



Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center
Annual Report FY 2008/2009
November 2009

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

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

Summary of Activities

In its 32nd year RCVCC continues to serve victims and survivors of violent crime and to provide violence prevention programs to students and community groups, as well as training for professionals and our volunteer victim advocates.

- Through our partnership with Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center we continue to provide crisis intervention and counseling services to child victims, as well as their non-offending friends and family members (secondary victims).
- We continue our collaboration with Noah Project, providing on-site professional therapy for several hours each week at the family violence shelter.
- Our collaboration with Serenity Foundation and other local service agencies helps us reach adult victims of physical and sexual violence who need help to recover from the childhood abuse.
- Our play therapy area allows our counselors to use specialized methods for working with child victims of violence.
- Through our violence prevention programs we reach thousands of children, teenagers and young adults on school and university campuses in Abilene and the surrounding area.
- Our school collaborations include a partnership with Abilene Independent School District to facilitate state mandated dating violence education to students at Abilene and Cooper High Schools.
- Our traveling counselor continues to reach clients who live outside of Abilene and are not able to make the trip to Abilene to receive counseling and other victim services.
- The Jay Hatcher Memorial Resource Library continues to provide updated resources for our counselors to assist victims.
- We continue as victim liaison agencies for law enforcement under Memoranda of Understanding with Abilene Police Department and Taylor County Sheriff's Office.
- At the beginning of fiscal year 2010 we have 6 employees: executive director, assistant director/counselor (Licensed Professional Counselor-intern), 2 Licensed Professional Counselors, prevention and education coordinator/advocate, and development coordinator. 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, play therapy and victim assistance.
- Currently 40 highly-trained volunteer victim advocates (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. We also maintain a list of advocates who are available to respond to callouts during business hours.
- Federal and state government funds covered approximately 56% of our budget for fiscal 2009, compared to 65% in 2008. That percentage will drop to 53% in FY 2010. Local government funds provide approximately 20%. Our community has been generous in helping with additional funding in the form of foundation grants, as well as personal and corporate contributions for our programs and through our fundraising activities.



- Our 3rd annual “Men of Strength & Style” luncheon and men’s fashion show in October 2009 honored 14 men in our community who are positive role models. That event, the golf tournament hosted by the Community Supervision and Corrections Department in May, and other fundraising brought in more than \$46,000 in FY 2009. Grants from Community Foundation of Abilene, Shelton Family Foundation, Dodge Jones Foundation and Greathouse Foundation, along with contributions from other local groups and private donors totaled another \$38,000.

Staff

Executive Director: Diane Dotson

Assistant Director/Counselor: Monica Reid, MA

Prevention and Education Coordinator/Advocate: Lori Bunton

Development Coordinator: Nikima Stewart

Counselors:

Pam Williams, MEd

Licensed Professional Counselor

Linda Dressen, MS

Licensed Professional Counselor

Our counselor intern program provides us two graduate level counseling and crisis intervention interns from local universities who spend a total of about 20 hours a week working under supervision with RCVCC clients in our office.

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 40 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 more than 30 years. We lose volunteers primarily because of relocation or other life changes. Our volunteers keep in touch through the monthly on-call calendar and a monthly volunteer newsletter. We recognize their dedication in special ways as often as possible throughout the year.

Statistics

RCVCC STATISTICS calendar years	2008	2009 Jan. - Sept.
Primary victims served	877	623
Secondary victims	210	113
TOTAL VICTIMS SERVED	1087	736
New victims under 17	245	61
Active volunteers	42	40
K-12th students educated	4037	3132
Community members and professionals trained	980	699



