

JANUARY 2025 EDITION
THE ADVOCATE

Pee Dee Coalition Against
Domestic & Sexual Assault Newsletter

WELCOME

2025
NEW YEAR, UNITED PURPOSE

As we step into 2025 with hope and determination, Pee Dee Coalition reflects on a year of progress made possible by our incredible community. In this January edition, we honor our 2024 donors, recognize January as Human Trafficking and Stalking Awareness Month, celebrate our "Best of 2024" distinction as Florence, SC's #6 nonprofit, and highlight the continued success of Pee Dee Coalition's programs, including the launch of the "Planting a Seed of Hope in Williamsburg County" campaign to support Durant Children's Center's new location in Kingstree, SC. Together, we are planting seeds for a brighter future!

A Featured Message from Pee Dee Coalition Donor

Domtar Paper is one of Pee Dee Coalition's most steadfast supporters and has transformed lives at the **New Beginnings Transitional Shelter (NBTS) in Wallace, SC** over the years. From donating essential resources, like cleaning supplies and industrial stoves, to planting a nourishing vegetable garden and providing countless volunteer hours, contributions and ongoing maintenance support, their generosity has uplifted residents and strengthened our mission.

Tammy Hammer, Domtar – Marlboro's Executive Assistant and a Chesterfield-Marlboro County Chapter Board member, shares:

"My journey with Pee Dee Coalition has been incredibly inspiring. When I first got involved, I was struck by the critical need for both funds and volunteer support. By integrating the New Beginnings Transitional Shelter into our mill's programs, we've been able to not only raise awareness but actively engage our employees in meaningful ways that show residents they are cared for and supported. This collective effort is uplifting for everyone involved. Contributing to a safer, more supportive environment and working toward a future free from fear and harm is deeply fulfilling. By supporting the Pee Dee Coalition, we are standing up against critical issues like domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Our contributions are vital in providing essential resources and support to survivors, educate the community, and advocate for systemic change. Together, we can create a safer, more supportive environment for everyone. Every effort counts and your support can make a significant difference in someone's life"

EDITOR: JORDAN RAINEY

NEWSLETTER
HIGHLIGHTS

—
New Year Thoughts
of Gratitude

—
Reflection of 2024
Giving

—
Donor Recognitions

—
'Planting A Seed of
Hope in
Williamsburg
County' Campaign

—
Program Updates/
Announcements



**PEE DEE COALITION
24/7 CRISIS LINES**

1-800-273-1820

843-669-4600

**PEE DEE PARENT
HELPLINE**

CALL: 843-618-2420

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WWW.PEEDEECOALITION.ORG
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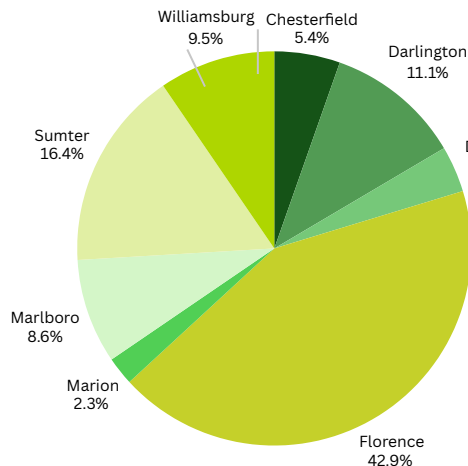
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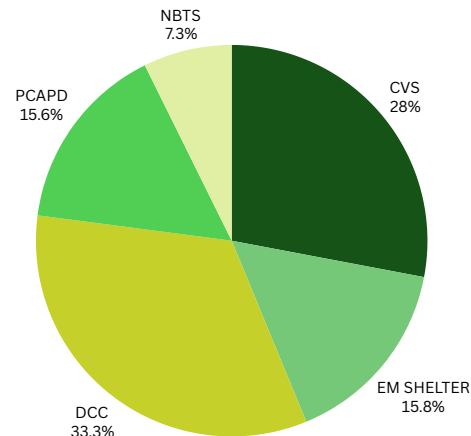
2024 CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

\$648,993.04

BY COUNTY



BY PROGRAM



Gifts of Generosity: Our In-Kind Donors

- Bee, Natalie
- Bethea, Lamecisa
- Black, Al
- Brown, Amy
- Brown, Betty
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- Dorcas Missionary Society-Trinity Baptist Church
- Douglas, Senia
- Ford, Christina
- Foster, Tonya
- Friendship Baptist Church- Gresham
- Fuller, Susan
- Fulton, Summer Grace
- Graves, Jaharra
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- Jackson, Andrea
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Your gift to Pee Dee Coalition provides safety, hope, and healing for survivors.

