



Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center

Annual Report FY 2006/2007

December 3, 2007

*Prepared by Diane Dotson, Executive Director
For the RCVCC Board of Directors*

Summary

In this 30th anniversary year RCVCC continues to reach more victims and survivors of violent crime than ever before. Through our partnership with Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center we are seeing more than twice as many child victims as in previous years, as well as increasing numbers of their non-offending friends and family members (secondary victims). Going into fiscal year 2008 we have 5 employees: executive director, assistant director/education coordinator, and 3 Licensed Professional Counselors. We are fortunate to be able to have fulltime counselors with top state credentials in addition to specialized training in the field of sexual assault and victim assistance. Currently 46 volunteers (3 at a time) are on-call when the office is closed to answer the hotline and respond to victims in crisis at the request of law enforcement and/or the trauma center. Our anti-victimization program, W.H.O.® -- "We Help Ourselves" -- reaches thousands of children in Abilene and surrounding school districts. Our education efforts have expanded into primary prevention, a national movement to prevent violence at a family and neighborhood level. Government funding for our programs is holding steady, covering approximately 85% of our budget. Our community has been generous in helping provide additional funding in the form of foundation grants, as well as personal and corporate contributions through our fundraising activities.

*RCVCC Mission: Assisting Victims and Survivors of Violent Crime and Working to Prevent Violence
Serving primarily Taylor, Callahan, Coleman, Haskell, Jones, and Shackelford Counties*

Staff

Executive Director: Diane Dotson

Assistant Director/Education Coordinator: Linda Walker

Counselors:

Pam Williams, MEd

Licensed Professional Counselor

(Pam offices at Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center -- ATCCAC)

Angie Penton, MEd

Licensed Professional Counselor

Linda Dressen, MS

Licensed Professional Counselor

(Linda spends half of her time in surrounding counties assisting victims who are not able to travel to Abilene)

Two graduate level counseling and crisis intervention interns from the Psychology Departments at Abilene Christian University and Hardin Simmons University spend a total of about 20 hours a week working under supervision with RCVCC clients in our office or at ATCCAC.

Volunteers

RCVCC recruits and trains 6 to 10 new crisis intervention/victim assistance and education volunteers each year. Crisis intervention/victim assistance volunteers receive 40 hours of training. Education volunteers receive 16 hours of training in the W.H.O.® curriculum and presentation. We currently have 46 active volunteers who are on-call for some 400 hours each month to answer the hotline, respond to a crisis situation, or who are scheduled to present a W.H.O.® program. RCVCC volunteers tend to be passionate about our mission and dedicated to serving victims of violent crime. A number of volunteers have been with us for up to 30 years. We lose volunteers primarily because of relocation or other life changes. A Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April honored our volunteers for their service to victims.

Statistics

<i>RCVCC Clients 2006 and 2007</i>	2006	Jan.-Oct. 2007	Projected Total 2007	% Increase
Victims Served	965	1035	1200	24%
Child/Teen Victims	102	173	213	109%

2002: RCVCC served a **total of 382** victims (adult, child, secondary), compared to 965 in 2006 and a projected 1200 in 2007.

During the first 6 months of 2007, RCVCC served 96 child victims of sexual assault and/or other abuse. They ranged in age from 2 years to 16 years, with the greatest number falling into the 4 to 10 year age range.

<i>Child Victims Jan.-June 2007</i>			
Age in Years	Female	Male	Total
2	2	0	2
3	0	3	3
4	5	4	9
5	5	3	8
6	4	2	6
7	4	7	11
8	7	5	12
9	6	4	10
10	6	2	8
11	2	2	4
12	4	3	7
13	5	1	6
14	3	2	5
15	2	1	3
16	2	0	2
Total	57	39	96

New in 2006/2007

- Dedicated play therapy space funded by a grant from Dodge Jones Foundation.
- New curricula and equipment for primary prevention funded by a grant from the Scott and Michelle Senter Foundation at the Community Foundation of Abilene.
- State of the art office telephone system to maximize communication on our crisis line and for victim/counselor calls, funded by a grant from Community Foundation of Abilene.
- Memoranda of Understanding to act as official victim liaison agency for the Abilene Police Department and Taylor County Sheriff's Office. These agreements expand and enhance the cooperative agreements that were already in place.

- Basic needs (personal hygiene and other similar items) on hand for victims, particularly child victims and families, funded by a donation from The Junior League of Abilene.
- Two major fundraising events.

Funding

Local and state government grants had funded 100% of this agency's programs and operations in some past years. In 2006/2007 with increased costs, greater numbers of victims served, and funding cuts at the state and federal level, that percentage was down to 85%.

Fundraising

- A golf tournament hosted by Taylor/Callahan/Coleman Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) raised \$6,600 for RCVCC. It was CSCD's 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament. CSCD director Mike Wolfe is a member of the RCVCC Board of Directors. Mike presented the check to RCVCC President Debra McCracken at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April.
- In October 2007 the RCVCC Board of Directors hosted its 1st Annual Men of Strength and Style luncheon, presenting men's fashions and honoring positive male role models in our community. Planning for the event began in early FY 2007. With a matching grant from the Shelton Family Foundation, another matching grant from an anonymous donor, along with major sponsorships and contributions from dozens of local donors, the event brought in almost \$35,000.

Here's why we do it:

- "(You helped) turn my situation from 'tragedy to triumph.'" – Adult assault victim
- "You helped me when all I could do is cry." -- Child sexual assault victim
- "...getting control of the nightmares, anger, helplessness and anxiety." -- Adult molested as a child
- "You've opened my eyes and brought out the good in me." – Child sexual abuse victim
- "☺ P.S. I'm smiling because you've helped me." – Child sexual abuse victim
- "Thank you for making the bad things better, I couldn't have done it without you!! – Parent of two child victims
- Immediately following a W.H.O.® --"We Help Ourselves"-- anti-victimization program by RCVCC staff in a 5th grade classroom, a female student disclosed that she was being sexually abused by her grandmother's boyfriend. The man was arrested, prosecuted, convicted and sent to prison for 8-10 years.

Looking Ahead

Victim service programs across the state and across the nation, as well as here at home, indicate we still have a lot of work to do. The United Way of Abilene *What Matters* survey found residents who responded to the survey listed violent crime in neighborhoods and families as their number one concern. The new *Community Plan* written by law enforcement agencies and victim services providers in Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties identified victim assistance training for professionals and continued service to victims of violent crime as their top priorities. In collaboration with other local non-profit agencies and services providers, using best practices and available resources, RCVCC is looking at programs, services, and methods that have proven effective for notifying and assisting crime victims of all ages that may be adopted for effective use in our region.