

# The Voice



**By Patty Duncan**  
**Director of Family Violence Prevention**

In the nonprofit world we are always asking for the “Give”. Raising money and recruiting volunteers to support a program and provide services can always be stressful, but the results are rewarding. Rewarding not only for the program but also for the donors who contribute, knowing they are making a difference in lives and their community. In this article, I want to explain some different types of “donors”, the why’s and how’s. When choosing where to donate your dollars, here are some facts I would ask you to consider.

Family Violence Prevention’s Safehaven Shelter housed 105 individuals (72 adults and 33 children) last year for a total of 2120 bed nights. (A bed night is explained a 1 night per person per night) ex: 9 persons in shelter on 1 night = 9 bed nights

If that is broken down into dollars, it takes an average of \$50 per person per day to provide the supportive and shelter services to each resident. That figure includes Shelter Space = \$20 per day, Security = \$2 per day, Food = \$5 per day, Transportation = \$3 per day, Basic Needs (Supplies) = \$3 per day, Advocacy = \$17 per day.

**Last year Family Violence  
Prevention spent \$106,000 for  
client services alone.**

When you choose to donate your dollars to Family Violence Prevention, Inc. you are helping us to empower victims and assist them in finding their way to live a violence free life and set examples for the youth of our community.

The bottom line is something everyone can relate to, but the value of a volunteer hour is substantial as well. If you have some time each week or maybe just a few hours each month, we ask that you consider contacting Family Violence Prevention’s Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Billie G., at 870-793-8111. She can explain the process for becoming a trained volunteer.

Not only are our services free to victims but we offer free training to volunteers and others in our community about the crimes and dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault. If you know of or are involved with a group or organization that would like some training or education about the crimes of domestic violence or sexual assault please contact me at 870-793-4011. I would love to come and share with you the importance of the work we do and the differences we try to make every day.

There are many ways to support FVP and Your Time and Dollars make a difference. After sharing with you the importance of your time and dollars, I ask you to consider Family Violence Prevention for your future donations.

Thank you for your support.

**By Lisa Hernandez**  
Assistant Director of FVP

A beloved pet can become a victim of domestic violence. Many pets are displaced as a result of domestic violence and can end up homeless or abused. Domestic violence victims may be unable to escape their abusive partners because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave. In many cases, victims of domestic violence may try to take their pets with them when they are able to leave the relationship, but find that their local domestic violence shelters do not accept pets.

If you are in an abusive relationship and have pets in your home, it is important to make your pets part of your safety plan.

Here are a few suggestions for safety planning with pets:

If possible, don't leave pets alone with an abusive partner.

Some states allow protection for pets on Orders of Protection. Ask your advocate about this if you are filing for an Order of Protection for yourself and your family.

If you are planning to leave:

Talk to friends, family or your veterinarian about temporary care for your pet. If that is not an option, search by state or zip code for services that assist domestic violence survivors with safekeeping for their pets. If none of the results are feasible for your situation, try contacting your local domestic violence or animal shelter

directly. For help finding an animal shelter, visit the Humane Society website.



If you must leave without your pet, remember to leave enough food, water, fresh bedding, litter, etc. for your pet. If you've had to leave your pet behind with your abusive partner, try to ask for assistance from law enforcement officials or animal control to see if they can intervene.

If you are able to leave with your pet:

- Consider changing veterinary clinics.
- Keep pets indoors (if possible)
- Avoid leaving the pet outside alone
- Pick a safe route and time to walk your pet
- Don't exercise or walk pet alone

These suggestions may not work for each person, every situation is inimitable. Call a national Hotline so they can assist you with ways to keep yourself and your pets safe!

**Pack a bag for your pet that includes:**

- **Documents** of ownership (receipts from adoption or purchase of pet, license to establish ownership, receipts for animal purchases)
- **ID and rabies tag**, if a dog or cat (these will also help establish ownership)
- **Health documents** (veterinary or vaccination records)
- **Food**
- **Medicine**
- **Carrier/bedding**
- **leash/toys...etc.**

# New Laws for Arkansas Victims

**By Stacey Merrell**  
Safe Haven Shelter Manager

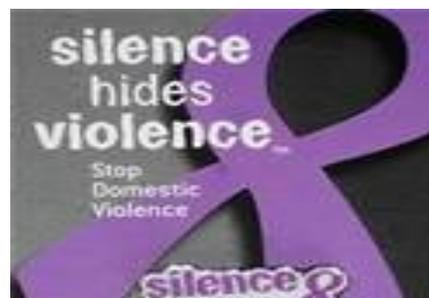
There seems to be a lot of misinformation about domestic violence victims. Mostly, it comes down to victim blaming and shifting the focus away from the abuser and onto the victim. It is so much easier for people to look at the victim and focus on what the victim should do rather than look at the abuser and figure out how to hold them accountable for their behavior. The domestic violence relationship is a power and control relationship. If not handled properly, we can re-victimize the victim and empower the batterer to keep battering. Thankfully, we as a community, have figured out better ways to communicate with victims to provide them with resources and a solid safety net so they do not have to return repeatedly to their abuser.