Choose where your donation makes an impact—shelter, crisis response, advocacy, and more programs. Consider giving today!

Partners in Providing Safe Spaces

Pee Dee Coalition is deeply grateful to our space donors for providing the safe and welcoming environments that make its work possible—your generosity creates a foundation for hope and healing.



PDC Chesterfield Satellite Center by Chesterfield County

PDC Lake city Satellite Center by City of Lake City

Alternatives to Violence (ATV) & Support Services by St. John's Episcopal Church

2024 INVESTORS IN HEALING AND HOPE

Pee Dee Coalition sincerely thanks all of its generous donors!

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"With heartfelt gratitude, Pee Dee Coalition extends its deepest thanks to each donor. Your generosity fuels the mission of bringing hope, healing, and support to those who need it most. Together, we are creating a safer, more compassionate community."



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Johnson, Karen
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Maurer, James
McFadden, Helen
Merritt, Joseph
Moore, Susan
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Rozier, Janice
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Steele, Rosalie
Strickland, Gwen
SugaRush
Sumter Junior Welfare League
The Accuro Group
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Weatherly, Jennie
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West, Pat
West Propane
Woman's Pee Dee District Department

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Glover, John
Grasshoff, Sven
Hill, Frank
Ingram, Mark
Johnakin, Joan
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Luck Law Firm
McClary, Davy
McLain, Mary
McLain Insurance Agency
McLellan, Gail Ann
Mellen, Sarah
Mincheff, Ekaterina
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New Testament Church - Florence
Niles, Tom
Page, Rhonda
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Rondeau, Hilary
Ross, Lawrence
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Saverance, Renee
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2024 INVESTORS IN HEALING AND HOPE

(continued)

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Atkinson, Michael
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Donley, Sharmayne
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Ekanem, Kai
Emanuel, Beverly
Empire Audiology
E-N-S Properties, LLC
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Fields, John
First Baptist Church - Cheraw
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Ford, Keidra
Fromm, James
Garber, Frances
Gasque, Laura
Gibsons Wheel Alignment and Tire Service
Gilbert, Ronda
Gillispie, Melinda
Glenn, Sheila
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Gootman, Robert
Gore, Julia
Gould, Herbert

Graham, Kathleen
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Hughes, Ora
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Madden, Edward
Margaret C. Tingen and Associates
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Marlboro Electric Coop
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McGee Financial Group
McGill, Loretta
Meadows, George
Melton, Jordan
MKA Mechanical
Momar, Inc.
Moyd, Susan
Mt. Rona Baptist Church-Effingham
MTS Property Management
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O'Tuel, Evalyn
O'Tuel, Teresa
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Pate, Anne
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Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank
Perkins, Mitchell
Phillips, Keith
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Piney Grove WMU-Hamer
Pope, Ivy
Pridgen, Dan & Susan
Progressive Church-Mullins
Pugh, Alice
Query, Mr. & Mrs. William
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Rogers, Gerry
Rogers, Jack & Carolyn
Ross, Jennifer
Sam Kendall's Restaurant
Shelley, Abbott
Shiloh Baptist Church - Bennettsville
Snow, Mary Ann
South Hartsville Farm Co.
Specht Jr., Henry
Spruill, James
St. Beulah Baptist Church-Bennettsville
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St. Mark Marlboro Baptist Church
St. Michael's Hope Ministries, Inc. - Bennettsville
Stacy, Laurie
Sterling Pipe & Tube, Inc.

