

Please join us Sat. Oct. 29
for our End Masquerade Ball Benefit!



RCVA
RUSH COUNTY
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

phoenix house
RUSH COUNTY VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

P.O. Box 303
Rushville, Indiana 46173
Return Service Requested

RCVA NEWS

RUSH COUNTY
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

SUMMER 2016

www.RCVAPhoenix.org
[www.Facebook.com/RCVAPhoenixHouse](https://www.facebook.com/RCVAPhoenixHouse)
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Our Mission

- Rush County Victims Assistance:**
- offers a safe shelter to victims of domestic violence
 - provides support services to victims
 - educates Rush County regarding domestic violence



from President Penny Busald

IN THEIR HONOR....

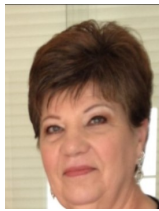
We as an organization have been blessed to have many great members on our board over the years but two have been recognized recently by having trees planted in their honor.

Both **Paul Barada, Jr.** and **Liz Turner** were instrumental in establishing our agency and forming the board for Rush County Victims Assistance. They both have devoted countless time to increasing awareness of domestic violence and providing a safe shelter for victims in our community.

While they both have retired from the board, we are celebrating their dedication and hard work with the dedication of two beautiful trees planted at the Phoenix House in their honor. These trees will be a reminder of their continued influence in our work to serve domestic violence victims while creating a safe and productive community for all families.

On behalf of the current board of directors, thank you **Paul** and **Liz**. **We will continue to "grow" what you started.**





When A Friend Is In Trouble

Sometimes the signs of abuse are obvious—you witness a volatile fight between your friend and his or her significant other, or your friend outright confides in you that he or she is being abused by their partner.

But more often, it's not so clear. Maybe your friend is being secretive, spending lots of time with a new partner and doesn't really open up about how it's going. Maybe he or she seems more withdrawn, sad or anxious. Could these be signs that your friend may be in danger?

"Friends usually can detect something but they can't put their finger on it," says Susan Bernstein, licensed social worker and therapist. They may notice something that sets off alarm bells, but they try to rationalize the behavior. "No friend or family member ever wants to believe heinous acts are occurring, especially against the people they love," she adds.

The various types of abuse can also add to the confusion. "Many people don't realize there are different types of violence—physical, sexual, psychological—so they don't pick up on it," Bernstein says.

Physical violence can be the easiest type to identify because bruises, marks and injuries are difficult to conceal. "It's the mental anguish, the psychological torment and isolation, or the secretiveness of sexual assault [and other non-physical abuse] that's often harder to detect," she adds.

Watch for signs that your friend might be isolated, intimidated or threatened. If a partner is calling your friend names, making her feel bad about herself, or telling her she shouldn't hang out with her friends, that's cause for concern.

"If you're feeling that your friendship is jeopardized or your friend has had a change in behavior, trust your feelings," Bernstein says. Take anything your friend confides seriously, even if your friend acts like it's no big deal.

Trust your instincts. "If something doesn't feel right or look right, get some help."

Help your friend find their voice. "Try saying, 'I care for you too much to let this happen. Who can I contact?'" she recommends. Even if your friend says that everything is okay, if you're worried, talk about your concern.

RCVA is here to help you! Please contact us at 938-1555.



*Save the Date
Sat., Oct. 29th*

Our Second Masquerade Ball Benefit

*Celebrating
Rush County Victims Assistance
is coming on
Saturday, October 29, 2016*

*at the
201 Building, Main Street
Rushville*

*More details in our autumn
RCVA News.*

*Your participation in this
primary fundraiser makes all the
difference in the world in our
ability to fulfill our mission
for families throughout
Rush County!*

Is There Help for Abusers?

Batterers' Intervention Programs

The Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides the Batterers' Intervention Program (BIP), an education based program that makes victim safety its primary priority, holds offenders accountable, and promotes a coordinated community response to domestic violence. The goal of a BIP is to provide men who use violence with the opportunity and skills to change the behavior, beliefs, and attitudes that support their use of violence against intimate partners.

Certified BIPs work closely with community courts, corrections, and child welfare as they receive most of their referrals from these entities. Batterers' Intervention groups meet on a weekly basis for 26-40 weeks depending on the program. Furthermore, BIPs are required to collaborate with victim service providers to ensure that the victim/survivor/partner of a participant receives and/or has access to supportive services.

RCVA Executive Director Barbara Kuhn provides quarterly professional monitoring services to the BIP sponsored by ER Counseling in Shelby County.



