

RCVA NEWS

RUSH COUNTY VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

SUMMER 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 President Penny Busald

WE HAVE an amazing Board of Directors!

As the president of the Board of Directors for RCVA, I just want to recognize and thank each and every one of you.

My sincere gratitude to: Jennifer Bullard, Nancy Rice, Rita Emsweller, Patricia Coons, Wayne Munson, Mescal Shelton, Dennis Simmons, Jennifer Harcourt Buchanan, Mel Weidner, Christy Gosser, our Executive Director Barbara Kuhn, and volunteer Dena Vittorio.

Each of you inspires me with your generosity. Whether it is your time, your talent or your monies...you all contribute in your own way...and lead others by your example.

We have shared some good times and some bad times. I am thankful for them both!

I am looking forward to the future and working with you all to continue to provide support and services to victims of domestic violence. Thank you for ALL you do.

RCVA is lucky to have you. Nice work!
Penny Busald, RCVA President

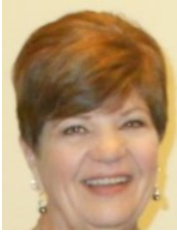


*You can help! Vote Today!
 Please vote for RCVA once
 per day—now until Sept. 30—in a Beacon
 Credit Union branch or online.
 Go to www.beaconcu.org, click Rush County,
 Click RCVA, click Vote. Thank you!*



phoenix house
 RUSH COUNTY VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

P.O. Box 303
 Rushville, Indiana 46173
 Return Service Request-



From our Executive Director—

Barbara Kuhn

On average, a woman will leave an abusive relationship seven times before she leaves for good.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Can you imagine? Or perhaps you can imagine all too clearly. She runs from her home, taking only her three young children.

No packed clothes.

No food.

No place to stay.

Forgetting her identification documents.

Only focused on getting away from the domestic violence that haunts each day.

Yet, now, new burdens arise:

The fear of filing a police report.

The fear of seeking a Protective Order—which leaves the abuser free to hunt for her.

She's on the run. Always looking over her shoulder.

She seeks help through RCVA, but she chooses housing farther away, afraid to stay in the same county where he may see her car.

Through the services of RCVA and friends, she travels two counties away, guided to a Domestic Violence Shelter that can house her and the children for several weeks.

Still, she can't neglect her job and the little financial security it provides.

Now begins a new marathon every morning: getting the children up early to drive to child care in another county, then driving to a third county for her job, only to retrace the long miles in the evening.

When does time and energy permit her to create a new life plan?

There are so many obstacles to creating a peaceful, productive life.

How does she get the belongings the children need for daily comfort?

How does she assure them amid so much uncertainty?

Where will the children be enrolled in school?

Where will they live?

How can she pay for everything alone? Her parents have passed. She has no siblings.

Finally, she acknowledges that a Protective Order is the only way to legally protect herself, her family, and provide a safe space to be. RCVA is there to help.

There must be a court hearing for the judge to grant a two-year continuance on the Protective Order. But she does not face this alone.

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RCVA is beside her, preparing her for what to expect and how to respond.

"He" hired an attorney who asked inappropriate questions, "Did you report the abuse? Why didn't you report the abuse? Are you on medication?" Intimidation is part of the legal ploy. Yet, this brave woman answered all the inappropriate questions appropriately. She was calm and forthright with the judge. She held her own. And the judge, examining all the evidence, granted the extended Protective Order.

Now, she can safely return to her home county. RCVA is assisting in the many previous obstacles. She will soon move into a new home. Her children will be enrolled in school. She has secured a new, better paying job.

Yes, there are still many challenges before her in the long months of this new beginning. But, this time, she is not alone. With her consent, RCVA will assist this family not only through the initial crisis, but through the lengthy process of establishing a secure life, in whatever way is needed.

RCVA is here to break the seven-time-pattern and empower every client to stand on their own, living respected, worthy lives.



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Rush County Victims Assistance

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RCVA Officers and Directors

Penny Busald, President

Jennifer Bullard, Vice Pres.