There have been new and amended domestic violence laws put in place within the last year that have helped our victims. **The Domestic Abuse Act of 1991** was amended to include “in-laws” in the definition section of “family or household members” §9-15-103(4). This could help someone who’s needing an order of protection against an in-law. The State Legislature also passed and the Governor signed, “**Laura’s Law**” (**Act 877**) which requires law enforcement officers to use a lethality or danger assessment when responding to a report of domestic violence and “**Laura’s Card**” (**Act 873**) which

requires first responders to provide a victim or a victim’s family with information on victim’s assistance, rights, compensation, protection and access. With **Laura’s Card**, any victims in the area would be told about and given numbers to our agency where they can have a safe place to go and get resources to get out of the unhealthy and violent environment they are in.

Also signed into law was **Act 876** which requires law enforcement to investigate complaints or accusations of domestic violence in a way that does not require victim testimony or victim centered evidence. Finally, **Act 952** which requires that dating violence awareness is added to the educational curriculum taught in health course in grades 7-12.

With these new laws, I believe we can only better our community awareness and education. I want to thank our law enforcement and judicial systems for standing up and being a voice who will not tolerate domestic violence in this community. It takes all our resources to pull together to be leaders in the battle to end domestic violence and help reclaim stolen voices.



## By Bill Miller

Taylor House Shelter Manager

On October 1, 2015, Family Violence Prevention's Taylor House went online. Between that date and the time of this newsletter (some 4 ½ months), we have fielded multiple crisis calls and have housed seven men. A recent article in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Three Rivers Edition has spread the word very effectively; requests for information are coming in almost daily.

Taylor House was made possible by the generosity of the Taylor family of Batesville, particularly Rachel Taylor and her son, Dr. David Taylor, who made the family home available to Family Violence Prevention. FVP Executive Director Patty Duncan, in light of the fact that Safe Haven, FVP's women's shelter, had housed numerous male victims of domestic violence in the past couple of years, took a great leap forward in deciding to use the donated house as the first shelter for male victims of domestic violence to be registered with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Funding was awarded the middle of August 2015. Five short, busy weeks later, thanks to the help of many volunteers and staff members, Taylor House opened its doors and began answering the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in the hope that those who need us will find us.

If you know of anyone who can use our assistance, please have them call our hotline at 870-569-8024. Anyone with questions, who would like to volunteer, or who would like to donate can contact Shelter Manager Bill Miller at that number or by email at [thetaylorhouse2015@gmail.com](mailto:thetaylorhouse2015@gmail.com).



## By Jacqueline Dotson

Sexual Assault Coordinator

If you or someone you now has been a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault

Remember:

You are not alone

You are not to blame

It's not your fault

My name is Jacqueline Dotson. I am the Sexual Assault Service Coordinator for Family Violence Prevention. My office is located at 2016 Byers Street, Batesville. I can be reached at (870) 698-0006.

All services offered by Batesville Rape Crisis Center are free and confidential. Individual counseling, domestic violence and sexual assault support groups are available. Our support groups share information about how to cope with the realities of domestic or sexual violence, covers aspects of recovering, empowerment, helping you to grow and heal. Anger Management and Domestic Violence classes are also available; both accepted by Independence County Court System requirements. And some cases meet DHS requirements. Please feel free to call for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Did you know that every 2 minutes someone in the US is sexually assaulted. 1 in 6 women will become a victim of Sexual Assault in America. Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone know to the victims.

Lets keep our community safe by spreading the word that domestic or sexual violence is a crime. Family Violence Prevention and Batesville Rape Crisis Center will continue to work to help those affected achieve a sense of freedom and empowerment. Our goal is to help with the transition from victim to survivor.

Thanks to the Independence Co and surrounding communities for their assistance with donations and volunteer services. It has been greatly appreciated.



# Leaving Fingerprints Behind

## Cynthia Grammer Child Advocate at Safe Haven

This is our “Children’s Tree” at the Family Violence Prevention Shelter. The fingerprint flower represents a child that has stayed at our shelter during the year of 2015. These children are displaced, emotional, afraid, and have the same concerns about what is going to happen to them just as the adult in their life. Thanks to the donations that we receive from the community we are able to take them away from the stressors in their lives for a little while. Having some type of release or hobby that these children can get focused on is a healing moment for them. We are able to provide art, painting, woodwork and even sewing classes. The change in these children when getting involved in some type of project is amazing.



They become relaxed, start exchanging ideas and then begin to open up on their own about what they are concerned about. It could be what they going to wear to school because they left their home with just the clothes on their back. Once again, thanks to the donations at our Fresh Start Resale Store we are able to take them shopping to pick out whatever they may need.

As the Child Advocate I am always looking for new ideas and projects that our children can get involved in while staying at our shelter. If it were not for the community I would not be able to provide the outlet that has helped so many of our children. Thank you for opening your hearts and donating to the program for you not only help the adults but make a





# Fresh Start Resale Shop

**1280 N. St. Louis Street**

Looking to find or donate something?

Stop by the Fresh Start Resale Shop for clothes, furniture, books, home décor, holiday items, bedding, children's items, TVs and electronics.

FVP  
P.O. BOX 2943  
BATESVILLIE,  
ARKANSAS  
72503

SAFE HAVEN  
SHELTER  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
870-793-8111

TAYLOR HOUSE  
SHELTER  
MEN AND CHILDREN  
870-569-8024

OUTREACH  
OFFICE  
870-793-4011

FRESH START  
RESALE  
SHOP  
870-698-0010

BATESVILLE  
RAPE CRISIS  
CENTER  
870-698-0006

***Donations  
Accepted***

***Volunteers  
Needed***

***Deals  
Weekly***



United Way  
of Independence County  
also serving Izard, Northern Cleburne,  
Sharp and Stone Counties