Clients Served — Services Offered April—June 2016

- 29 primary victims (plus 31 children in the home)**
- 8 clients assisted in obtaining protective orders**
- 8 clients accompanied to court hearings/counsel**
- 4 clients assisted in filing paperwork for divorce**
- 20 assisted through transportation, Ride Rush tickets, Indiana Department of Child Safety, Indiana Family and Social Services, and our county mental health agencies**

You can help support RCVA and benefit the lives of families in our community through your donation mailed to:

Rush County Victims Assistance
P.O. Box 303
Rushville, IN 46173

***RCVA NEWS is published quarterly by
Rush County Victims Assistance
P. O. Box 303
Rushville, Indiana 46173
Phone: (763) 938 -1555
Editor: Dena Vittorio***

RCVA Officers and Directors

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Sherri Griffis, Treasurer	Jenny Bullard
Patricia Coons	Brandy Rudicil
Dennis Simmons	Mescal Shelton
Sandy Elis	Wayne Munson
Barbara Kuhn, Executive Director	

Rush County Victims Assistance (RCVA) is here to serve the entire community and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, sex, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, affection preference, different disabilities or religion.

RCVA is incorporated in the State of Indiana as a non-profit organization and has tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service 501 (c)(3).

Thanks to our Local Donors April—June, 2016

**Little Flatrock Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
Penny Busald
Tim & Janis Long
Kim Stafford (Greenfield Walmart)
Dennis Simmons & Dena Vittorio
in memory of Pam Simmons
Connie Green
Anytime Fitness (Brees Dream Foundation)
CASA, Shelby County
RUF (Rush United Fund)
Jeanie Spaeth
Mainsource Financial Group
Rushville City
Rush County Council
RCVA 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser**

Thank You!

Thanks, Youth Volunteers!

Thank you, ***Avrie and Bailey***, for helping RCVA this summer with sorting donations and restocking our bins with personal items.

It is important, essential work and we are grateful to you.

You've made a difference for good!





Our Winners: *On the Cross Country Course*

First Place: Brett Leisure (Did not accept prize)

Second Place: Diana Marlatt

On the Track Course—

First Place: Avrie Luckenbill

Second Place: Alisha Luckenbill



RCVA 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser Sat., June 11

Thank you to all the participants and spectators of our first **RCVA 5K Run/Walk**. This race to end domestic violence in Rush County contributed \$573.00 towards our mission.

RCVA also thanks Benjamin Rush Middle School in the use of their field facility. We look forward to next year's 5K.



Meet our RCVA Board Director— Jennifer Slutz Bullard



Why do people with full lives volunteer valuable time as Board Directors for RCVA/Phoenix House? Jennifer Slutz Bullard says, “As a preacher’s daughter and a preacher’s wife and a human resources professional, I’ve had a lifetime of seeing human frailty. It is a sorrowful thing to see the beauty in others marred, both in being a victim of violence or in being the perpetrator of violence.

“Compassion and commitment to someone in troubled waters is absolutely essential and among the most purposeful aspects of my life. That said, there have to be solutions and not just earnest interest. RCVA and the Phoenix House compassionately provide solutions while protecting the dignity of those who are suffering the kinds of hardships that truly take skilled intervention.

“RCVA and the Phoenix House are a haven that allows people without answers to find them. The board always amazes me in that it is made up of everyday people with graceful hearts who thoughtfully cascade their mission into a community we all call home. It is a humbling and cherished opportunity to be part of this service.”

Jennifer has been married to Howard Bullard for 31 years. They live out their faith through Ben Davis Creek Christian Church, where Howard has served as minister since 1988. Their son, Jordan, is engaged to be married this October to Gabrielle Frith. He is a pilot-in-training and works for MainSource Bank. Their daughter, Lindsay, is married to John-Mark Harless and are the parents of Jennifer and Howard’s first grandchild, Israel David (Izzy) born just two months ago on June 15th. Lindsay is a mental health therapist based out of Franklin County.

Since 2002, Jennifer has been employed with MainSource Financial Group, holding the title of Senior Vice President and Director of Human Resources since 2008. As well as devoting service to RCVA, Jennifer serves on the Indiana Bankers Association’s Human Resources Council, is a Lunch Buddy for the Big Brothers Big Sisters in Decatur County and teaches an adult Bible Study.

She expresses her passions as “traveling ‘to the ends of the earth’, writing and motivational speaking, and nature photography.”

Thank you, Jennifer, for your enthusiastic contributions to the mission of RCVA/Phoenix House!