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Tiller, Denise
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Von Dietrich, LLC
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Winburn, Clarice
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GRASSROOTS CLUB

\$1- \$99

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Bee, Natalie
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Bendle, Lakyn
Betha, Myra
Bittle, Joseph
Bradley, Joe
Bradshaw, Erika
Branson, Brenda
Calhoun, Rhetta
Cannon, III, F. Reeve
Canup, Jim
Cheves, Wade
Chin, Marvin
Clyburn, Tony
Costco Workplace Giving Campaign-Frontstream
Cunningham, Deborah
Daniel, Shipp
Davis, Wanda
Dew, Thomas
Dixon, Gale
Drew, Lauren
Evans, Lewis & Sarah
First United Methodist Church - Marion
Freeman, Jeannie
Frierson, Kay
GE Healthcare,
Griggs, Deborah
Hagan, Mike
Henegan, Patricia
Herndon, Caleb
Hesbach, Michael
Hester, Pamela
Heyward, Joseph
Hodge, Ashley
Holder, Jim & Rose
Howle, Catherine
James Jr., Carl
Jamie Mangum Griffin Insurance Services
Jeffords, Elizabeth
Johnson, Linda
Johnson, Steve
Kinney, Jeretta
Kollock, Shonaca
Locklair, Brian
Long, Brownlyn
Long, Marie
Longan, Anita
Mangum, Sue
Mazgaj, Jamie
McLeod, & Ruffner Attorneys at Law
McNeil, Larry
McNeil, Susan
McNeil, Tonny
McNiel, Elisabeth
Merhar, Jill

2024 INVESTORS IN HEALING AND HOPE

(continued)

Mitchell, Kimberly
Morning News,
New Zion AME Church-Little Rock
NOAA,
Oxendine, Kara
Pearson, Daishanna
Pee Dee Baptist Association
Rhyne, Karen
Rogers, Danny
Sanders, Virginia
Smith, Doris
Smith, Michelle
Smith, Thomas
Spears, Belinda
Spencer, Constance
Spencer, Dorothy
Spruill, Sarah
Stephens, Katrina
Thomas, Alan
Thomas, Sylvia
Tisdale, Lula
Trinity United Methodist Church - Bennettsville
United Methodist Women, Smyrna
White, Richard
Wilder, Shannon
Williams, Barbara
Williams, Dakota
Wise Design,
Witherspoon, Elizabeth
Woodham, Michael
Woods, Benjamin
Woods, Gregory
Woods Family, The
Youngblood, Pamela
Yount, Linda

GIFTS IN HONOR OF SOMEONE SPECIAL



Tracee Auman by
Mary Ward R. Baucom

Karl & Nell Folkens by
Ray & Linda Lee

'Movers for Mom'
(Two Men & a Truck)
by
F. Reeve Cannon, III

Annette Reynolds by
Dorthy A. Spencer

Annette Reynolds by
Beverly A. Emanuel

Annette Reynolds by
Idella H. Greene

Annette Reynolds by
Sarah A. Mellen

Janet Watt by
Linda Mitchell Johnson

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Melinda Fuller by
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Donald Wayne "Rusty" Goin by
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James Lee Hamlin, Sr. by
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Leverne "Squeaky" Harris by
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Freda's Dog "Macey" by
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Emerson Malachi Mckenzie by
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Zsuzsa Schaff Sobel by
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Vernita White by Annette
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2024 Milestones

It is through the steadfast support of our donors that we continue to achieve these impactful milestones, bringing hope and healing to those we serve.

Successful completion of the APTLTH funding campaign for ESS and NBTS major expansion projects (expected to be fully completed in 2025).

Renovation of a location at 119 Hampton Street to open Durant's 3rd Circuit Satellite in Kingstree.

Expansion of Durant's Medical Services with the addition of a new Forensic Nurse Practitioner.

35th Anniversary of the Emergency Shelter

20th Anniversary of the New Beginnings Transitional Shelter

30th Anniversary of the Durant Children's Center - Florence

JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND STALKING AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

Human trafficking is when an individual, under force, fraud, and coercion is made to perform commercial sex acts or labor. **Sex trafficking** is when an individual, under force, fraud, and coercion is made to perform commercial sex acts or when an individual under 18 is induced to perform sexual acts. In 2024, **Pee Dee Coalition** served 6 sex trafficking victims. Since 2015, **Pee Dee Coalition's Community Victim Services** have completed 17 case intakes of sex trafficking occurrences.

