

RCVA NEWS

RUSH COUNTY
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

AUTUMN 2018

www.RCVAPhoenix.org

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 and its prevention.

From RCVA President

Penny Busald



*I write this with
a grateful heart!*

Rush County Victim's Assistance has a lot to be grateful for right now.

We just celebrated our 4th annual Masquerade Ball in late October with great success and are one of the lucky recipients of the **RCCF Grant for Cycle II** and a **RushShelby Energy Operation RoundUp Grant**. Along with donations from our **RCVA Friends** we are able to complete an important project at our crisis center.

These monies allow us to continue to offer a much needed service to our community for victim's of domestic violence. Without this support we would not be able to do what we do. More than 300 Rush County victims have reached out to us already this year for assistance. The need is great!

On behalf of the RCVA Board of Directors, we are grateful for the support of our community and know we are blessed to live in a community that cares.

With grateful hearts...we thank you!

Penny Busald

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phoenix house
RUSH COUNTY VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

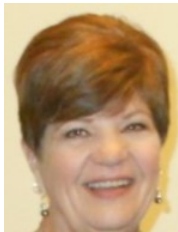
P.O. Box 303

Rushville, Indiana 46173

Return Service Requested

*-The Porch/Ramp Project IS happening because
of your partnership!
-Strong collaboration with Deputy Prosecutor
Kristin Erato Alosinae
-Meet Practicum Student Melissa Bellanceau*

A Conversation with Executive Director—Barbara Kuhn



There's a new deputy prosecutor in town and she's needed!

Due to the immense case load of domestic violence and sexual assault cases in Rush County, Prosecutor Phil Caviness hired Kristin Erato Alosinac through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute STOP (Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Grant Program. Kristin's services are dedicated to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Formerly a prosecutor in Hendricks and Marion Counties, Kristin has extensive knowledge and experience in the complex policies of the civil and criminal law systems. This is essential if victims are to receive their rights of protection.

In a civil domestic violence action, victims request the court to grant them protection through a two-year Protective Order. This is a crucial first step in rebuilding productive lives free from violence.

But since the state has a duty to protect its citizens, all violations of state criminal laws, such as harassment and assault, become the responsibility of the criminal law system, which is the focus of the Prosecutor's Office. The prosecutor represents the state by determining when to press charges and prosecuting those accused of committing crimes. The victim becomes a witness for the prosecutor's case.

This can be an intense, extensive, intimidating process for victims who already feel vulnerable and fearful. This is why collaboration between the prosecutor and RCVA is paramount.

Barbara Kuhn said, "*Kristen is adamant about this collaboration through open communication concerning all cases she is researching and pursuing. She encourages law enforcement to urge victims to contact RCVA for support. She encourages victims to request the presence of RCVA at all legal appointments. This is especially helpful when it's necessary for the prosecutor's office to gather information from a victim for a deposition.*"

The criminal law system is filled with twists and turns of "*charges, arrests, depositions, court appearances, fines, incarceration, plea bargaining, probation, diversions, etc.,*" stated Barbara. It's important to make this complex process as comfortable as possible for victims. Accompaniment by advocates who are trained in psychological support and the practical realities of the process can give victims an empowering experience. This helps their healing and does not contribute to re-traumatization.

All RCVA supporters can celebrate this expanding, positive collaboration between the R.C. Prosecutor's Office and RCVA which is essential to the well-being of victims and their families.

Here's a way to help RCVA—

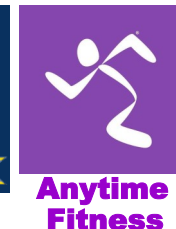
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Amazon gives.



Amazon will donate
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AmazonSmile purchases to RCVA
whenever you shop on **AmazonSmile**.

**Simply start shopping for RCVA at:
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**Thank you,
RCVA Corporate
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Barbara Kuhn, Executive Director

Clients Served— July - Sept. 2018



- 36 female primary victims**
- 26 children/family members in the home**
- 6 clients assisted in obtaining protective orders**
- 7 clients accompanied to court hearings/ counsel**
- 43 clients assisted with fuel cards, clothing, food, other services**
- 7 assisted with Indiana Department of Child Safety, Indiana Family and Social Services, and county mental health agencies**
- 25 assisted with clothing, food and fuel cards**
- 5 clients assisted with divorce paperwork and filing fee waivers**
- 2 clients assisted with Pro Bono Application for attorney assistance**

Friend us at Facebook: RCVAPhoenix House

Learn what you can do for friends facing abuse on our webpage: www.RCVAPhoenix.org



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 July—September, 2018

RUF (Rush United Fund)

Little Flatrock Christian Church

City of Rushville

**Christy Gosser & the
Rushville Nazarene Church**

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Capital Funds for Porch/Ramp Project

Don & June Dawson

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David & Barbara Malson

Dennis Simmons & Dena Vittorio



Melissa Bellancean Chooses RCVA to Serve her Practicum



Japan, Thailand, Turkey, Norway, Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany are some of the distant places where Melissa, raised in Maine, served during her twenty-three years of active duty with the Marine Corps and Indiana National Guard. She served as a radio operator, communication chief, recruiter, in intelligence, human resources and as a sexual assault victims' advocate.

Melissa met her husband, Richard Hampton II, in the Marines. They are the parents of two children: McKaylee and Jacob. Their family also includes four beloved dogs.

Together they moved to Indiana and joined the National Guard, where Melissa served for eleven years as a Training and Readiness Non-Commissioned Officer. Her favorite duty was being a Master Resilience Trainer focused on helping soldiers develop life skills, effective communication and beneficial ways to bounce back from adversity. Richard now serves as a Behavioral Health Officer and the Deputy Director of Psychological Health for the Indiana National Guard.

Melissa has her undergraduate degree in psychology which she completed while serving in Iraq. She describes choosing this course of study as a sense of calling to promote good within her community. Moving on to her Master's in Social Work was a slow process while working full time, but since her retirement from active duty this September, she is hoping to complete her studies in 2019.

When the time came to pursue her practicum, she reached out to RCVA. She began in August and continues through December. Barbara Kuhn said, *"Melissa is shadowing me in all aspects of clients' issues from court dates to services for victims and their children. She is a huge sounding board for me on all aspects of domestic violence."*

Melissa responded, *"My time with RCVA has enlightened me to the long-term impact of victimization upon the families; working through violence and the limitations of our judicial system policies to assist victims in pursuing their rights. Too many of us are unaware of the long-term support needed, such as counseling and financial assistance, to help families work towards a healthier life."*

She continued, *"This has caused a stronger focus for me to effect change in local and state legal policies that address the root causes of domestic violence and assist with long-term advocacy for victims through the judicial system."*

Thank you, Melissa, for choosing RCVA. You are providing insights and skills that further our mission!

We're Grateful for our RCVA Friends, Donors and Volunteers!

