

FUNDRAISING IN 2008

✦ Emergency Supplies:

Victim Services coordinated a collection of donations of shampoo, soaps, hair brushes, toothpaste etc to assist victims in times of crisis. Thank you to the UCF Community for collecting a total of **\$2000** worth of supplies. These supplies were used to prepare emergency bins that were placed in each vehicle so that the supplies are readily available for victims during a **call out**.

✦ Cell Phone Drive

Victim Advocate Michelle Quinones has been working on a **cell phone drive** to collect old and/or used cell phones. The total number of phones collected for 2008 was 1317! The money raised from this drive went to our crime victims fund. Please contact Michelle at 407-823-6332 or at quinones@mail.ucf.edu if you would like to donate your phone to this worthy cause in 2009.

✦ Car Wash Fundraiser:

Victim Advocate Charlotte Hewkin organized a car wash fund raiser that took place at the CVS on Alafaya and Lake Underhill on September 20th. UCF Victim Services, volunteers from the police department, LAE members and volunteers from the community worked the event. We were able to raise **\$180** for the Self-defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (S.A.F.E.) program at UCF. This money will go towards covering the \$5 fee for approx. 28 females.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009

T-Shirt Drive

UCF Victim Services will be hosting a t-shirt drive this Spring semester to collect shirts for the Clothesline Project. Shirts need to be new, of any size and in any shade of the following colors:

Yellow, Red, Pink, Orange, Blue, Green, Purple and Black.

Donations can be dropped off at the following locations from January 6th- March 6th: The UCF Police Department, UCF Community Relations (In the John T. Washington Center, across from the Bookstore) and at the Victim Services office. If there are any questions, please call Charlotte Hewkin at 407-823-4747 or email at chewkin@mail.ucf.edu.

Victim Rights Week

The National Crime Victims' Rights week will be honored April 26th- May 2nd, 2009. The theme for this year is '25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act'. The Office for Victims of Crime has observed this week since 1981. Agencies and communities across the country have held activities, rallies and breakfasts to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year UCF Victim Services will be hosting events throughout this week. Please check out our website for further details.

Book Display

As April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness month, UCF Victim Services will have a book display at the UCF Bookstore. The books on display will relate to Sexual Violence and also Allies to Healing (support for the partners of victims).

Late Knights

UCF Victim Services will be at the 'Late Knights' events this semester. Come out, have fun and enjoy goodies, information and ask all the questions you want to a Victim Advocate.

February 27th- Culture Shock

March 27th- Major Party

April 24th- Shipwrecked

INTERN/ VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Intern/ Volunteer Program:

The Victim Services unit uses volunteers and interns for a variety of projects and helps students to gain experience in preparation for graduation. Internships are not paid but do provide University credit. If you are interested in becoming a intern/ volunteer, please visit our website at www.victimservices.ucf.edu and fill out the application. If there are any questions about this experience, students are encouraged to attend our **Open House on Friday, March 20th** from 4pm-6pm at the Victim Services main office. For more information, please contact the Intern/ Volunteer program Coordinator, La'Shawn Rivera at (407) -823-6333 or at larivera@mail.ucf.edu.

Service Learning Students:

Over the years, UCF Victim Services has used service learning students to help out with events or to come up with new projects. So far students have assisted with creating brochures and posters and also have created a volunteer database. If you are interested in assisting Victim Services for your class project, or would like further information, please contact Charlotte Hewkin at (407) 823-4747 or at chewkin@mail.ucf.edu.

The Clothesline Project 2009

As the month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, UCF Victim Services will be hosting the Clothesline Project and we are looking for students to do

their Service Learning project with us. The Clothesline Project was started in 1990 and uses the concept of using shirts that people have created, hanging on a clothesline as a vehicle for raising awareness about violence. We will have a table outside the Union every Wednesday during this month from 9am- 2pm where we will be creating shirts. We would need students to assist with these tables, explaining the Clothesline Project to people, hanging the shirts and marketing the event. There will be a mandatory training on **March 17th from 4:30pm- 6pm** in the University Towers building. Please RSVP to Charlotte Hewkin by Friday, March 6th if you plan to work this event.

