



Council on Domestic Violence  
for Page County, Inc.

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March 17, 2017

Greetings Pastors and Faith Leaders,

Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County Inc., is a non-profit agency that provides confidential services, free of charge to any individual who is or has been involved in a situation of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse; or is a victim of sexual abuse or rape.

You may have heard or been involved in the activities that we do every October to raise awareness about domestic violence and we thank you for your participation in that! This time of the year, specifically the month of April, we work to raise awareness about sexual violence.

One in five women and one in seventy-one men will be raped at some point in their lives. Approximately, every two minutes in the United States another person is sexually assaulted.

Those numbers are staggering, and show an epidemic in our culture. In Page County, Choices served one hundred and fourteen victims (114) of sexual violence last year. In the majority of cases we see, this crime is committed by someone the victim knows, whether that be a current or former intimate partner or a family member. As a community, it is vital that we take action in order to prevent this kind of violence and trauma, but we need your help!

Every April organizations across our country work to raise public awareness and provide education to communities on how to prevent and respond to sexual violence. This year, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center chose the theme **“Engaging New Voices”** to encourage connection with specific community entities. Choices would like to extend an invitation to all pastors, deacons, elders and any faith leaders of Page County to join us on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am for a short training on how we can come together to prevent sexual violence and better serve victims of this crime.

This training is free of charge and lunch will be provided, it will be held at the Luray United Methodist Church, 1 West Main Street, Luray, VA 22385.

If you are available to attend this training, please RSVP to [sarahw@choicesofpagecounty.org](mailto:sarahw@choicesofpagecounty.org) or call (540) 218-4028. We are excited for this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah Warf  
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