

RCVA NEWS

RUSH COUNTY
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

WINTER 2018

www.RCVAPhoenix.org

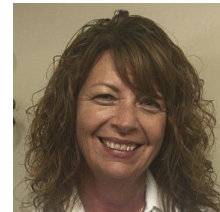
www.facebook.com/RCVAPhoenixHouse

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

Our community businesses have stepped up to help!

Have you ever thought that domestic violence doesn't stay at home while the victim goes to work? Many times it follows them and often the workplace is where the abuser can find the victim and sometimes it becomes the scene of a crime. This puts everyone there in danger.

Nationally, research shows that 44% of full time employee's personally experience domestic violence's effects in the workplace in one way or another. This should be concerning to us all!

That's what makes me so proud to report that **Intat** recently partnered with us as a corporate sponsor. Likewise, two other local business, **Harmeyer Auction and Appraisal Co.** and **Anytime Fitness** have made generous financial donations to support our organization.

We so appreciate the support of these businesses who acknowledge the benefit RCVA is to our community. Everyone has the right to feel safe at home and at work.

On behalf of the board of directors, we thank you!

Penny Busald,

President, RCVA/Phoenix House

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phoenix house
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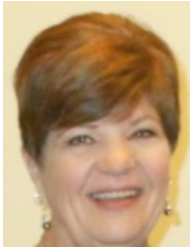
P.O. Box 303

Rushville, Indiana 46173

Return Service Requested



Thanks to our new Corporate Sponsors:
-Intat Precision, Inc.
-Harmeyer Auction & Appraisal Co.



*From our Executive Director—
Barbara Kuhn*

It's Time to Wake-Up to Cyber Violence

Cyber violence is just as damaging to women as physical violence, according to a recent U.N. report, which warns women are growing even more vulnerable to cyber violence as more and more global regions gain internet access.

The report estimates that 73% of women have endured cyber violence, and that women are 27 times more likely as men to be harassed online. Cyber behavior by a partner, family member or someone else is abusive if it makes you feel scared or unsafe.

Abusive cyber behavior includes:

- Checking your email or tracking your internet use
- Impersonating you or spreading rumors about you
- Posting embarrassing, fake or intimate videos, photos or comments about you
- Constantly messaging, emailing or texting you in a way that makes you feel intimidated or scared
- Harassing you on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace or dating/chat/game sites.

If anyone – including a family member, boy/girlfriend or partner – is doing this to you, remember: **you don't have to put up with it.**

What to do? Be sure to create a *Technology Safety Plan*, such as the following:

Technology Safety Plan

Trust your instincts

If you suspect the abusive person knows too much, it is possible that your phone, computer, email, or car use are being monitored.

There is help

Dealing with violence is very difficult and dangerous. RCVA and law enforcement are valuable resources to discuss safety options.

Use a safer computer

If an abuser has access to your computer, he/she might be monitoring your computer activities. 'Spyware' and 'keylogging' programs are commonly available and can track you unawares. It is not possible to delete or clear all of the 'tracks' of your online or computer activities. Use a safer computer when you look for help, a new place to live, etc. It may be safest to use a computer at a public library.

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Inspect your car

GPS tracking devices can be attached to your car, especially in wheel wells, undercarriage, rear bumper, dashboard area, consoles. A trusted auto mechanic can assist you in this search.



Create a new email, Facebook or instant messaging account

Be proactive at all times! If you suspect that an abuser can access your social media, create an additional account on a safer computer. Do not create or check this new account from a computer your abuser could access and monitor. Use an anonymous name, and do not provide detailed information about yourself. Create a new free web-based email account, such as yahoo, gmail, or Hotmail.

Change passwords and pin numbers

If anyone abusive knows or could guess your passwords, change them quickly and frequently. Change the passwords for any password protected accounts – online banking, voicemail, etc. Use a safer computer to access your accounts.



Get your own cell phone

When making or receiving private calls or arranging escape plans, do not use a shared cell phone because the phone bill and the phone log might reveal your plans to an abuser. When necessary, RCVA can provide a secondary phone for a client, or adolescents, when the abuser has confiscated their phone. This is a basic cell phone with limited minutes for emergency use, or for an adolescent to contact the non-abusive parent for safety reasons.

If you must use a cell phone provided by the abuser, switch the location feature off/on via the phone settings menu or by turning your phone on and off when not in use.

Get a private postbox and don't give out your real address

When asked by businesses, doctors, and others for your address, have a private post office box address or a safer address to give them.

Google yourself

See if your private contact information can be found online. Go to Google and do a search for your name in quotation marks: "Full Name"

Save evidence and report abuse

Messages left via texts, voicemail, answering machines can be saved as evidence of stalking or abuse.



Clients Served— Oct.-Dec. 2017



- 45 primary victims (44 female/1male) and 34 children and family members in the home
- 10 clients assisted in obtaining protective orders
- 6 clients accompanied to court hearings/counsel
- 20 clients assisted with transportation
- 8 assisted with Indiana Department of Child Safety, Indiana Family and Social Services, county mental health agencies and Shares
- 29 assisted with clothing, food and fuel cards
- 1 assisted with filing divorce paperwork



THANK YOU, PAYTON BROWER!

From her Facebook post:
I have always wondered how I could make a difference in the world...I was sitting in a government lecture one day learning about human trafficking and abuse when

*God spoke to me. He told me that there are many people in need, even in my own community. I knew at this moment what I wanted to do, so I contacted my family. I told them all I want for Christmas is money so I can donate it to a domestic violence shelter, and I decided on **Rush County Victims Assistance**...I am very passionate and empathetic towards victims of domestic abuse because I have witnessed many types of abusive behaviors in several relationships throughout my life.* (Continued on page 3)

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 October—December, 2017

- Intat Precision, Inc.
- Anytime Fitness
- RUF (Rush United Fund)
- Kappa-Kappa Sigma Sorority
- Trish Creed and Regan Chester
- Big Flat Rock Christian Church
- Craig Smith
- Don & June Dawson Family
- Tri Kappa Sorority
- First Presbyterian Church
- Judy Crowder & Rebecca Daugherty
in Memory of Justin Crowder
- Rushville Church of the Nazarene
- Amanda Scheiderer
- Anonymous





Save The Date
**RCVA 5K
Walk/Run**
**Sat., June 9
9:00 a.m.**

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Rushville, Indiana 46173
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Editor: Dena Vittorio

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



Meet Our New RCVA Board Director— Melinda (Mel) Weidner

Born and raised in Rush County, I've worked as a file clerk for 38 years in the office of our family business, Dawson Oil Company, Inc.

I've been widowed since 2004, when my husband, Sam, passed away from cancer. I have three beautiful daughters, two handsome sons-in-law and two wonderfully active grand-daughters; Jackie Rhoades, with husband Aaron and daughter, Keely (5), Jamie Weidner and Jan Norris, with husband Brett and daughter, Hazel (15 mos).

I belong to the First Presbyterian Church in Rushville, where I'm on the Fellowship Committee and an Elder. In the past I have taught Sunday School, Bible School and directed the children's Christmas program. Volunteering with children is a theme for me, as I was also once a Girl Scout Leader for seven years and the Rush County 4-H Horse & Pony Leader for 20 years. I remain on the board of directors of the local 4H horse & pony club.

Blessed with my family living close by, it gives me the opportunity to babysit often. On any given day I might have one or both grand-daughters after getting off work or during part of a weekend. Family activities might include an impromptu picnic at my backyard 'retreat' or going to a horse show. I enjoy outdoor activities, but hobbies could include reading a good book when eating lunch at work.

RCVA/Phoenix House was first brought to my attention when reading about it in the local newspaper. Dawson Oil Company, Inc. (my family's business) has donated toward its growth and during the Christmas season. Having spent many hours working closely with youth in one activity or another, I'd hate to think of a child being witness to or experiencing domestic abuse. Everyone should be able to lay their head down at night or rise up in the morning with a sense of safety and well-being. No one should be made to live in fear of someone who you once thought cared for you. I have agreed to serve on the RCVA Board of Directors to try and help in some way toward that goal.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors: Anytime Fitness, INTAT, & Harmeyer Auction



Anytime Fitness raised \$1,781.81 through their Nov./Dec. charity activities including Train Your Trainer Events and portions of memberships sold. RCVA President Penny Busald gratefully receives the donation. Thank you!



We welcome and thank **Intat Precision, Inc.** for becoming a Corporate Sponsor and joining in the mission of RCVA!

Harmeyer

AUCTION & APPRAISAL COMPANY

Rusty Harmeyer presents the RCVA Board of Directors with a check for \$1,130 from he & wife Judy, and company staff. Thank you for your generosity!



(Continued from page 2: Payton Brower)
Rush County Victims Assistance is a great and safe place to go or to donate at and I recommend you do...If you are in need of a place to go to get out of a domestic violence situation, please call this wonderful shelter. Never give up and know that you are worth it.