

September | 2017



CONTACT THE
FAMILY GUIDANCE
CENTER AT
828-322-1400

#17 Hwy 70 SE
HICKORY, NC 28602
FGCSERVICES.COM



Spotlight On Domestic Violence

First Step Newsletter
A Program of
The Family Guidance Center

THE MISSION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER'S FIRST STEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO INCREASE THE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

Fun Events To Support Domestic Violence Services



Family Guidance Center

Friday, September 29, 2017
7 pm – 11 pm
Lake Hickory Country Club
430 17th Ave NW Hickory, NC

"Boots, Bowties & Bling"

\$50 per Ticket

Purchase online

*Familyguidancecenter.wixsite.com/
bluejeanball*

*Or at Family Guidance Center office
17 US Highway 70 SE Hickory, NC
RSVP 828-322-1400*

*Silent auction, DJ, Cash Bar,
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres*

Annual Fundraising event

You are supporting our life-saving services for victims of domestic violence and their children fleeing violent homes; counseling and advocacy for victims of rape or sexual assault; counseling for families in crisis and financial counseling for debt ridden individuals and families.

*You are giving individuals and families the
gift of Hope*

Thank you for your caring support

Family Guidance Center's

Shop for a Cause

October 7, 2017 * Main Cellar City Club
322 1ST AVENUE SW in uptown HICKORY, NC



10:00 AM till 3 PM



1ST ANNUAL "SHOP FOR A CAUSE"

A FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR THE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER and
FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER of HICKORY, NC

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH, 2017
MAIN CITY CELLAR, in HICKORY, NC

322 1ST AVENUE SW in Uptown Hickory
Please park across street from the ABC store



BODY TREATZ



MARY KAY

SOUTHERN SASS

This fundraiser event spotlights over 15 vendors ranging from clothes, jewelry, weight & diet products, makeup and accessories, skin care, and others. Proceeds from this event go to the local Domestic Violence Shelter and the Family Guidance Center of Hickory. Find your favorite vendor, favorite products, and help raise money for this program at the same time. Market on Main's food truck will be on site if you want to purchase lunch while shopping.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2017
10:00 AM TILL 3:00 PM

"SHOP FOR A CAUSE"

1-828-485-6399 for additional details for event

IF WOMEN REALLY WANTED TO, THEY COULD LEAVE – REALLY??

It's easy to make statements about what'd you'd do in a situation when you've never experienced that situation. So many people seem to think that if women really wanted to leave their abuser, then they could. The reality is that it's just not that simple. There are many reasons why women stay with an abusive partner. Some of the beliefs and situations that affect a woman's decision to stay are:

1. Belief that she can change her partner's behavior.
 2. Belief that her partner will reform.
 3. Doubts about getting along without a man.
 4. Religious and cultural beliefs that divorce is wrong.
 5. Children who need a father's support.
 6. Economic hardship – inadequate income to support herself and her children.
 7. Lack of low-income housing.
 8. Lack of child support.
 9. Difficulty for women to get work. Lack of affordable child care.
 10. Abusers' threat of taking or getting custody of the children if she leaves.
 11. Abuser threatens to kill himself if she leaves.
 12. Threats of violence and death to her, her children, and others who help her. The threats of physical attacks and threats to kill her, the children, and/or family members *actually increase when the abused partner is attempting to leave. 79% of spouse abuse is committed after the woman leaves.*
- THIS THREAT IS VERY REAL.**

Don't ask, "why does she stay?" Instead ask, "why does he abuse her?"



Quilt Raffle Sale Supports Sexual Assault Services

A beautiful queen size quilt made and donated by Nancy Briggs will be raffled off on Sept 30th. Raffle tickets \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the

Purple Ribbon or at Family Guidance Center



THREE MAJOR FACTORS INFLUENCING THE ACTIONS OF ABUSED WOMEN

1. The less severe and less frequent the violence, the more a wife remains with her partner, often to keep the family together for the sake of the children. *When the violence is toward her children, she is more likely to leave.*
2. Fear. Women fear that he will kill her if she leaves and fear he will take the children.
3. The fewer resources a woman has, the more likely she is to stay with her violent partner. She often seeks help, but does not receive the support necessary for safety and for economic support of herself and her children.

Just consider, your husband has physically abused you (smacked, hit, kicked you) for years. He's told you numerous times that if you ever tried to leave him he'd take the children and you'd never see them again. He has money, you have none. Your family isn't supportive and tells you that you need to stay in the marriage. They say, "he provides you with a very nice home, supports you well and you don't even have to work." You have nowhere to go . . . you'd rather die than lose your precious children. If this were you, would you leave and risk losing your children?

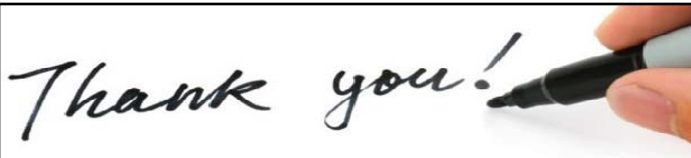
Barriers to Leaving

Sarah Buel, a clinical professor of law at Arizona State University, has worked for more than 30 years with domestic violence survivors and their children. She is a vivacious woman, full of wisdom and passion. Family Guidance Center hosted a domestic violence workshop some years ago and we had her here to provide the training.

Buel defied the stereotype of a "battered woman." She was a Harvard law student when she was with her abusive husband. She says people asked her how she could get a full scholarship to Harvard but stay with an abusive man for three years. "This question has been fueled by those who believe that remaining with a batterer indicates stupidity, masochism or codependence," she told *The Colorado Lawyer*. "Far from being accurate, such labels prove dangerous to victims because they tend to absolve batterers of responsibility for their crimes."

There is nothing survivors can do to stop the violence, Buel says, nor is there anything they do to deserve abuse.

You Made a Difference



Brenda Burcham

Anna Fortenbury



Brenda, a valued volunteer, is sorting donations. We appreciate all the wonderful people who donate to our Shelter. You make it possible for us to meet the needs of our families. Brenda says "when I am helping others, I feel that I am alive". We love her caring spirit.

Anna celebrated her 11th birthday by having a baby shower for the babies that come into our Shelter. It's especially inspiring when a child reaches out to help other children in need. The shower of gifts will be so helpful for the babies kept safe in our Shelter.

Thank you Anna and mother Tina.

Purple Ribbon Thrift Store



Our Purple Ribbon Thrift Store has many items for sale, thanks to everyone in the community who supports the store with donations



Special Thanks

Many Thanks

To our board members, committee members, community businesses and organizations for the time they spend organizing our important fundraising events. Thanks to all the community sponsors that make these events possible. Thanks to Catawba County United Way and all the United Way volunteers.