

HOPE LINES

ALBEMARLE HOPELINE'S NEWSLETTER
FALL 2015

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

HOPELINE'S ROOTS AND BRANCHES

On January 31, 2015 Hopeline marked the end of an era with the retirement of its first and only Executive Director, Patricia Youngblood. Pat began as a volunteer in January 1983 and after 32 years of service to the community, was honored by Governor Pat McCrory with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest civilian award. The certificate was presented by Elizabeth City Mayor Joe Peel at a celebration held on Thursday, January 29 at Corinth Baptist Church where Pat was surprised by more than 100 well-wishers from around the area and across the state.



Albemarle Hopeline welcomed new Executive Director, Melanie Jordan, on February 1. Melanie had served as Hopeline's Court Advocate for Chowan, Perquimans and Gates Counties for eight months,

and on the Hopeline Board of Directors previous to that. She came to Hopeline with years of experience in human services including that as an adult probation officer, child abuse coordinator in the District Attorney's Office, social worker with Chowan Department of Social Services and as Court Improvement Project director in the District

Court Judges' office. A native of Perquimans County and a graduate of Meredith College, Melanie and her husband, Bill, live in Chowan County.

“Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.”

PAULINE R. KEZER

Hopeline is embracing these dramatic changes that have taken place during 2015 and is looking forward to reaching new heights in 2016. Our roots run deep, yet our branches are stretching out toward the sun.

PURPLE FOR PEACE DAY

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Hopeline invites everyone to wear the color purple on Friday October 16th, 2015 for Hopeline's "Purple for Peace Day". By wearing purple our community sends a powerful message that there's no place for domestic violence in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces or schools. We encourage your participation in this event to help us raise awareness and bring attention to the issue that affects so many. Please ask your family, friends and co-workers to take a stand against Domestic Violence by wearing purple!



Check out our Facebook page for upcoming events in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

HOPELINE STAFF

Executive Director
Melanie Jordan

Associate Director
Janet Stone-Nielsen

Director of Residential Services
Carol Patterson

Non-Residential Supervisor
Amy Barclift

Financial Assistant
Kristy Osmundson

Counselors
Janet Stone-Nielsen
Latonia Johnson
Susan Goodwin

Court Advocates
Amy Barclift
Shaquita Winslow
Jessica Dodd

Prevention Specialist
Dawn Stallings

Power to Improve Coordinator
Regina Sawyer

Outreach Specialist
Amanda Layden

ERS Coordinator
Heidi Prentiss

Executive Assistant
Kathy Leary

Staff Assistants
Nancy Grove
Tara Ritter

SHELTER STAFF

Assist. Shelter Manager
Dana Griffin

Shelter Specialists
Tessha Dunton
Micole Barnes
Monica Gramby
Cindy Sawyer
Agnes Barnes

CLOTHESLINE STAFF

Alicia Commander
Rena Clark
Mary Louise Dail
Mary Moretti
Pamela Clay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Susan Scurria

Vice President
Linda Pritchard

Treasurer
Sonja Hibbard

Secretary
Jennifer Pingel

Members
Angela Cole
Marcella Davenport
Catherine Gardner
Doris Hawkins
Stephanie Hurst
Lyn Jenkins
Janet Klein
John Leidy
LaKeisha Lighty
Mary Ann Mason
John Parker
Colleen Taylor
Kesha Williams

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PAST

On Wednesday, August 12, I had the pleasure of having a conversation with the former Chief of the Edenton Police Department and current Chowan County Commissioner, Greg Bonner, to talk about the days before Albemarle Hopeline. Starting his law enforcement career in 1973 with the Edenton Police Department, Commissioner Bonner said at the time there were domestic violence calls but didn't think they were reported like they are



now. "Back in those days" if an officer reported to the scene of reported domestic violence, even if there were signs of abuse, charges wouldn't be brought against the alleged assailant if the victim didn't want to proceed with charges. The perpetrator, often the husband or head of the household, was free to abuse his victim, usually his wife, again and again. If she ever chose to leave, the only safe place to stay was with friends or family members.

