to help me today with coping and teaching me ways to work through the stress and anxiety of "my new normal" as I like to call it. I'm able to control the anger I have towards the person who changed not only my husband's life, but my life! Because of VSC, I no longer feel alone. I know that if I'm having a bad day and need someone to talk to, I can call the 24/7 hour hotline, 407-500-HEAL, and there will be someone there to just listen and to let me know however I am feeling in that moment is okay and tomorrow is a new day.

The financial support VSC receives to provide professional care and help to victims and their families is so important, because I honestly do not know if I could be as strong as I've become for myself and my husband without their help.



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Grant Income **\$1,490,490**

Donations & Corporate Contributions **\$205,097**

In-Kind Contributions **\$159,767**

Fundraising **\$84,939**

SANE Program Revenue **\$39,556**

Interest Income **\$2,071**

EXPENSES

Rape Crisis Program **\$926,813**

Victim Services Programs **\$281,782**

Therapy & Support **\$231,779**

Community Outreach & Prevention **\$199,466**

General & Administrative **\$171,206**

Fund Development **\$82,350**



She made me feel safe and reassured me that I am not wrong and how I feel is completely normal. I thank you guys for making me feel sane and bettering my coping process.”

-VSC Client



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