

# CHOICES

Council on Domestic Violence for Page County, Inc.

October 2017

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**Media/Outreach Coordinator, part time**

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## Shelter Managers

Jennifer Mayhew

Sarah Meaney

Tiffany Rothgeb

Edie Emmons

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Every October, Choices joins with our partners, supporters, and allies across the country to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Several organizations, businesses, communities, and individuals are wearing purple ribbons in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Pick up your **free purple ribbon** throughout October at these locations:

**Luray-Page County Chamber of Commerce**

**Page Public Library**

**Luray Town Office**

**Stanley Town Office**

**Shenandoah Town Office**

Choices

Luray office: (540) 743-4414

Shenandoah office: (540) 218-4028

Email: [hotline@choicesofpagecounty.org](mailto:hotline@choicesofpagecounty.org)

## Local Students Get Involved!



Art work by students of Luray and Page County High Schools will be on display at the Warehouse Art Gallery October 21 – 29 during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The theme is, “Peace on Earth Begins at Home.”

Jim Mayes generously donated space for the exhibit at the Gallery at 15 Campbell Street in Luray.

Art teachers from the two high schools asked Choices advocates to meet with their students to start a conversation about domestic violence and to encourage them to translate ideas creatively into art.

We’re excited about the project and hope you’ll visit the Warehouse Art Gallery that week. On Sunday, October 29, the final day of the exhibit, Choices will host a reception with light refreshments from 2-4pm. Join us!



Luray Bulldogs Varsity Football players will be wearing purple sweatbands in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Luray High School Marching Bulldogs will honor Domestic Violence Awareness Month by wearing purple wrist bands for their performances in October.



Look for our new CHOICES BANNER at Luray Bulldog athletic fields. Also at Page County Panther baseball field.



### IN THE KNOW

During FY 2017, Choices provided 74 presentations to **1,633** children in Page County Public Schools, providing resources and tools to develop healthy relationships. Presentations were from grades K to 12.

This is a 22% increase over FY 2016.

## Upcoming Shelter Repairs

We are in the process of repairing the downstairs kitchen and handicapped bathroom. Both repairs will make the space more functional, as well as bring the areas up to building and ADA requirements. We are also getting part of our roof repaired later in the year.

Your support helps make these improvements possible! Thank you!

Updates to follow .....

Support Groups for women

meet **every Tuesday**

**evening at 6:30pm.**

Child care is provided

Questions call (540)743-4414



## Mission Statement

**“To prevent both domestic and sexual violence through public awareness and education, and to serve as a resource and safe haven to those affected.”**

## New at Choices

Thanks to significantly increased funding from the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, we increased services and improved facilities.

Choices hired an additional advocate and opened a satellite office and efficiency apartment for emergency shelter in the Town of Shenandoah, to better provide services to victims in the southern end of the county. The Shenandoah community positively received this project and Choices is grateful for their support.

In January 2017, Choices rented an additional office for the Executive Director, Community/Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, and the Media Outreach Coordinator. This space also has a conference room for meetings and training.

By vacating two offices and the copy room in the shelter and relocating three employees nearby, we improved the Luray shelter space. The two upstairs offices became bedrooms, the copy room a dining area and the conference room a children’s play area. These changes allow upstairs residents to have their needs met without going to another floor. It also provides more beds for women who cannot climb on bunkbeds due to age or physical limitations.

We rented office space in Luray for the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, the Court Advocate, and the Housing Services Coordinator. They frequently work with women who are not in the shelter. Having office space outside the shelter has increased confidentiality of both shelter and non-shelter residents.

On the second floor of the shelter, the 19-year old, cracked and breaking tiles were replaced with wood look tiles making it more comforting and homey. Both the upstairs and downstairs were professionally painted for the first time.

# Highlights

## Quotes from our Survivors

- “I feel so good about myself now. I feel supported and was encouraged to meet my goals. I have my own place. I made it!”
- “I am so happy to be moving forward. I could not have done it without the people at Choices!”
- “I finally had privacy. My family and I felt safe.”

In fiscal year 2017 Choices provided safe shelter for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children in Page County for:

67 Women

55 Children

Total of 3,314 bed nights

In FY17, Choices also:

- ❖ Provided advocacy to 746 individuals, empowering survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
- ❖ Responded to 433 calls on the 24-hour hotline.
- ❖ Helped 11 adults and 12 children move into permanent housing with Virginia Homeless Services Program funds through the Rapid Re-Housing Program.
- ❖ Provided comprehensive support services to 55 children living in the shelter whose families have experienced domestic and sexual violence.



**Thanks to increased funding through VOCA, the Victims of Crimes Act, Choices has increased services this year.**

- 4% more crisis intervention services
- 19% more counseling and support services
- 5% more information and referral services
- 20% more safety planning services

## Shelter Needs List

\*Tuna fish  
\*Tuna helper  
\*Ravioli, canned pastas  
\*Boxed mac-n cheese  
\*Boxed pizza Mix  
\*Boxed meals  
\*Frozen meals  
\*Canned fruit  
Canned ham  
Canned chicken  
Canned chili  
Rice  
Noodles  
Fruit juice  
Kool-Aid  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Sugar  
Flour  
Salt/Pepper  
Vegetable oil  
Tea bags  
Air fresheners  
Sandwich/storage bags  
Freezer storage bags  
Dryer sheets  
Dish detergent  
Kitchen trash bags  
Deodorant  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Baby wipes  
Socks (children & adult)  
Sweat pants (all sizes)  
Sweat Shirts (all sizes)  
Scrubs – (M, L, XL)  
Gas vouchers  
Wal Mart/Food Lion gift cards



## History of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981 and was conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national level. The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes:

- Mourning those who have died because of domestic violence
- Celebrating those who have survived
- Connecting those who work to end violence

These three themes remain a key focus of DVAM events today. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with National Coalition Against Domestic Violence providing key leadership in this effort. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

—Adapted from the *1996 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resource Manual* of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

***Want to  
Learn More?***

### CHOICES

staff are available to speak to your church, civic group, or private organization...



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THANK YOU, DONORS, BUSINESS PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Your generosity throughout the year - and years - is most appreciated.

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Please consider Choices in your estate planning.

Even a very small estate gift strengthens our mission and improves the lives of others.

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