

AUGUST 2024 EDITION

THE ADVOCATE

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic
& Sexual Assault Newsletter



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



April 2024 Recap



April is Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This past April 2024, Pee Dee Coalition hosted multiple events across the Pee Dee Region. We are thankful to our community and those that supported the success of these events. Our Marlboro Satellite Center Service County Coordinator, Wendy Woods, has created a recap video that highlights the success of our focus month. You may access our “April 2024: Child Abuse Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month” Recap by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.peedeecoalition.org/april-events-2024>.



EDITOR: JORDAN RAINEY,
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter Highlights

CAPM & SAAM Recap
(April 2024)

“A Place to Lay Their
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Summer Safety and
College Sexual Assault
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Looking Ahead

WWW.PEEDEECOALITION.ORG



PEE DEE COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC &
SEXUAL ASSAULT

Celebrating

THE PEE DEE
EMERGENCY SAFE SHELTER
35TH ANNIVERSARY



NEW BEGINNINGS
TRANSITIONAL SHELTER
20TH ANNIVERSARY

"Blankets of Safety, Pillows of Peace."



In May 2024, Pee Dee Coalition celebrated the anniversaries of 35 years for the Emergency Safe Shelter and 20 years for the New Beginnings Transitional Shelter.

Over the years, both of PDC shelters combined, have provided 3,494 women and children victims of domestic & sexual assault over 200,000 nights of peaceful sleep and safe sheltering. To celebrate the accomplishments, Pee Dee Coalition has launched a region-wide campaign through October 2024 to fund repairs and renovations to maintain upkeep for the two facilities.

On May 11th, PDC kicked off the "A Place to Lay Their Heads" campaign through a fundraising event sponsored by Two Men and A Truck, "Movers for Moms," at the local Walmart in Florence, SC. Through this event alone, we raised over \$478 and collected over 2,500 donated household items. We are thankful to Two Men and a Truck and all those who have supported the event.



To view the Shelters' Needs List, use the QR code:

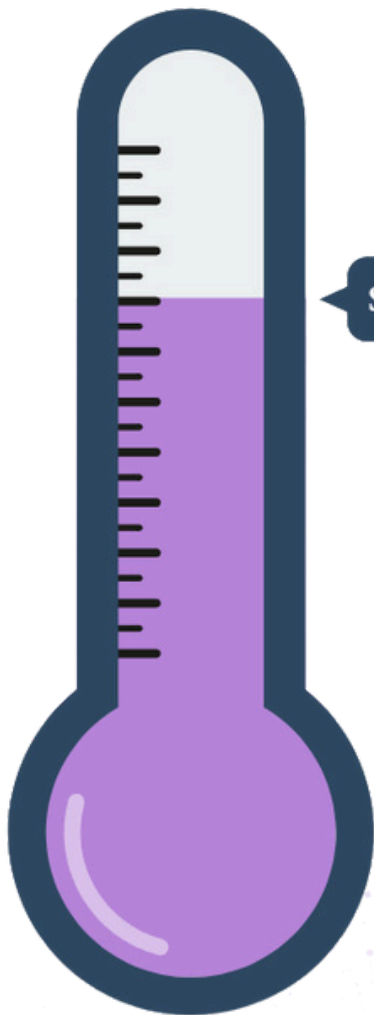


<https://www.peedeecoalition.org/aplacetolaytheirheads>



Pee Dee Coalition shelter programs do more than just provide residents with a safe “place to lay their heads.” They also provide assistance with education and job opportunities, access to financial and housing resources, trauma advocacy, children’s services, and safety plans in the event residents decide to return home.

GOAL: \$150,000



\$105,871

Through our donors' support, we can maintain our two safe havens: the Emergency Safe Shelter and the New Beginnings Transitional Shelter.

By financially supporting our “A Place to Lay Their Heads” campaign for PDC shelter programs’ anniversaries, you ensure that these services and sheltering continue to be successful. Monetary contributions will assist in funding facility repair and renovation project costs.

JOIN US IN MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT:



WWW.PEEDEECOALITION.ORG/APLACETOLAYTHEIRHEADS

Creating Smiles That Last A Lifetime

A Survivor Testimonial

as told by Emergency Shelter Program Director, Shonette Dargan-Richardson

“We received a call on our crisis line from one of our community partners. The call involved housing a 63-year-old woman for one night, who had been sexually assaulted. She had been cleared to go to another facility but had to wait for clearance. We accepted the client to assist with her urgent need. While the client was with us, she received a call that there was now no availability for her at the other facility. We explained to the client that she could stay with our shelter program and that we could help her with her goals. She was a little nervous and unsure, wondering what she would do now and how this program would help her.