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**



CALL
1-888-373-7888



TEXT
"BeFree" (233733)



LIVE CHAT
humantraffickinghotline.org

**END
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

Stalking involves a pattern of behaviors directed at a person that could reasonably instill fear for their safety or the safety of others, or cause substantial emotional distress. Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime. **Common behaviors of stalking include:** Surveillance, life invasion, intimidation & interference (through sabotage or attack). In FY 24, **Pee Dee Coalition** assisted 18 victims of stalking instances. Since 2016, **Pee Dee Coalition** has completed 77 case intakes of stalking instances.



For more information on Stalking Awareness Month

Visit SPARC website by scanning the QR code or using the link www.stalkingawareness.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & STALKING PREVENTION TIPS

Presented by Director of Prevention Programs, Tracey Miller

To prevent yourself & others from Human Trafficking & Stalking is to understand traffickers' tactics. Traffickers use deceit and coercion, often disguising their intentions through fake job offers, online grooming, debt bondage, or false promises of a better life. Recognizing these red flags can help protect yourself and others.

2. STAY SAFE ONLINE

- Keep personal information private.
- Be cautious when interacting with strangers online.
- Report suspicious activity to platform administrators or law enforcement.

3. PRACTICE SAFE TRAVEL

- Travel with others when possible.
- Share your itinerary with a trusted contact.
- Avoid isolated areas and trust your instincts.

4. RECOGNIZE RED FLAGS

Signs of trafficking include sudden changes in behavior, lack of control over personal life, physical signs of abuse, or multiple phones and social media accounts.

5. STAY INFORMED

Educate yourself through workshops, news, and events to stay aware of trafficking risks and prevention strategies.

6. STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS

Support systems can deter traffickers. Stay connected with family and friends and maintain healthy relationships.

7. KNOW WHERE TO SEEK HELP

If you or someone you know is in danger, contact:

- National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888
- Local law enforcement
- Trusted organizations like Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault

Source: International Justice Mission



The Elizabeth Pettigrew Durant CHILDREN'S CENTER

Planting A Seed of Hope in Williamsburg County



In the event of suspected child abuse and neglect, Durant Children's Center is affectionately known as "The House Where Healing Begins".

Durant Children's Center (a Child Advocacy program of Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault) is excited to announce the launch of its 'Planting a Seed of Hope in Williamsburg County' campaign, a mission to raise \$40,000 for the renovation, furnishing, and first-year operations of Durant Children's Center's new location at 119 A Hampton Ave, Kingstree, SC 29556—This is Durant Children's Center's third satellite center & fourth location in the Pee Dee Region dedicated to healing and protecting children in Williamsburg County & surrounding areas, providing the child-friendly resources and care they need to heal and thrive. *Together, we can create a safer, more compassionate community.*

With your support, Durant Children's Center plans to:

- Ensure this Satellite Center is a beacon of healing & hope for children in Williamsburg County & surrounding areas
- Provide the child-friendly resources and care they need to heal and thrive.
- Ensure the center is fully operational and equipped to serve Williamsburg County children in need for the foreseeable future.
- Engage our community through volunteerism, in-kind donations, financial support, and advocacy.

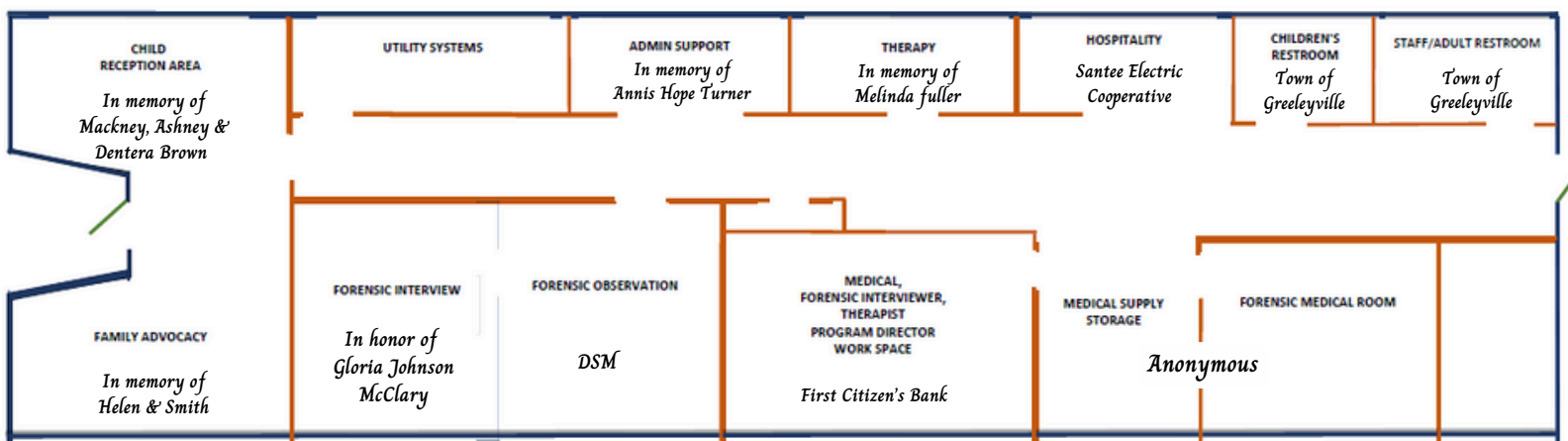
With the continuous support of our community, we can create a safer, more compassionate community.

