



Hi everyone!

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly newsletter! We hope that you and your families had a wonderful holiday season! Great things are happening at Circle of Hope and we are proud to share our news with you. Remember, if you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, we are here to help. Please call our 24-hour crisis line (706) 776-4673 (HOPE) for services or more information.

New Transitional House

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Our mission is to support, empower, and bring hope to those affected by domestic violence.

Join our Facebook Page!



Stop Violence Against Women Day

Why save the date?
Because statewide in 1 day ...

The home will serve as a support facility for domestic violence survivors as they transition from residency in an emergency shelter to self-sufficiency and independence.

"Transitional Housing provides a long-term housing opportunity for victims of domestic violence to recover and focus on rebuilding their lives" stated Circle of Hope's Executive Director, Suzanne Dow.

The specific services that will be offered to the women participating in the new Transitional Housing program include case management, counseling, support groups, financial assistance, and employability activities such as life skills classes, employment readiness training and post secondary education opportunities.

To donate, please call 706-776-3406.



2,085 victims were served
472 hotline calls were answered
432 requests for services were unmet
Because Georgia ranks 6th in the nation for men killing women

Georgia State Capitol
Thursday, February 2, 2012
8:00 am - 1:30 pm
Central Presbyterian Church
located at 201 Washington St,
SW Atlanta, Ga 30303
Please RSVP at
svawday@gmail.com

Circle of Hope staff will be present to raise awareness about domestic violence against women and advocate with our legislators regarding laws and policies that increase safety and stability for survivors.

Light breakfast will be provided at 8:00 am

FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Teenagers often experience violence in dating relationships. Statistics show that 1 in 3 teenagers have experienced some form of violence in a dating relationship. Dating violence crosses all racial, social, and economic lines and occurs when one partner tries to maintain power and control over the other through different types of abuse.

In an effort to educate teens about dating violence, Circle of Hope will be going into the high schools in our service areas and talking with students about the warning signs of dating violence, in addition to characteristics of a healthy relationship.

WARNING SIGNS

- Extreme jealousy
- Overly sensitive
- Controlling behavior
- Blames others for their problems/feelings
- Quick involvement
- Cruel to animals or children
- Unpredictable mood swings
- Verbally abusive
- Alcohol and drug use
- Abused former partners
- Explosive anger
- Makes threats
- Isolates you from family and friends
- Uses force during an argument

Festival of Trees



Each year Stephens County holds the Festival of Trees at the old couthouse in Toccoa, Georgia. This year, Circle of Hope's tree showcased a kids' wishlist. The kids in our shelter program drew pictures of what they wanted for Christmas and we used those drawings as

STATISTICS

- About one in three high school students have been or will be involved in an abusive relationship.
- Forty percent of teenage girls ages 14 to 17 say they know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.
- In one study, from 30 to 50 percent of female high school students reported having already experienced teen dating violence.
- Teen dating violence most often takes place in the home of one of the partners.
- In 1995, 7 percent of all murder victims were young women who were killed by their boyfriends.
- One in five or 20 percent of dating couples report some type of violence in their relationship.
- One of five college females will experience some form of dating violence.



Partnership Against Domestic Violence is hosting their 3rd Annual Teen Dating Violence Summit, presented by Verizon Wireless, on February 25 in Atlanta, Ga. The registration is free and the information is amazing! Visit their website to join now because space is limited.

Our Community Awareness Coordinator, Ginger, at Circle of Hope will be attending this summit and encourages each of you to be there as well!

ornaments. The proceeds then helped make those Christmas wishes come true.

Upcoming Events:

Annual Meeting

February 9, 2012

6:00 - 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church -
Fellowship Hall
Clarksville, Ga

For more information
please call 706-776-3406.

Mt. Laurel Festival

May 19, 2012

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pitts Park in Clarksville,
Ga

Come and visit Circle of
Hope's booth!

Quick Links

[Circle of Hope Website](#)

[Services Provided](#)

[Domestic Violence](#)

[Dating Violence](#)

Holiday Magic

We owe a huge THANK YOU to all of the families, organizations and businesses that helped make Christmas extra special for the families we serve. Sponsors ensured that each child had presents to open on Christmas morning. Ethicon not only decorated our shelter with lights and trees, but baked cookies and sang Christmas carols with the families. The Kiwanis Club hosted a fun-filled Christmas party, with music, crafts, games, stockings filled with gifts for the children, and a visit from Santa!

"Seeing the children's faces light up ... there's just nothing better than that during the holiday season. It is so important to bring joy into their lives and we

"I just packed up my kids and left, there was no other option. So I went from having nothing at all but my kids and the clothes on

couldn't have done that without the overwhelming support from our community," notes Stephanie Tolbert, Associate Director.

If you would like to sponsor a family for next Christmas, please contact Ginger at (706) 778-5151 ext. 28 or by email at cohawareness@windstream.net

Meet the Staff

In our last newsletter, we introduced one of our staff members (or advocates, as we call them) that works hard to make a difference for victims of domestic violence in our community. This issue's spotlight is on our **Residential Family Advocate, Amy!**

Amy has been working with Circle of Hope for almost 2 years. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Counseling with a minor in Bible & Theology.



As Residential Family Advocate, Amy helps the residents establish and reach achievable goals (such as permanent housing, obtaining a job, getting a higher education, etc.) and guides them along their path to self-sufficiency. Shelter is provided for battered women and dependent children who are in danger and have no other safe place to go. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day. Seventeen emergency beds are provided as well as food, clothing, counseling and advocacy. The secure 6-bedroom shelter was constructed in 2005 and offers a homelike atmosphere with a common living, kitchen, and dining room. The facility includes a computer lab, laundry room, children's play room, and a large outdoor playground for children.

To reach Amy:
Call (706) 778-5151 ext. 23
or (706) 776-4673.

Crisis Line: 706-776-4673
Toll Free: (800) 334-2836
Administrative Line: 706-776-3406
Email: circleofhope@windstream.net

our backs to having a stable job, housing, and an amazing support group that me and my kids can rely on. I couldn't have done it without Circle of Hope".

-participant

Circle of Hope is partially funded by the following:

