

RCVA NEWS

RUSH COUNTY VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

SPRING 2016

www.RCVAPhoenix.org

[www.Facebook.com/RCVAPhoenixHouse](https://www.facebook.com/RCVAPhoenixHouse)

Email: rcva924@frontier.com

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

THANK YOU, CHICKS!

We live in a generous community and "**Chicks Impacting Rush County Life**" are a huge part of that. We recently saw that first hand. Last year about this time, our organization, RCVA, was the lucky recipient of the 2015 **CIRCLE Grant**. We are extremely grateful for this generous donation!

Throughout this past year, we have used these monies to fulfill our **Community Awareness Plan**, expanding our mission and message into our community. We are now more accessible to our clients through all forms of social media. We are growing stronger with every day in our outreach and education to the citizens of Rush County through new print and social media. And in turn, we are gaining renewed support from the community to protect families from domestic violence.

Without this grant, we would not have been able to complete this plan. Last Friday we shared our finished project with the **CHICKS** with our sincere gratitude. We are lucky to live in a community with groups like this who support missions like ours each year with a generous grant.

RCVA is proud to be a part of this community.

Thank you, Ladies! Penny Busald



Chicks Improving Rush County Life

RCVA
RUSH COUNTY
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

phoenix house
RUSH COUNTY VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

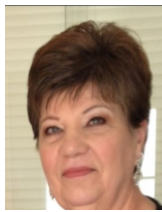
P.O. Box 303

Rushville, Indiana 46173

Return Service Requested

Good news to share from RCVA!

*from our Executive Director—
Barbara Kuhn*



“It makes me want to come to work every day!” said Executive Director Barbara Kuhn.

This RCVA success began with a call from the local Women Infant Children (WIC) Office. Help was needed for a non-English speaking victim and her three young children.

That call began a two-year endeavor to restore a safe and productive life to this Rush County family. RCVA advocates for all county residents as our non-profit directive states: *“Rush County Victims Assistance 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.”*

After the abuser was arrested and jailed for Domestic Battery, Barbara immediately helped this young wife and mother secure a Protective Order. The family received shelter in the Phoenix House until safe housing was secure. But RCVA does not only free a victim from abuse, we walk with the victim through the maze of creating a new beginning.

Once the woman was free from her abuser, the uniqueness of this case quickly surfaced. During the eleven years she has made her home in Rush County, he had not permitted her to socialize with friends, learn to speak English, or register for her green card proving she is a lawful permanent resident. So, she could not seek employment or get a driver’s license.

All these factors confined her, which limited her confidence and her opportunities at a better life.

It was a long-struggle, especially with the client’s inability to communicate in English. But our county does hold diversity, and a bilingual resident gladly translated the client’s Spanish into English. Together, with Barbara’s guidance, divorce papers were filed and granted with the pro bono aid of an area attorney, financial assistance from the client’s church provided housing security, and for the first time in our state, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (INCADV) and their determined attorney, Kerry Hyatt Bennett, persevered through a mountain of paperwork to obtain a green card for a victim of abuse. *(please continue of page 5)*

(Barbara Kuhn—continued)

This goal was accomplished through the cooperation of many, including our local Hispanic community and the advocacy of RCVA to transport the client on numerous trips to INCADV and Homeland Security for finger-printing, reference letters, and background checks.

Yet, as Barbara said, *“This woman never doubted her direction for the betterment of her family, followed through on all she was asked to accomplish, and did not take advantage of RCVA.”*

This bright, hardworking woman is now employed, active in her church, enrolled in ESL classes, and studying to get her driver’s license.

Yes, serving as executive director of RCVA is a challenging work, but there are times, Barbara affirms, when the new life rising through the ashes *“makes me want to come to work every day!”*

*Rush County Victims Assistance (RCVA)
is here to serve the entire community
and does not discriminate...*



*If you would like to lend a hand and volunteer
through RCVA, please call 932-1555
or speak with President Penny Busald.*

Normal Jealousy or the Start of Abuse?

How to tell the difference
by domesticshelters.org



Most, if not all of us, have felt jealousy at some point in our lives. Many of us may also be familiar with the negative effects jealousy can have in relationships.

Jealousy, when in response to a real threat to the relationship is normal, as long as it's dealt with by expressing one's feelings and talking about establishing healthy boundaries that both partners can agree upon. Jealousy becomes problematic when it's triggered by delusions of perceived threats, or in other words, if one person becomes jealous even when no threat is present.

"Jealousy becomes a problem when the person feeling jealous becomes possessive or controlling, or imposes double standards on his or her partner. That's a red flag," says Dani Bostick, a counselor and member of the American Counseling Association.

Other red flags for identifying an unhealthy type of jealousy: **Getting too serious too quickly.** If a partner wants to be exclusive immediately, ask yourself why. Consider why an emotionally secure adult would need to rush into being exclusive when you barely know one another.

Monitoring your communications. Following you on Instagram is one thing, but "anytime someone wants your password or to check your phone, that's invasive," Bostick says. "The first time it comes up, you need to set a strong boundary. Or run."

Not taking responsibility. In healthy relationships, the partner who is feeling jealous should discuss his or her feelings with the other partner rationally. He or she might say, "When you go out with your co-workers without inviting me, I feel insecure and jealous." But people who are not emotionally intelligent will blame the partner for their own feelings, saying things like, "You make me crazy when you go out with your co-workers!"

Listen to yourself. "When the partner who is being abused starts defending and accommodating the other partner, starting sentences with "I was just ..."—this is generally a sign of abuse.

Thanks to our Local Donors January—March, 2016

Little Flatrock Christian Church
United Methodist Women at Milroy
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Beta Sigma Phi Nu Gamma Sorority
Dena Vittorio & Dennis Simmons
Trudi Ellison-Kendall & Kerry Kendall
Masonic Lodge Phoenix #62
Anytime Fitness
Sherri Tucker
Tonya Muckerheide
Tri Kappa Sorority
Rick & Betsy Williams
Rush United Fund
Davina Starke
Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting
Mainsource Financial Group

Thank You!



**Best wishes to Melissa James on her
spring graduation from Ivy Tech with
an Associate's Degree in Social Work!**

Melissa has served as an intern with RCVA/Phoenix House since January. She has been a support to Barbara as she learns by shadowing our Executive Director regarding all issues with clients and advocacy in the courtroom.

Your service has made a difference for good!
Thank you, Melissa!



Please Share These Resources!

www.rcvaphoenix.org

& our brand new

Youtube RCVA Phoenix House Video

Clients Served & Services Offered

January-March 2016

- 22 primary victims (plus 29 children in the homes)**
- 4 clients assisted in obtaining protective orders**
- 5 clients accompanied to court hearings/counsel**
- 3 clients assisted in filing paperwork for divorce**
- 28 assisted through safe housing at Phoenix House, transportation, food, clothing, mental health and educational services**

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

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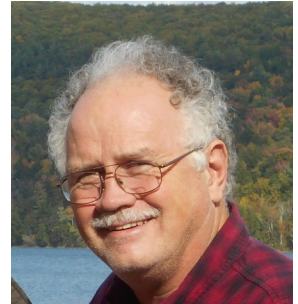
Barbara Kuhn, Executive Director

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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).

Meet our RCVA Board Director—

Dennis Simmons



“Why do I volunteer at RCVA? I do this for my sister who lived 16 years married to a man who was verbally and financially abusive. He was likely mentally ill and may not have been able to change his behavior. By the time she realized he would not change as he promised, she had two young boys, and felt stuck.

“She had to work full time to support the family, living a poverty life-style because of his misuse of the income. She did not have a resource like RCVA’s Phoenix House where she could escape with her boys and begin a better life.

“She ended up getting breast cancer and died at 39 years of age, leaving behind a 5-year old and a 10-year old to fend for themselves in his abusive house.

“It was a very difficult process for our family, because we did not have the guidance and support from an organization like RCVA, but we finally were able to have her sons removed from this violence and begin life anew.

“My nephews are now in their 20s and still are recovering from the trauma of their young lives, though they make progress with every day.”

“Why do I volunteer at RCVA? Because I want to help this community have a local resource who could help your sister if she is in an abusive situation.”

Dennis came to Indiana from Iowa 13 years ago with his wife Dena Vittorio. They live on the family farm where he serves as Farm Manager and operates his artisan business—*D² Woodworking*, specializing in custom built furniture, antique restoration, and furniture repair.

For 28 years Dennis worked as a mechanical and environmental engineer for NSK Corporation in Iowa.

He is the father of three: son Jon and wife Cheryl plus children Cole and Mika, daughter Jill and husband Doug plus son Myles, who all live in Nebraska, and daughter Marena and husband Garrett, who live in New York. He cherishes time with his family and grandchildren.

Dennis is active at First Presbyterian Church where he has served as an elder.

RCVA is glad for Dennis’ commitment as a volunteer!