For more information, visit: www.durantchildrencenter.org/pasoh or scan the QR code.



FLOOR PLAN

119 HAMPTON AVENUE, KINGSTREE, SC 29556



Child Reception Area
Family Advocacy
Utility Systems
Forensic Interview
Admin Support

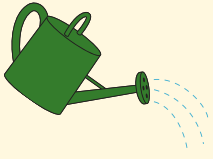
Forensic Observation
Therapy
Workspace
Hospitality
Medical Supply Storage

Children's Restroom
Forensic Medical Room
Staff/Adult Restroom



The Elizabeth Pettigrew Durant CHILDREN'S CENTER

Planting A Seed of Hope in Williamsburg County



'Planting A Seed of Hope in Williamsburg County' Campaign Steering Committee Members

Tammy Erwin, Co-Chair

Tammy Brewer, Co-Chair

Rudy Matthews

Tracy McCants

Gloria McClary

Shannon Coker

Jennifer Sabb

Jay Kirby

Rev. Josie Holler

Rev. Norman Gamble

Henry Poston



Campaign Theme: The Durant Children's Center Satellite in Kingstree will 'Plant A Seed of Hope' for children primarily in Williamsburg & surrounding counties.

Purpose of Campaign: To renovate, equip, and furnish the site at 119 Hampton Avenue in Kingstree, SC, and fund its first year of operation.

MISSION

Established in 1986, Pee Dee Coalition is dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to meeting the needs of victims.

DURANT CHILDREN'S CENTER PROGRAM SERVICES

- Child-sensitive forensic interviews
- Medical evaluations
- Therapeutic intervention
- Victim advocacy and support
- Multidisciplinary case reviews
- Ongoing case tracking

In FY24, the Durant Staff conducted

40 medical exams

37 forensic interviews

for Williamsburg County children.

Over the past three years, the Durant Children's Center assisted

369

children from Williamsburg County.

These children received services at the Durant Children's Center in either Sumter or Florence.

CAMPAIGN GOALS

FINANCIAL

\$40,000

for facility set-up, staffing & initial operations

AWARENESS

Engage community members to support the center through in-kind & financial support, volunteerism, and advocacy.

SERVICE

Ensure a fully operational center by April 2025.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CONTACT:

Tammy Brewer, Co-Chair

Tammybrewer@donscarchrushing.com

(843) 992-4490

Tammy Erwin, Co-Chair

Tammy@ftc-i.net

(843) 372-1168

Press/Media:

media@peedeecoalition.org

For more information, visit: WWW.DURANTCHILDRENCENTER.ORG/PASOH



ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL IS **SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD ABUSE** AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

Theme for April 2025:

“Together We Act, United We Change”