Total # Victims Assisted by RCVCC by calendar year

2002: 382

2008: 1087

RCVCC Jan.-Sept. 2009

Total # Victims (sexual assault and/or other violence): **736**

New child victims: **61**

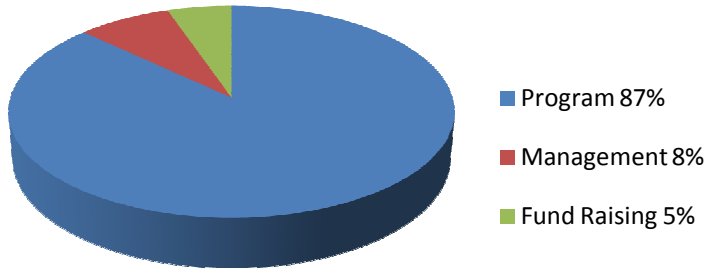
Child age range: 1-16 years

Students K-12 attending RCVCC Violence Prevention Programs

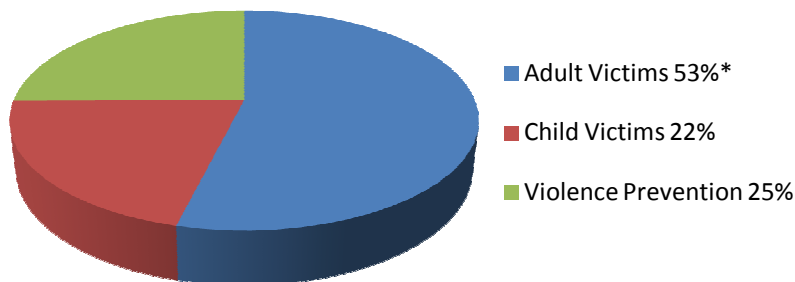
Total 2008: 4037

Jan.-Sept. 2009: 3132

RCVCC Budget for FY 2008/2009: \$385,159



ALLOCATION OF AGENCY FUNDS (FY 2008 audit)



DIVISION OF PROGRAM FUNDS

*Includes new adult victims, adults molested as children, and non-offending caregivers of child victims.

New in 2008/2009

- In response to research on mental and emotional recovery for child victims of violence, we focused more of our services to children on counseling and therapy, in an effort to provide more extensive help for each child victim. Our campus and community programs focused more of our time on the root causes of violence and how to prevent it, in response to federal grant requirements.
- A gift from Community Foundation of Abilene allowed us to expand our sexual violence prevention programs to high school students, and to purchase technology to establish a distance therapy program to assist victims in outlying counties.



- The Community Foundation Future Fund also provided additional funding for the new high school sexual violence prevention programs.
- A resignation prompted a restructuring of our staff positions. Linda Walker, who had been assistant director and education coordinator for 8 years, resigned in July to accept a position as administrator at a private school. Linda’s unique skill set made it difficult to find someone to exactly fit her position at RCVCC. We restructured the education position to be a full-time prevention/education coordinator and advocate. Lori Bunton was hired to fill that position. Counselor Monica Reid was promoted to include assistant director as part of her title, and we contracted with Davis Kinard & Co. to do more of our accounting work. The new plan seems to be working well.

Funding

RCVCC’s fiscal year is October 1st to September 30th. Federal and state government grants funded 65% of this agency’s programs and operations in fiscal year 2007/2008. For FY 2008/2009 with increased costs, greater numbers of victims served, and funding cuts at the state and federal level, that percentage was down to 56%, and will drop to 53% in FY 2009/2010.

RCVCC Funding	FY 2007/2008	FY 2008/2009	FY 2009/2010
Federal/State government funds	65%	56%	53%
Local government funds	22%	21%	19%
Fundraising and contributions	13%	23%	28% (goal)

Fundraising

- A golf tournament hosted by Taylor/Callahan/Coleman Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) raised \$6,000 for RCVCC. It was CSCD’s 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. CSCD director Mike Wolfe is President of the RCVCC Board of Directors.
- In October 2008 the RCVCC Board of Directors hosted its 2nd Annual Men of Strength and Style luncheon, presenting men’s fashions and honoring positive male role models in our community. With matching and donor grants from the Shelton Family Foundation, Dian Graves Owen Foundation, Dodge Jones Foundation and Greathouse Foundation, as well as contributions from majors sponsors and individual donors, that event brought in approximately \$36,000. A 3rd annual Men of Strength and Style was held in October 2009, with financial support from the local foundations, but without the matching funds. That event raised just under \$20,000.

Here’s why we do it:

- “Thank you.... We are on the road to healing!” A note to RCVCC counselors from the mother of a child who was sexually assaulted by a family friend.
- A young woman who was abducted, sexually assaulted and abandoned along a south Texas highway by two men is now strong enough, with the help of RCVCC, to move on with her life and even to share her story publicly. She hopes to give other victims the courage to report and follow through with the justice process. Her attackers were convicted and sentenced to life prison terms.
- It will be a “Thanksgiving of blessings” a grandmother told us. She is receiving full custody of her two young children who witnessed their mother’s murder. An RCVCC counselor was able to



help facilitate the custody process and help the grandmother deal with her own emotions following her daughter's murder.

- A young woman carried guilt for her childhood molestation for 25 years. With the help of her RCVCC counselor the young woman now understands it is the abuser that is to blame. She is able to move on confidently with her life.

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 new *Community Plan* written by law enforcement agencies and victim services providers in Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties identified prevention education, victim assistance training for professionals, and continued service to victims of violent crime among their top priorities. In collaboration with other local non-profit agencies and services providers, using best practices and available resources, RCVCC continues to pursue programs, services, and methods that have proven effective for notifying and assisting crime victims of all ages that may be adopted for efficient use in our region.