The laws changed in the 1980's requiring law enforcement officers to bring charges regardless of whether the victim wanted to or not. This helped to produce an environment in which the focus was turned from the victim to the alleged perpetrator. However, even if abuse was substantiated and the officer got a warrant, the majority of the victims did not want to testify in court. A dynamic was created that was then and is still volatile and at times frustrating for those in law enforcement and the judicial system.

Commissioner Bonner also remembered in the early '80's an awareness throughout the Albemarle region about domestic violence and a task force created by a group of concerned women. This task force became the driving force behind Albemarle Hopeline that offered assistance to families in crisis. He went on to say that Hopeline was a very valuable resource in the community and he could not imagine going back to the days without the presence of those willing to help families in need, free of charge.

In speaking with Commissioner Bonner, I gained a new appreciation for the work we do each day. I was able to hear what it was like before Hopeline came about, before there was someone who cared enough to lend a helping hand, a listening ear, a compassionate heart. Without the generous, giving community we have today, we could not continue the work of Hopeline's pioneers. I agree with former Chief Bonner in hoping to never see those "good ole days" again.

- Melanie Jordan, Executive Director

BACK TO WORK/ BACK TO SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA

The annual Back to Work/Back to School Extravaganza was held on Friday, August 14, 2015. This is an outreach event sponsored by Albemarle Hopeline's Power to Improve program. It is primarily funded by generous donations from members of the community, board members and staff. Hopeline clients and their children were able to receive school supplies, toiletries and clothing in preparation for returning to the work force and/or school. Approximately eighty-five people attended the event.

Special thanks to all who donated to make the extravaganza possible!

1981

A MOMENT IN HOPELINE HISTORY... "THE BEGINNING"

The "Camden, Currituck and Pasquotank Task Force on Crimes Against Women" was organized by a small group of women who recognized that families with domestic violence issues had little or no resources. This soon grew to include Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties and later became "Albemarle Hopeline".

CHILD WITNESS TURNED PREVENTION SPECIALIST

I can't help to think how the school and community presentations I give today, as the Prevention Specialist for Albemarle Hopeline, would have been beneficial to me as a kid. I would have learned that I wasn't alone...that what I was witnessing was not okay... that it had a name... that there were people who could help...that there were safe shelters to stay...maybe my mom could have been validated and supported... maybe she could have found justice...but most of all maybe she would have suffered less.

My mother endured many years of abuse at the hands of my stepfather. She is however a survivor of domestic violence. I have very vivid memories of the abuse. Memories that I'm positive will never escape me. I couldn't begin to count the number of times I witnessed my mom being abused...physically, verbally, emotionally, financially and even sexually. I never felt more helpless or alone. Those memories are still very painful for obvious reasons...like memories of my mom bloody, bruised and unconscious... memories of a gun being pointed at our heads...her clothes being ripped from her closet and set fire in our front yard. Those not so obvious may have been the most traumatic. Living in constant fear is hard to describe. It's hard to describe what it felt like to have the school bus drop you off at your house to the scene of police cars and ambulances on more

than one occasion, not knowing what condition I was going to see my mom in...or what it felt like when my mom was late picking me up from school, fearing that she had been killed....or what it felt like to be kicked out of our house without anything or anywhere to go...or what it was like worrying about my mom every second of every day.

Unfortunately, so many children share similar experiences as up to 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. It has been my goal both personally and professionally to educate children the way I wish I had been on the dynamics of domestic violence and

“...violence is not the norm and never the answer.”

the resources that are available. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to educate so many children and teens through classroom presentations each year. I hope to help kids identify what they are experiencing and provide them with the necessary resources to get assistance.

I want kids to know that they are not alone, and that it is not their fault. I want them to know that help is available and that violence is not the norm and never the answer.