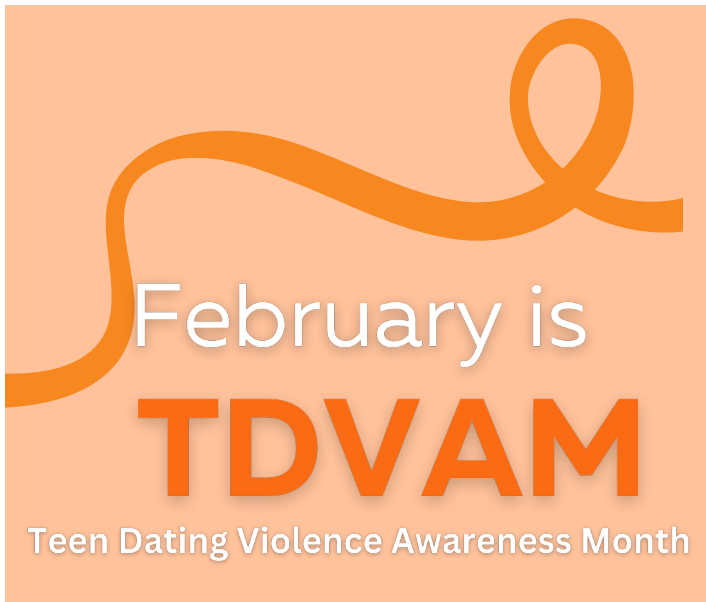
“Together We Act, United We Change” is a powerful reminder that ending violence is not the work of one individual or organization—it’s a collective effort. This theme highlights the vital partnerships between advocates, law enforcement, judicial systems, healthcare providers, educators, and communities. By working together, we can create a safer, more compassionate community.

Contact your local Pee Dee Coalition or Durant Children’s Center satellite location for collaboration opportunities.

Contact information can be found on the back of the newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued)



Theme for February 2025: “Respect That”

If you would like to learn more or schedule a presentation on topics such as what is **teen dating violence**, the **importance of bystander intervention**, **healthy relationships**, or the **importance of building a collaborative partnership with PDC’s prevention program** and other customized presentations, please contact: Tracey Miller, Director of Prevention Programs at tmiller@peedeecoalition.org.

We have some exciting virtual events planned, so **keep checking in on our social media platforms for dates and times.**

Facebook & Instagram
[@Peedeecoalitionorg](https://www.instagram.com/Peedeecoalitionorg)



PEPS Parenting Completion Ceremony



Pee Dee Coalition’s Parenting Education Parent Support (PEPS) Program held its Parenting Completion Ceremony on Thursday, December 21st, 2024. This Ceremony is an annual event held to acknowledge parents who completed the 12-week program.

This ceremony began with an opening selection by, St. Michael’s Hope Ministries, Bennettsville SC, and a heartfelt welcome address by, Mrs. Tyesha Pearson, PEPS facilitator. At the event each parent received a certificate of completion and a Walmart gift card, valued at \$75.00.

PEPS, a service of Prevent Child Abuse Pee Dee, is designed to provide coping and life skills to families with children under the age of 17. It is also designed to assist parents identified as “at risk” for child abuse or neglect.

Sign up for classes by contacting Sharon Woodham, Parent Program Director at (843) 580-6511.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued)



"An Angel Tree Success"



"Cookies & Cocoa with Santa"



The Durant Children's Center extends warm wishes to each and every one of you for a Happy New Year. Reflecting on the past year, we cherish the memories we shared with you during our annual drop-in event. The laughter, conversations, and delightful indulgence in coffee, hot chocolate, and sweet treats truly made it a special occasion. Your presence brought a sense of community and togetherness, reminding us of the importance of the work we do.

As we embark on the journey of 2025, we eagerly anticipate collaborating with each and every one of you. Together, we will continue to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for the children who come through our doors. Your dedication and passion inspire us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such remarkable individuals.

From all of us at the Durant Children's Center, we extend our sincerest thank you!

Pee Dee Coalition Ranks in Top 10 Non-profit Organizations in Florence, SC



BusinessRate presents Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault the BEST of 2024 Award for ranking **6th place** amongst non-profit organizations in Florence, SC.

Celebrating Excellence: Carolyn Blue Named DSS Liaison of the Year 2024



In December 2024, Pee Dee Coalition's Dillon County Service Coordinator, Carolyn Blue, was honored as the Department of Social Services (DSS) Liaison of the Year.

The award was presented by Tammy Fullwood, South Carolina Domestic Violence Coordinator for the DSS Adult Advocacy Division, during a ceremony in Greenville, SC. Join us in congratulating Carolyn on this well-deserved recognition!