



WOMEN'S CENTER *of Brevard*

NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

As we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I want to take a moment to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for standing with us in this critical work. This month's newsletter focuses on one of the core components of our mission: supporting survivors of sexual violence and building a safer, stronger community through prevention, advocacy, and care.

In this issue, you'll see how we're making an impact: launching trauma-informed forensic rape exam trainings for nurses right here in Brevard, stepping out with

Lauren's Kids to raise awareness, and inviting you to join us for Denim Day at Texas Roadhouse in Viera.

You'll also find ways to get involved—from a free self-defense workshop to joining our incredible team of volunteers, who make every part of our mission possible. In honor of National Volunteer Month, we're spotlighting two extraordinary administrative volunteers whose behind-the-scenes work helps power our programs, including those that serve survivors of sexual assault.

I'm honored to close this special issue with an invitation to join our Champion's Circle: a community of supporters helping us end the cycle of violence, one survivor at a time. If you've been looking for a meaningful way to make a lasting impact, this is it.

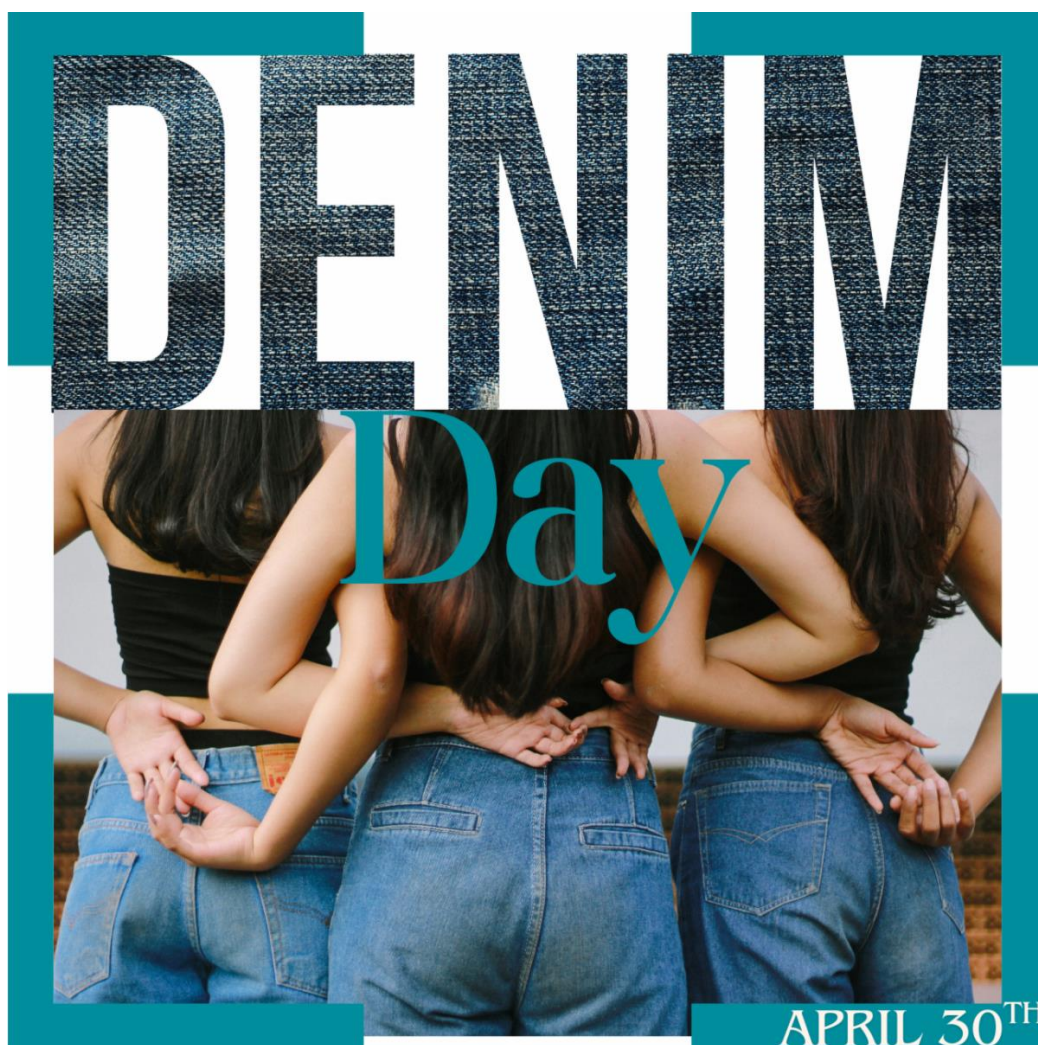
Together, we are creating a future where survivors are believed, supported, and empowered to heal.