I am proud to say that this client excelled while residing in our emergency shelter. She has regained her confidence; she is more independent. She's received counseling, group and one-on-one sessions. We assisted her with clothing, referrals to Circle Park, Pee Dee Mental Health, medical, and dental. She has even gotten her dentures (I wish you could see the smile on her face). She received new clothing, new shoes, a new smile, an entirely new outlook. She would come to the office each day and tell us how she appreciates PDC. She feels better and more confident than she has ever felt before.

She said, "I can now look in the mirror. Before, life was shattered and broken into pieces because of an excellent staff and supervisor and a book I read, John 3:16. I am at the point where I am now. The potter has put the broken pieces back again, and it's just the beginning!"

Reports of sexual assault increase during summer months. Our crisis line is here for you 24/7.

CALL : 843-669-4600 or 1-800-273-1820

Article co-contributor: Tracey Miller, Director of Prevention Programming

Each year, Summer presents a rise in reports of sexual violence for various reasons. A study from the Department of Justice shows that the prevalence of sexual violence in the summer months is 9% more likely than in the fall and 10% more likely than in the winter.

Year-round, parents and caregivers provide their youth with safety tips on how to safely ride a bike, cross the street, and make sure their new teen drivers always wear their seatbelts. Equally, it is important for parents to add safety and prevention tips regarding sexual and domestic violence. This can be a heavy topic, but there are ways to address it lightly.

Below are 2 examples of talking points:

1

ASKING YOUR YOUTH TO NAME THREE TRUSTED ADULTS THAT THEY COULD SHARE A PROBLEM WITH IF SOMEONE HARASSED THEM OR MADE THEM FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IN ANY WAY.

2

USING FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS AS OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS TOPICS RELATED TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT MAY COME UP IN A PG-13-RATED MOVIE.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE MOVIE DEPICTS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT, THIS COULD BE A TIME TO ASK YOUR YOUTH OR TEEN IN A CALM MANNER HOW THEY MIGHT HANDLE THAT SITUATION AND/OR HOW THEY WOULD OFFER HELP TO A FRIEND IN THAT SITUATION.

Additionally, if you've noticed that your talkative teen or youth is now quiet or somber, please ask them how they feel emotionally, physically, and mentally. Using these talking points as a starting point can be beneficial for raising awareness of these serious issues while fostering a positive relationship with your youth.

If you would like a presentation, classroom session, or training/workshop that is evidence-based and/or evidence-informed, please reach out to Tracey Miller, Director of Prevention Programming for Pee Dee Coalition, at Tmiller@peedeecoalition.org for more information.



Article co-contributor: Tracey Miller, Director of Prevention Programming

Starting college can be an exciting time in a young person's life. The opportunity to test their independence, gain lifelong friends, and learn valuable skills to carry with them for the rest of their life, but this also may be a time of uncertainty without their family around.

What is the "Redzone"?

According to the Center on Women and Families, 50% of college sexual assaults are reported in August, September, October, and November. This period, known as the "red zone," marks a spike in sexual assaults at U.S. universities, beginning with the start of the fall semester and lasting until Thanksgiving break when most students go home. The Know Your IX 2021 Report found that 39% of the surveyed students had to take a leave of absence, transfer, or drop out of school after experiencing sexual violence.

General Campus Safety Tips:

- Keep your contact information updated & always have emergency contacts in your phone
- Wear your ID cards.
- Use campus safety escorts after dark or when not feeling safe.
- Report suspicious activity. If you see something say something.
- Know who your Title IX Coordinator and residential advisors are.
- Know where counseling services are located both on and off campus
- Know your way around campus. (Guardians, this would be a great time for you and your college student to tour the campus together and to ask questions about making incidents/accidents reports and safety protocols.)

Exciting Updates from Durant Children's Center!



We are thrilled to share the new logo design for Durant Children's Center program. This vibrant, new design symbolizes our commitment to being the "house where healing begins" and to our efforts of creating a safe, nurturing environment for children in need.

In addition, we are launching our "Planting a Seed of Hope for Children and their Families" campaign to support the opening of our 4th center location coming to Williamsburg County. This campaign aims to raise awareness and gather support for expanding our services and reaching more children and families. Join us in making a lasting impact on our community, stay tuned for the reveal of our location.

"It Stops With You": Join Us in Raising Awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month approaches this October, Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault is proud to announce this year's theme: "It Stops with You." This powerful message calls upon individuals, communities, and institutions to take responsibility, stand against domestic violence, and actively work toward its elimination.

Pee Dee Coalition will be hosting a series of events throughout October to raise awareness about domestic violence, including educational workshops, community education presentations, and survivor support initiatives. These events are designed to educate the public, provide resources for those affected, and foster a community committed to supporting survivors and preventing future violence. Stay tuned for our calendar of events in the October 2024 edition of 'The Advocate'.



#ITSTOPSWITHYOU 