UCF Victim Services

UCF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE

JANUARY 2009

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the Victim Services Spring 2009 Newsletter.

We hope this newsletter provides you with an overview of the many programs and services we provide. Our staff of professionals is always available to assist our community members. Our pro-active approach is designed to increase awareness and reduce victimization. We are proud of our accomplishments and continue to pursue new prevention and awareness programs with a community focus. I hope this publication provides you with valuable insight into our endeavors.

Richard Beary
Director, Public Safety and Police



Chief Richard Beary and UCF Victim Services Coordinator Christine Mouton

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT OCTOBER 2008

On October 6th, 2008, UCF Victim Services and Mr. Merck for their Services hosted 'Light Up the Night'. Cell phones were used to remember those that died and the survivors of dating and domestic violence. The event was held at the Reflection Pond outside Milican Hall. There was a musical performance by Live Hart and speakers included UCF Police Chief Richard Beary, UCF Victim Services Coordinator Christine Mouton, Harbor House of Central Florida, the CourtWatch Program, Volunteer UCF and Michael Freeman from the Office of Diversity Initiatives. Two UCF Victim Services Interns also shared their survivor stories. Recognition awards were presented to Janice and Chuck Ruschak, UCF Health

continued support of victims of crime. A remembrance walk followed ending at Health Services. A tree has been planted there in memory of Michael Ruschak and Tiffany Barwick who were killed by Tiffany's ex-boyfriend in September of 2007 at Michael's home in Oviedo, FL.



Members of the UCF Community at the 'Light Up The Night' ceremony

THE BARWICK- RUSCHAK ACT

The "Barwick-Ruschak Act" became effective on October 1st, 2008. This act also known as the Dating Violence Act, makes intimate partner abuse among dating couples criminal activity in Florida and provides victims of dating violence the same protections as found in the state's Domestic Violence Act. The law is named in memory of 19-year old Tiffany Barwick and 22-year old Michael Ruschak who was a UCF student and also worked at the Student Union.

Victim Services Accomplishments for 2008

Presentations:

The Victim Services Program provides educational programming and training in many areas related to our services. Over the past year, Victim Advocates have provided information to approx. 33,000 students, staff, faculty and community members on a variety of different topics. Presentations can be customized to the needs of the audience and the programs can be interactive, or strictly informational. If you would like to schedule a presentation or would like further information, please visit our website at www.victimservices.ucf.edu or contact La'Shawn Rivera at 407-823-6333. **We do request at least a minimum of 50 minutes for a basic presentation and at least 2 weeks notice.**

Outreach:

Each semester UCF Victim Services provides outreach to approximately 5000 students, staff and faculty members. One way this was accomplished in the Fall semester was through Market Day tables on Wednesdays outside the Student Union. Information was handed out and Advocates were available to answer questions for the UCF Community. Victim Services is also present at each incoming student Open House at which advocates have an opportunity to speak to new students as well as their family members about available services. We also attend each freshman/transfer student Orientation table through out the Spring, Summer and Fall semesters.

FCRT Response:

Over the past year, our State has been damaged by natural disasters such as hurricanes, tropical storms and fires. All of the UCF Victim Advocates are certified as Florida Crisis Response Team responders through the National Organization for Victim Assistance. We not only respond to victims of crime, but we also respond to victims of community disasters. In May of 2008 fires struck Brevard county causing considerable damage leaving many people homeless and without food, water and/ or shelter. Assistant Coordinator of the Victim Services program, La'Shawn Rivera responded to Palm Bay to offer support for victims. In August, Florida's east coast saw another disaster when Tropical Storm Fay hit. Victim Advocates Charlotte Hewkin and Michelle Quinones responded to an elderly community called Lamp Lighter Village in Melbourne. Christine Mouton is the regional coordinator of the FCRT and coordinates FCRT volunteers in Orange and Osceola counties.

Office of Diversity Initiatives

Training:

All of the Victim Advocate team as well as interns and volunteers completed **23 hours** of Diversity Initiatives training during the Spring 2008 semester. We were the first campus department to complete the series and because of this we received an award recognizing us for this great achievement at the Diversity Breakfast held in October. The training included Power and Privilege, Communicating Across Cultures and Self-Care.

Trainings completed by the Victim Advocates:

Christine Mouton attended and presented at the Florida State Victim Assistance Academy for a second year in Delray Beach in July 2008.

La'Shawn Rivera attended the National Conference Against Domestic Violence in Washington D.C. in July

Charlotte Hewkin completed a 40 hour Leadership Excellence Training with UCF Human Resources. She also completed the Star Series program through UCF Human Resources and was recognized at a breakfast in September.

Michelle Quinones and Christy Oberbeck attended the Sexual Violence Core Advocacy Training at the Orange County Victim Services Center in June 2008. This training covered topics such as reactions, crisis intervention with survivors of Sexual Violence, ensuring survivor safety, and recovery, and advocacy and the legal system.

Christy Oberbeck completed 20 hours of Advanced Florida Crisis Response Team training in Vieira Beach in July.

Interns/ Volunteer program:

In the Fall semester we had 6 interns/ volunteers which included two returning interns from the Spring. The interns were able to shadow client appointments, work on planning special events, shadowed presentations/ trainings and worked on individual assignments. The interns/ volunteers worked a total of 1,220 hours in the Fall semester.

Events in 2008

Over the past year, UCF Victim Services has planned, coordinated and hosted many events to raise money and bring awareness and education into the UCF Community.

THE VERIZON WIRELESS CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

UCF Victim Services worked in partnership with Verizon Wireless to coordinate a Clothesline Project that was displayed in Millican Hall for 2 weeks during the month of September. During the opening of this event, speakers such as Christine Mouton (UCF Victim Services Coordinator), Commissioner Fernandez and a representative from Orange County Sheriffs office spoke about Domestic Violence in the community and a survivor story was also shared. T-Shirts were hung on display for an entire 2 week period. After the event, Victim Advocate Michelle Quinones did an interview with Univision (a Spanish Television Station) to discuss the Clothesline Project and explain UCF Victim Services.

THE UCF CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

During the month of October, Victim Services hosted 'The UCF Clothesline Project' to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness month. Every Wednesday during the month of October, from 9am—2pm, Victim Advocates and interns/volunteers were outside the Student Union with shirts and paints. UCF Community members were able to create a shirt and all shirts were displayed inside the Student Union for the entire month. There were 16 volunteers/ Service learning students that helped us with the 5 tables during the month of October. They promoted the event by handing out flyers and information, answered questions and assisted those making shirts. Their hours totaled 136.5 in just 1 month! In total, 100 shirts were donated and displayed.

STRIKE BACK

This year we hosted our fourth annual Strike Back event in October for Domestic Violence Awareness month. Again, this event was a great success. Businesses and agencies donated over \$500 in gift cards and prizes. We would like to thank Starbucks, Margaritaville, American Eagle, and Jeremiah's Italian Ice for their support. These prizes were given away at a raffle at the end of the event. In order to participate in the raffle, students had to visit each table and receive information to be given a ticket. This encouraged students to learn about other resources. Different on and off campus agencies came out to support the event including UCF Community Relations, UCF Counseling Center, UCF Health Services, Court Watch, Harbor House and 102 Jamz. This year we had a Pledge Banner for the event which students, staff and faculty members were able to sign. Also, at the event Harbor House hosted a 'Walk a Mile In Her Shoes' demonstration. This was a fun opportunity for men to educate and raise awareness in the community about a very serious subject and to also rally the community to take action to prevent sexual violence. 15 men wore high heeled shoes and walked around the Student Union holding signs up against violence.

BOOK SIGNING

On November 5th, 2008, UCF Victim Services hosted a book signing in partnership with the author of, 'Finding Purpose After Abuse', Kathleen Schubitz. Kathy shared a brief reading with her audience followed by an explanation of the title of the book. For more information about this book, please visit, www.findingpurposeafterabuse.com. The event was hosted in the UCF Bookstore.



UCF Police Departments Major David Zambri was the first to sign the pledge banner during 'Strike Back'.



The 85 shirts that were created in October 2008 and displayed for the entire month inside the Student Union.



Men who volunteered to walk in high heeled shoes for the 'Walk a Mile In Her Shoes' demonstration