# **Safe Haven Sponsored Activities**



# **Clayton County**

Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:00pm Fairview Baptist Church 1746 Hwy 138, Jonesboro, Ga. 30236 (770-477-1717)

**Moderator:** 

Jeff Turner, Chairman
Clayton Board of Commissioners
\*Panel Discussion

[Human Trafficking, Bullying, Campus Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence]
\*Victim Advisory Information from Vendors

\*Activities available for Children

### **Dekalb County**

Saturday, April 14, 2018. 12-3:00 pm Cedar Grove United Methodist Church 3430 Bouldercrest Road, Conley, Ga. 30288. 404 241-8740 or 678-492-1254

- \* Keynote Speakers
- \*Panel Discussion

[Bullying, Human Trafficking, Child Pornography, Domestic Violence and Campus Assaults] \*Activities available for children

\*Vendor Information Available

#### Safe Haven Transitional, Inc.

**Our mission** is to provide a SAFE dwelling place for battered women and their children living in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. The women who come to Safe Haven are in some way progressing towards restoration. Our methods are valuable in the way we substantiate and encourage the women with new tools that strengthen and equip them as they reenter society as healthy interdependent persons.



Battering of any kind (physical, verbal, emotional, sexual) is unacceptable behavior!

"A New Beginning"



2018
National
Crime Victims'
Rights Week

April 8 - 14, 2018

**Partnering with** 



Safe Haven Transitional, Inc.

404 - 241 - 8740

www.safehaventranstional.org



#### **Looking Back**



On April 8, 1981, President Reagan proclaimed the first "Victims' Rights Week." His words from nearly four decades ago resound still today:

"For too long, the victims of crime have been the forgotten persons of our criminal justice system. Rarely do we give victims the help they need or the attention they deserve. Yet the protection our citizens – to guard them from becoming victims - is the primary purpose of our penal laws. Thus, each new victim personally represents an instance in which our system has failed to prevent crime. Lack of concern for victims compounds that failure... We need a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims. These rights should be a central concern of those who participate in the criminal justice system, and it is time all of us paid great heed to the plight of victims."

President Reagan's challenge for a "renewed emphasis" on victims' rights, issues and concerns was fully articulated in the work of his President's Task Force (1982) on Victims of Crime. Its *Final Report* published in December 1982 with 68 recommendations for national action, to improve the plight of victims, forged a path for the victim assistance and justice professions that remain even today. Task Force Chairwoman Lois Haight explained that "the lessons of the victims run like a thread through and are the foundation of all the proposals that follow. Please take the time to

learn, as we have, the depth and the human aspect of this grave social problem then join in seeking and implementing the solutions."



The following year, the Office for Victims of Crime (www.ovc.gov) was created within the U.S. Department of Justice to implement recommendations from the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. One of the most significant events in the history of

the victim/survivor assistance profession — the passage of the *Victims of Crime Act* (VOCA) in 1984, created the Crime Victims Fund; this was made up of federal criminal fines, and penalties and bond forfeitures, to support state and local victim compensation and service programs. The Fund has provided support for National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities nationwide since 1990.

# **National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

This time-honored annual observance each April unites crime survivors, victim assistance advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied professionals and communities across America. It pays tribute to crime victims by listening to and learning from the immense power of their personal stories; by celebrating the many accomplishments that have strengthened laws and created policies, programs and partnerships, it puts the needs of victims *first*.

The goal of NCVRW is to annually publicize and promote the needs, issues and concerns of crime victims and survivors; the many services available to support them in the aftermath of crime; and the challenges that remain to promote individual and community safety across our Nation.

# 2018 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

This year's theme – Expand the Circle. Reach All Victims. – recognizes the potential of universal outreach to crime survivors in America. Today, everybody is or knows a victim of crime; so everybody can benefit from knowledge about the thousands of local, state, Tribal, national and Federal victim assistance programs that provide support and services to crime survivors; and the more than 32,000 laws that define and protect victims' rights.

Recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice amplify the challenge to *expand the circle* to encourage crime reporting and sensitive responses to victims; and to *reach all victims* with comprehensive, quality services in their communities:

- Only 42 percent of violent crimes and only 36 percent of property victimizations were reported to police in 2016 (USDOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016)
- Only nine percent of victims of serious violent crimes receive direct assistance from a victim service agency (USDOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2011)

# **Moving Forward**

As America's victim/survivor assistance profession continues to grow in numbers, strength and solidarity, the challenge to *all* who care about crime victims and community safety is to work together...

TO ENSURE THAT CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS
ARE NOT ONLY OBSERVED ANNUALLY,
BUT PRACTICED DAILY