With Gratitude,

Stephanie Husted

Executive Director

Women's Center of Brevard



Stand With Survivors

Every April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, millions of people around the world zip up their jeans, not just for comfort, but to take a stand. Denim Day is more than a fashion choice. It's a **bold statement of solidarity with survivors** and a call to end the misconceptions and victim-blaming that too often surround sexual violence.

The movement began after a shocking 1998 ruling by the Italian Supreme Court, which overturned a rape conviction based on the claim that because the victim was

wearing tight jeans, she must have helped remove them, implying consent. In protest, female lawmakers wore jeans to parliament. Their silent but powerful demonstration sparked a global campaign.

Since then, Peace Over Violence's Denim Day has grown into the longest-running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history. On this day, wearing denim becomes a symbol of protest—and a promise to listen, believe, and support survivors.

**Join us in this statement of solidarity on April 30th
from 5–8 PM at Texas Roadhouse in Viera.**

By joining us at Texas Roadhouse that evening, you're doing more than making a statement—you're tangibly supporting the sexual assault survivors we serve right here in your community. Your presence makes a difference.

Let's fill the room with denim, compassion, and commitment to change.
Together, we can make a difference—one pair of jeans at a time.

Wear your favorite pair of jeans, a denim jacket, or even go all-out in head-to-toe denim! Texas Roadhouse will generously donate 10% of the evening's proceeds to the Women's Center of Brevard—but there's one important step:

👉 *Be sure to show your server a picture of the flier (below or on your phone) to ensure your meal counts toward our fundraising total.*



(321) 785-8880
1975 Viera Blvd | Rockledge, FL

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««

Women's Center of Brevard

Denim Day

Wednesday 30

5pm – 8pm

10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support **Women's Center of Brevard** by
presenting this flyer to the

Viera Location

and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%**
of your total food purchases to

Women's Center of Brevard!



Can't make it out on April 30th &
wish you could still take part?

You can click the button below to
donate directly in honor of Denim
Day.

[Click Here to Donate](#)



Volunteer Spotlight: Celebrating the Heart of Our Mission – Marika & Karen

At the Women's Center, volunteers aren't just helpers, they are the heartbeat of our mission. Every service we offer, every life we touch, is made stronger and more impactful because of the dedicated individuals who give their time, energy, and hearts to this work.

Two extraordinary examples of this commitment are Marika and Karen, who have been faithfully volunteering with the Women's Center for over 10 years. Their journey with us spans well beyond their current roles. They've supported the organization in various capacities. Their combined contributions total over 5,000 volunteer hours—a testament to their unwavering support and love for this mission.

Every Tuesday, Marika and Karen arrive at our administrative offices with warm smiles and willing hands. They dedicate 4–5 hours each week assisting our Finance Department, specifically handling accounts receivable. That means they help process every dollar that comes into the Women's Center, from grant payments and donor contributions to special event revenue and Thrift Store sales. They also help reconcile bank accounts and carefully track gift card donations, ensuring timely distribution to the clients who need them most.

Their attention to detail, reliability, and kindness make them an irreplaceable part of our team. Their work may happen behind the scenes, but the impact is felt throughout every corner of the Women's Center.

We are incredibly grateful for Marika and Karen—for their time, their talents, and their hearts. They remind us that lasting change is built not just on big moments, but on the steady, selfless service of those who show up week after week, year after year.

Want to make a difference like Marika and Karen?

Whether it's in the office, at our Thrift Stores, or supporting special events, there's a place for you here. Join us and become a part of the village that helps women and families in our community heal, grow, and thrive.

Click the button below to learn more about volunteering.

[Volunteer With Us](#)



Get SANE Training in Brevard: Strengthening Our Community's Response to Sexual Assault

The Women's Center is proud to announce the launch of Get SANE, a vital initiative designed to address the critical shortage of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) in Brevard County. Until now, there were no local opportunities for this essential training—but we are changing that.

Our new quarterly program offers a 40-hour, patient centered, trauma-informed curriculum right here in our community. The training prepares nurses to conduct forensic rape exams within 120 hours of a sexual assault, collecting crucial medical evidence such as photographs, swabs, lab samples, and survivor testimony. These

specialty trained nurses approach victims with the utmost sensitivity, compassion, and professionalism during their most vulnerable moments.

As the operator of Brevard's only crisis rape center, the Women's Center is proud to expand our impact by preparing emergency room nurses across the county to provide the same high level of trauma-informed care.

This effort bridges a vital gap in services, bringing us closer to our goal of ensuring that every survivor has access to a trained SANE nurse, no matter where they seek help.

Want to become a SANE Nurse?

Contact Teresa, our SANE Coordinator, at tyoakum@womenscenter.net for more information on upcoming training sessions.

Together, we are strengthening our community's response to sexual assault—one nurse at a time.

STRANGULATION DEFENSE & PREVENTION **FREE!** COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY



WOMEN'S
CENTER
of Brevard

LOCATIONS AND TIME

Melbourne Library

Friday, April 25, 2 pm-5 pm

540 E Fee Ave Melbourne, FL 32901

Titusville Library

Saturday, April 26th, 9 am-12:30 pm

2121 S Hopkins Ave, Titusville, FL 32780

AND



RSVP

SPACE IS LIMITED. RSVP TODAY!!

Participants will learn the danger of strangulation and ways to protect themselves best and help prevent future violence.

****Participants should wear athletic attire. No tank tops. ****

The workshop is for women and girls aged 13+

Minors need to be accompanied by an adult

Refreshments provided



**April is Child Abuse and Sexual Assault
Awareness Month**



Free Workshop

The Women's Center is proud to present a **free** Self Defense Workshop in partnership with Shielding Lives, Inc. This workshop is designed to educate and empower women and girls with potentially life-saving self-defense techniques and awareness strategies.

Participants will learn how to best protect themselves, and how to help prevent future violence.

Gather your daughters, and friends, and join us for this powerful, hands-on experience.
RSVP today

Register Here

Building safer, stronger communities, one workshop at a time.



Walking for Awareness, Healing, and Hope

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Women's Center of Brevard proudly partnered once again with Lauren's Kids Foundation for their 10th annual Walk in My Shoes event: a 1,500-mile trek across Florida to raise awareness, inspire healing, and prevent child sexual abuse.

Our dedicated staff laced up their sneakers and walked five miles alongside Senator Lauren Book during her Space Coast leg of the journey, standing in solidarity with survivors and showing our commitment to ending abuse in our community.

Each step we took was part of a larger statewide movement, bringing together survivors, advocates, and allies from Key West to Tallahassee. And every mile walked served as a powerful reminder: 95% of child sexual abuse is preventable with the right education and awareness.

We're proud to support Lauren's Kids in this vital mission and even prouder to walk alongside so many who share our passion for healing and prevention.

Because every step counts. And together, we can create a world where survivors never have to walk alone.



Elevate HER was a Soaring Success

Thanks to your generosity and the courage of our jumpers, Elevate HER was a powerful and inspiring success. Together, we helped raise critical funds to support victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. These contributions will go directly toward providing safe housing, counseling, and essential services for women and families in need.

The energy and support at the event were nothing short of amazing, and we couldn't have done it without our sponsors, attendees, and—of course—our brave jumpers who truly took the leap for this cause.

Relive the moments and celebrate the impact we've made together. Check out the video below.



12th Annual Trivia:

A Golden Night to Remember

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 12th Annual Trivia Fundraiser: Trivia GOLD, commemorating the Women's Center's 50th Anniversary of serving Brevard County. The evening was a glittering celebration of community, connection, and purpose—led by the always-entertaining Frank "Alligator" Robb.

Guests enjoyed a thrilling night of trivia, a massive Silent Auction, and Chance Raffle prizes worth thousands of dollars, not to mention a fabulous photo booth (as seen above with our group Golden Threads Costume Contest Winners)!

[Click Here to
Watch the Event
Video](#)

Because of your incredible support,
we raised significant funds to
continue providing critical services
to survivors across our community.

Here's to 50 more years of strength,
hope, and healing—together.

Champion's CIRCLE

Introducing the Champion's Circle: Join Our Mission of Hope and Healing

We're proud to introduce the Champion's Circle: a growing community of individuals, businesses, and advocates who provide steady, ongoing support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence through recurring or annual donations.

When you become a Champion, you're not just giving a gift—you're creating a lifeline.

Your support ensures that women and families in crisis have immediate access to safe shelter, trauma counseling, advocacy services, rape forensic exams, and more. Whether you give monthly or once a year, your commitment helps us plan ahead, respond quickly, and expand our reach across Brevard County.

Champion's Circle members receive special recognition, invitations to exclusive events, and unique opportunities to connect with the impact of their giving. But most importantly, they become a vital part of a mission that saves lives and builds futures.

Your recurring gift is more than a donation—it's a promise of hope.

Together, as Champions, we can break the cycle of abuse and help survivors heal, grow, and thrive.

Join the Circle. Make a lasting impact.

[Click Here To Become a Champion](#)