Nancy Rice, Treasurer

Rita Emsweller, Secretary

Patricia Coons

Wayne Munson

Mescal Shelton

Dennis Simmons

Jennifer Harcourt Buchanan

Mel Weidner

Christy Gosser

Barbara Kuhn, Executive Director

Clients Served— Apr. - June 2018



- 31 primary victims
- 28 children/family members in the home
- 6 clients assisted in obtaining protective Orders
- 5 clients accompanied to court hearings/ Counsel
- 18 clients assisted with transportation/moving household to safety
- 5 assisted with Indiana Department of Child Safety, Indiana Family and Social Services, and county mental health agencies
- 26 assisted with clothing, food and fuel cards, crisis shelter
- 2 assisted in filing divorce paperwork and filing fee waivers

Thank you—



**Rushville
Church of the Nazarene
for last month's
Annual RCVA Benefit
Yard Sale!**

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 Friends & Donors April—June, 2018

- RUF (Rush United Fund)
Debra Burkhardt
- St. Paul's United Methodist Mission Fund
- Mainsource Bank Greensburg Office, Jeans Day
Rainee Martin
- Mark & Kim Herbert Family
- Milroy Christian Church Guild
- Zion United Church of Christ, Women's Guild
Lisa Hartwell
- Eleanor Arnold
- Rush County Mixers Home Ec. Club
- Capital Funds for Porch/Ramp Project*
Glenda Fraley
- Dennis Simmons & Dena Vittorio
- New Salem Lions Club



**Thank you,
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Meet Our RCVA Board Director— Jennifer Harcourt Buchanan



Jennifer possesses an open-minded spirit, growing up in the rural community of Milroy, living for years in urban New England cities, and returning a few years ago, to make her home near her mother in our small city. In every location, she gives fully of herself, especially in the cause of nonprofit fund-raising.

She retired as Finance Director from JP Morgan Bank in the New York City area, where she was recognized for her in-depth research and social media marketing in the real estate and travel industry. She wrote weekly industry blogs that were published in 24 online news sources.

Once moving to Rushville, she quickly became involved in several area nonprofits, including the Chamber of Commerce Heart of Rushville, the Rush County Food Assistance Pantry and Rush County Victims' Assistance.

Jennifer is the mother of three children: Jason VanNatta, Dr. Margaux Buchanan and Machenzie Buchanan. She is the grandmother of Lily VanNatta.

She relaxes through time with friends on the Women's Golf League and, as she says, "coaxing flowers to bloom."

When asked why she is committed to serving our community as a volunteer, she replied, "A wise woman once told me in order to survive, two things are needed, food and shelter. When those needs are met real growth can happen. Everyone deserves food on their plate and a safe place to call home. Many people working together make providing for those in need easier and possible."

Thank you, Jennifer, for contributing to the mission of RCVA!

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RCVAPhoenix House

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Beacon CREDIT UNION Project Spotlight

You can help-Vote Today!
Go to: www.beaconcu.org, click **Rush County, Click RCVA & Vote**
Your vote will help with our much-needed porch and ramp project.

Beacon Credit Union, located at 152 E. US Highway 52, is kicking off the voting period for its eighth annual **Project Spotlight Grant Program** on August 1st through Sept. 30th.

Beacon requested nominations of charitable nonprofits that locals believe deserve financial support. **RCVA is one of those.**

Beginning now, **you can vote once per day for RCVA. Vote online at www.beaconcu.org or in a Beacon Credit Union branch.**

The Rush County project that receives the most votes will win \$1,000 of funding from Beacon Credit Union. The second-place winner will receive \$500, and the third place \$250.

Please vote once per day from now until Sept. 30 for RCVA.

Every vote will help us get closer to constructing a handicap safe ramp and porch for families at our RCVA Phoenix Shelter.

We thank Beacon Credit Union for this opportunity and we thank you for your help!

Vote today. Vote everyday through Sept. 30!

RCVA 5K Walk/Run Winners for 2018:

Cross Country Track:

1st-Brayden Stamm

2nd-Allison Buckley & Ben Badgley



**Track Winner:
Bailey Luckenbill**