



# Spotlight On Domestic Violence

First Step Newsletter

A Program of

The Family Guidance Center

THE MISSION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER'S **FIRST STEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM** IS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO INCREASE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

## Victims of Crime

Family Guidance Center assisted a woman who was a victim of attempted murder. Imagine for a moment being in a strange



town where you don't know anyone and having to seek shelter. All your identification, money, and personal items have been stolen. Vicki was in this predicament. She sought shelter from someone's helping hand.

However, the "good" samaritan had ulterior motives. Before the evening was up, Vicki was fighting for her life and ended the night in the emergency room. The rest of the story is to be told as the perpetrator is waiting trial. **What rights do victims have?**

**Find out on page 2!**

**We honor victims throughout the country on National Victims of Crime Week, April 10th-16th 2011.**

## Child Abuse Awareness Month

Family Guidance Center is supporting National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We believe that every child deserves to be loved, emotionally nurtured, and to grow up in a safe home. We realize; however, that thousands of children are abused every year. Some even die at the hands of their parents.



Child abuse includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and child neglect. It can occur in any family, regardless of income level, race, or ethnic group. Let's take a closer look at the categories of abuse and examine their meanings:

1. Physical Abuse- physically hurting a child by hitting, slapping, punching, throwing objects at child, throwing a child in bed or up against a wall,
2. Emotional Abuse- withholding love and affection, cursing at, constant put-downs, hurtful words, i.e. "you're stupid, you're bad, you're never going to be anything," etc.
3. Sexual Abuse- inappropriate touching, any sex act, inappropriate

sexual talk or behavior

4. Child Neglect- inadequate supervision, lack of necessities such as food, adequate clothing or housing, lack of medical attention.

It's also considered abuse when a child is in an injurious environment, including homes where there's substance abuse, domestic violence, or an unsafe structure.

Parenting is the most difficult job anyone can ever have. And it's the most important one. Catawba County is fortunate to have many resources to support parents, including: *The Parenting Network (828-465-9295)*, *Children's Advocacy Center (828-465- 9296)* *Children's Resource Center (828-328-8228)*, *Parents as Teachers (828-241-2459)*, and *parenting classes through the Department of Social Services (828-695-5600)*.

The wounds of child abuse become emotional scars that can last a lifetime. Let's all do our part to insure the safety and well-being of all children.

*The law mandates that anyone who suspects child abuse must report it to the Department of Social Services.*

# Visit Us At The Family Fair!

Family Guidance Center will be at the Family Fair, located in front of CVCC, on Saturday, April 16th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will be promoting our services to strengthen families, including First Step Domestic Violence Services, Individual/Family Counseling, and Consumer Credit Counseling Services. We will have information about First Step's free services and new activities for children.

Last year, over 150 children visited the booth and were asked what made them happy! All children drew a picture or wrote what made them happy to show all parents and guardians. "We hope with our new treasure hunt activity, this year we will be able to interact with even more children and families!" states Liz Eller, Domestic Violence Community Educator.

Many children in Catawba County do not experience happiness because of domestic violence. Children who have experienced or have seen domestic violence can suffer from physical and psychological injury. *60% of men who abuse their partner, also abuse their children.*



**If you have questions or concerns call the Family Guidance Center**

## Volunteers Make A World of Difference

Valuable  
Outstanding  
Loyal  
Unique  
Nice  
Terrific  
Efficient  
Enthusiastic  
Ready  
Sensational

Throughout our lives we often try to help along the way, Special tasks give meaning to the work we do each day, Volunteering is a way to accomplish many things, It's made worthwhile especially for the satisfaction that it brings, There's a great appreciation for the work you've done this year, Volunteers are special people, and ones we hold most dear, So this year's theme we've chosen makes a lot of sense, Truer words were never spoken: "Volunteers make a world of difference!" *Written by Patty Johnston Martucci*



Thanks to all the many people who volunteer their time to Family Guidance Center and our Purple Ribbon Thrift Store!

# VICTIMS HAVE RIGHTS

**Victims have the right to:**

**Be heard:**

- The right to be informed of and to be present at court proceedings of the accused.
- The right to be heard at sentencing of the accused.
- The right to receive restitution.

**To Know:**

- The right to be given information about the crime, how the criminal justice system works, the rights of victims, and the availability of services for victims.
- The right to receive information about the conviction or final disposition and sentence of the accused.
- The right to receive notification of escape, release, proposed parole or pardon of the accused, or notice of a reprieve or commutation of the accused's sentence.

**To Speak:**

- The right to present their views and concerns to the Governor or agency considering any action that could result in the release of the accused, prior to such action becoming effective.
- The right to talk with the prosecution.

For more information on Victims Rights visit, NC Victim Assistant Network website at [www.nc-van.org/](http://www.nc-van.org/)

# Be Changed; Get Involved

*“It’s our moral obligation to discover which talents we have that the world needs and then do something good.”*

Stephanie Ansaldo, The Echo Foundation, founder & president

## Spring Has Arrived at The Purple Ribbon Thrift Store

It is time for Spring Cleaning! If you are cleaning out your home and have good conditioned

- clothing,
- furniture,
- home décor,
- household items ( dishes, lamps, rugs etc )



Spring Clothing Just In!  
Wall of Shorts only \$3.00



please donate your items to a good cause! All donations are tax deductible and all proceeds go towards the Shelter for Battered Women. For more info call 828-322-3423

Join in the Fun at

## Family Guidance Center’s Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 19th, 2011

At Catawba Springs CC

Lunch at 12; Tee-off at 1:00

Team Entry Fee \$240

Captains Choice

**Email your team entry to:**

familyguidance@embarqmail.com or send to

Family Guidance Center

#17 HWY 70 SE Hickory, NC 28601

## Jeans for Justice

The Rape Crisis Center of Catawba County, Inc is hosting the Jeans for Justice Event scheduled for **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 6pm to 8pm** at the Hickory Museum of Art at the SALT Block.



The purpose is to demonstrate the rights of sexual assault victims through art. Tickets can be purchased in advance through the Rape Crisis Center for \$10 or tickets will also available at the door. Throughout the evening on the 14th of May, entertainment will be provided, models of all ages, shapes, and sizes will model these

masterpieces for lucky patrons to admire. To the left is First Step’s front view of their jeans for Jeans For Justice. To see the back and more jeans, come to the event and show your support!

For more information visit

The Rape Crisis Center’s website at  
[www.rapecrisiscenter.com/news\\_events.htm](http://www.rapecrisiscenter.com/news_events.htm)  
them at 828-322-6011\*\*\*

## MOMS Making the World of Difference.



Saturday, April 16th 2011 Lake Hickory County Club 9:30 am-1:00 pm the Parenting Network is having a special celebration of moms, which features a vibrant speaker, Ramona Holloway, from 107.9, exciting vendors, lunch, cash bar, and live auction. Please call Parenting Network office at 828-465-8151