



# NEW BEGINNINGS

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## WELCOME...

The Family Violence Program of St. Bernard newsletter is to share information about all the great things going on. We hope that you enjoy this information, and that you will share it with your friends and family members.

## GIVE A HOOT TRIVIA CONTEST POSTPONED; FVPSB HOLDS RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER

Due to postponement of this year's Trivia Contest, FVPSB has decided to host a different kind of fundraiser this year.

Located in Waverly, IA, Rada Manufacturing is the maker of Rada Cutlery. The company has been manufacturing American-made cutlery since it was founded in 1948. The company is known for the solid aluminum handles on the cutlery, and for their aid to fundraisers. Rada Cutlery has all the products that you will enjoy using in your kitchen at very affordable prices. The products make great gifts, too. From knives and Sharpeners to Potato Mashers and Cookbooks.

Check out our Rada Cutlery Fundraiser on our website, or our Facebook page, and start shopping.

## OUR MISSION...

The Mission of the Family Violence Program of St. Bernard is to empower all survivors of domestic violence—through strong programs that promote quality assurance and continuous growth—to live independent lives free from power and control by other individuals.

## From the Desk of Gail Gowland, Executive Director

Welcome to our first edition of our quarterly newsletter---**New Beginnings**. This title was submitted by Joyce Watson and voted on by our board and staff. As you read through the newsletter, you will see how fitting this title is at this point in time. Changes were made in several parts of our program's past, and new ones are upcoming. As with most programs these days, we learn to adapt to the changing world we live in due to COVID-19.

**Stay safe and keep in touch!**

You can't go back and change the beginning,  
but you can start where you are and change the ending.

—C.S. LEWIS



## COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM, CCRT

A Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) joins community partners to provide inter-agency, coordinated responses to domestic violence, meet the needs of victims/survivors and more effectively holds offenders accountable.

Our CCRT meets monthly to discuss ways that will meet the needs of domestic violence survivors, and how it affects families in our parish. Members of organizations from across St. Bernard, such as the Community Center of St. Bernard, FINS, CASA, the SBPSB, SBPSO, District Attorney's office, Nunez Community College, and Ochsner/St. Bernard hospital, attend the meetings.

Representatives of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) participate in the meetings and provide input

on statewide issues and policy development to share with the team.

CCRT teams implement strategies to comprehensively help survivors. The teams work together to include items such as training and information sharing, community awareness and prevention campaigns, and case reviews. Teams can achieve their goals and assist survivors through an emphasis on the criminal justice system, victim services, prevention, and long-term assistance.


Dale Standifer, LCSW, is our CCRT Outreach Coordinator and can be contacted at DaleStandifer@yahoo.com.

Interested in being included in this group? Please email Dale or GailG@fvpsb.org.

*Did You Know? 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced physical violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Violence Program**



**of St. Bernard**

**Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 7, Arabi, LA 70032 Crisis Line: 504.277-3177

**Looking for a way to help that's easy and affordable?**

**Be on the lookout for our Donor Cards in local businesses.**

**Just \$1**

**goes a long way in assisting our Survivors!**

**Thank You!**



## COMING SOON: DEANO CENTER

For almost 35 years, the St. Bernard Battered Women's Program, Inc. has empowered many survivors to live independent lives free from other individual's power and control.

Although providing a strong background for the survivors who have spent time with us, there is always time for changes-special changes.

As many of you know, we have changed our name to the Family Violence Program of St. Bernard (FVPSB). Along with our new name comes a new logo, new programs, new events, and more space to hold them.

We are excited to announce the opening of the "Deano Center" in memory of Ms. Thelma Deano, the inspiration and first Director of our program. Established in 1987 under the auspices of the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, we operated a residential and non-residential program from the old St. Bernard General Hospital across from the parish courthouse. It was leased to the Sheriff's Office for \$1 per year by Mr. Lynn Dean and his wife, Jackie. That's where it all began and operated until Hurricane Katrina swept through our parish, on August 29, 2005.

The new Deano Center, located at 9069 W. Judge Perez Dr. in Chalmette, is currently going through a make over, thanks to a generous donation from the Valero Foundation, and also volunteers from Valero, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, and several

contractors who have donated their time to help the progress move forward.

**BIP**: A Batterer's Intervention program which will work with the local court system, the district attorney's office, judges, and a mediator, to assist in creating a process of change for men who batter, will be held at the Deano Center using the Duluth Model.

**HALL RENTAL**: The Deano Center will be available for Hall Rental at a minimal cost. So start planning your up-coming meetings and small parties. Call 504-459-2657 for information.

**BINGO**: Charitable gaming (*non-smoking Bingo*) will also be held to assist with funding our shelter needs and programs. Non-profits who may be interested in conducting games can call Gail at 504-231-1247.

If you have questions regarding the new Deano Center, or are interested in any of the programs that are held by the FVPSB, please give us a call at 504-277-3177 or check out our website at [www.fvpsb.org](http://www.fvpsb.org).

*Did You Know...* Louisiana's rate of women murdered by men has increased for the sixth consecutive year? The Washington, D.C. based Violence Policy Center recently released its annual report on female murder victims. *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of Homicide Data*. The report reviews female victims killed by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents and ranks all states from highest to lowest. The 2019 report, which analyzes homicides committed in 2017, ranks Louisiana's rate of women murdered by men is more than twice the national average, at 2.64 homicides per 100,000 females.

Check out our website: at [www.fvpsb.org](http://www.fvpsb.org)

## INTERVENTION SERVICES: JOYCE WATSON, SUPERVISOR

Often we are asked, "How do you show up everyday to do this heartbreaking work?". "How do you continue to perform despite the challenges?" Our response is, the work is necessary and lifesaving. This is one example of why we keep doing this work.

At the time this survivor entered the FVPSB her abuser was stalking her. He put tracers on her vehicle and found her twice. We were able to have them removed and facilitate her transition from shelter into a housing program. Through a mutual friend, her abuser located her once more. Finally, she was able to get away and start over again, but that meant leaving the life she worked so hard to reestablish. Her road to a life free from violence has required her to relocate to another parish where the abuser could not locate her. She now has her own apartment and has enrolled in college. She is working towards a Paralegal degree that will not only afford her and her child independence, but also empower her to be able to help others.

She has had the tenacity to survive a horrific domestic violence situation that persisted for years despite her determination to escape. She has overcome so much in her life with perseverance and fortitude. In addition to other barriers, she faced drug addiction. She has made major strides in this area too and is now free from drugs. Unfortunately, in all the chaos, she found it necessary to give up her baby that she shares with the abuser to a

relative to care for in order to keep the whole family safe. For now, she is doing all she can to create a loving, healthy home free of violence for her oldest child. She continues in our outreach program and the FVPSB is sponsoring her school efforts through the WISP program, which is helping to pay her school expenses. She is no longer a victim. She is a survivor. Single Mom. Employed. Thriving in college with a 4.0 average. She is prayerful that one day soon, she will be able to reunite with her child.

Yes, this work is challenging, sometimes overwhelming, but it makes it all worth it when you see survivors leave (escape) for the last time, gain self-sufficiency, acquire work, housing, personal transportation, and even further their education. We celebrate with them! We continue the work.