- Dawn Stallings, Prevention Specialist

MEN AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

At Albemarle Hopeline, we believe male allies are an essential part of the solution to ending sexual violence in northeast North Carolina. Therefore, our newest initiative to address sexual violence is centered around male leadership, community awareness, and youth education. This initiative presently consists of five men: Michael Cosgrove, John Day, Tobie McPherson, Daniel Metzger and Charles Thomson (shown in the picture, along with Hopeline summer graduate intern, Elizabeth Metzger). The group is currently planning community outreach events to educate youth about sexual violence, consent and bystander interaction. We believe this is the beginning of a great organization for our community! If you would like more information or would like to join in the work of this initiative, please call the Hopeline office at 252-338-5338.



24 HOUR CRISIS LINE
252-338-3011

ALBEMARLE HOPELINE, INC.
P. O. BOX 2064
ELIZABETH CITY, NC 27906-2064

ELIZABETH CITY: 252-338-5338
EDENTON: 252-482-9918
CURRITUCK: 252-453-8116
ALBEMARLEHOPELINE.ORG

Albemarle Hopeline is a private, non-profit agency serving victims of domestic and sexual violence in the counties of Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Perquimans, Chowan and Gates in rural northeastern North Carolina. Direct, comprehensive services include 24-hour crisis line, shelter, individual counseling, court advocacy, information, referral, outreach and awareness / prevention education for schools, churches, civic groups and the community-at-large.

Hopeline has offices in Elizabeth City, Edenton and Currituck and sees victims in the other counties as needed. The agency has a thrift store outreach site, Hopeline's Clothesline, located in Elizabeth City.

If you are in need of any of our services or if your organization would like a Hopeline representative to provide information to your group, call the main Hopeline office at 252-338-5338.

All services are free of charge





UNWANTED CELL PHONE?

Drop your old, unwanted cell phones by any Hopeline office or Clothesline Thrift Store. They can be recycled with profits used to fund valuable services to victims of domestic & sexual violence in our community.

We do not need chargers or cases and they do not need to be in working order.



CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Plan now to sponsor a family or individual this holiday season!

Talk to your co-workers, club members, teammates, friends and family about getting together and buying gifts for kids that might otherwise go without. Just think how much fun that would be!

Call Carol Patterson at 338-5338 to find out how you can be someone's Special Santa this year



HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Return the enclosed envelope with your gift.
2. Donate online. Go to our website www.albemarlehopeline.org and follow the link.
3. Donate through Albemarle Area United Way and designate "Albemarle Hopeline."
4. We also provide opportunities for major gifts of land and other real estate property, as well as bequests. Please talk to our Executive Director or a member of our Board of Directors for more information.



HOPELINE'S CLOTHESLINE THRIFT STORE

923 Halstead Blvd.
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
252-338-3107

Hours:
Monday – Saturday
10 am – 5 pm



Albemarle Hopeline
P.O. Box 2064
Elizabeth City, NC 27906-2064



HOPELINE BY THE NUMBERS

JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015

Camden Co. 152 victims served / 33 shelter nights / 289 counseling sessions / 293 advocacy & 60 court services / 223 crisis calls / 141 prevention education & outreach programs

Chowan Co. 331 victims served / 34 shelter nights / 516 counseling sessions / 362 advocacy & 223 court services / 427 crisis calls / 153 prevention education & outreach programs

Currituck Co. 336 victims served / 81 shelter nights / 668 counseling sessions / 671 advocacy & 239 court services / 634 crisis calls / 87 prevention education & outreach programs

Gates Co. 108 victims served / 35 shelter nights / 166 counseling sessions / 198 advocacy & 141 court services / 122 crisis calls / 59 prevention education & outreach programs

Pasquotank Co. 1161 victims served / 2368 shelter nights / 2534 counseling sessions / 3200 advocacy & 372 court services / 2069 crisis calls / 396 prevention education & outreach programs

Perquimans Co. 177 victims served / 717 shelter nights / 507 counseling sessions / 1737 advocacy & 118 court services / 238 crisis calls / 66 prevention education & outreach programs

Totals for all 6 counties 2265 victims served / 3268 shelter nights / 4680 counseling sessions / 6461 advocacy & 1153 court services / 3701 crisis calls / 902 prevention education & outreach programs

NONPROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elizabeth City, NC
Permit No. 4