

OCTOBER MARKS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



In 2010, 142 Texas women were killed by their intimate partners. This month, you will see advocates and survivors wearing purple ribbons in remembrance of these victims and to raise awareness about the violence in our homes plagued by unhealthy relationships dominated by power and control.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, what can you do to help? You can begin by educating yourself and our community. Find out more about domestic violence by visiting our website ([www.bcfjc.org](http://www.bcfjc.org)). Learn how domestic violence impacts your workplace ([www.caepv.org](http://www.caepv.org)). Donate your old cell phone, batteries or chargers at any Verizon Wireless store. Talk to your kids about healthy relationships ([www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com)). Change your perspective from “Why don’t they leave” to “Why would a person abuse someone they love.” Volunteer with an organization that helps and supports victims and their children. Become a FACT Volunteer with the San Antonio Police Department. Visit the Family Justice Center Mask of Anger exhibit. Take the time to listen to a victim tell their story... The list could of course go on and on but ultimately, let us together pledge to strive for a state where NO VICTIM of domestic violence is killed by their intimate partner and NO VICTIM or CHILD witness receives abuse that cripples their body, mind and spirit. The Family Justice Center is sponsoring three main events in which we invite all our partners to participate. Please read more about these events in the rest of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you this month in our neighborhoods, church yards, courtrooms, hospitals, schools and anywhere else in our community we can band together to support victims and improve their plight and their safety.

NATIONAL EXPERT RETURNS TO SAN ANTONIO

The Bexar County Family Justice Center will sponsor **Dr. Dean Hawley, Professor of Pathology at Indiana University School of Medicine**, to present on two critical domestic violence topics during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A national expert in strangulation and domestic violence injuries, he will present to the Bexar County Family Justice Center Partners on, “Medical Evidence of the Primary Aggressor in Domestic Violence Assaults,” and “Medical Evidence of Strangulation Assault.” Dr. Hawley will discuss how to recognize injuries on an individual that links the cause of that injury to a domestic violence incident. He will cover blunt force injuries as well as venous obstruction in the neck, pinpoint hemorrhages (petechiae), conjunctiva of the eyes, deep internal organ injuries, curvilinear abrasions, substance abuse and depression. While the training is free, it is only opened to Family Justice Center Partners. To register for one or both sessions, **please contact Erika at 208-6800**. Please do not miss the opportunity to meet and interface with Dr. Hawley who will provide the tools that attorneys, law enforcement, counselors and advocates need to more effectively and completely serve victims of domestic violence.

CHILDREN ARE HURT BY WHAT THEY SEE...



Image above taken from the Verizon Foundation’s *Monsters* video.

The domestic violence community has long recognized that the cycle of violence can easily be passed from one generation to the next. Studies validate these concerns, revealing that boys are twice as likely to abuse when they have been raised in abusive homes, and girls are more likely to be abused when growing up in a home plagued with domestic violence. On **October 26, 2011**, District Attorney, Susan D. Reed, Verizon Executives, and Bexar County Family Justice Center Partners will unveil a provocative new video, “Monsters”, created by Verizon and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The video, depicting domestic violence from the perspective of a child witnessing it in his or her home, reveals a child’s fear and anguish toward an abusive parent, the “monster down the hall”. The gripping video shows the immediate and long-term impact domestic violence has on child witness of domestic violence.

**Verizon Foundation** intends for the video to stimulate conversation about domestic violence, and generate empathy for the innocent children trapped in violent homes, thus encouraging the public to speak out against domestic violence and/or reach out to someone in need of help. **Join us at the Paul Elizondo Tower, at 10:00 a.m. sharp to view the video and hear an exciting announcement by Verizon regarding their plans to address the problem of relationship violence in San Antonio.** Please check in on the 4th floor lobby of the Paul Elizondo Tower at the Family Justice Center table.



[WWW.BCFJC.ORG](http://WWW.BCFJC.ORG)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

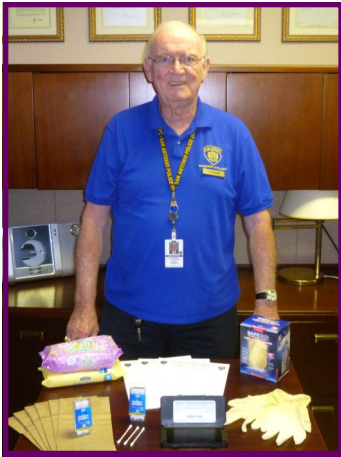
**Dr. Dean Hawley**  
**Wednesday, November 2nd**  
**5th Floor Paul Elizondo Tower**  
 (Check in at the BCFJC Table on 4th floor, Paul Elizondo Tower)

**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**  
 Check in and  
 Complimentary Breakfast

**8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**  
 Medical Evidence of the  
 Primary Aggressor in Domestic  
 Violence Assaults

**10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**  
 Medical Evidence of  
 Strangulation Assault

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE**



**John Kiernan**, SAPD FACT Volunteer with his fingerprint and identification kit for children.

Each year, many child witnesses of domestic violence tragically disappear or are taken by a non-custodial parent, relative, friend or stranger. Unfortunately, when law enforcement arrives to search for and identify the child, they discover the family does not have a current photo; are unsure of the child's height and weight; and have no copy of their child's fingerprints or DNA.

NOW, while victims receive services at the Family Justice Center, with the permission of the parent or guardian, SAPD FACT Volunteers will collect the data mentioned above and return it to the parent or guardian to take home for their safe keeping. There is no fee for this service. If that horrible event ever occurs and their child "goes missing", parents utilizing the Family Justice Center will be prepared to immediately provide critical information to law enforcement and expedite search and recovery efforts.

**PHOENIX AWARDS**

**13th Annual Phoenix Awards**

**October 26, 2011**

**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Mexican American Catholic College**

**3115 W. Ashby, San Antonio**

**The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative honors Phoenix Award recipients:**

**Virginia Herrera, William Cannon, and John F. Kiernan, who have all contributed to reducing domestic violence in San Antonio!**

**COSTUME PET PARADE**

**October 27, 2011**

**11:00 – 12:00 p.m.**

**Bexar County Family Justice Center Lobby  
2nd Floor, Building C**

**Free Door Prizes and/or Gifts for first 50 children**

**San Antonio Area Foundation and The National Link Coalition will provide information on resources available to victims of domestic violence and their pets!**

**PETS NEED PROTECTION TOO!**



Victims of domestic violence whose batterers abused their pets report twice as many incidents of child abuse as victims whose batterers did not abuse their pets. Often, batterers threaten, harm or kill their children's pets to coerce them into sex or force them to remain silent about their victimization. This year, the Texas Legislature put a law into effect allowing for the ability to add a pet to a protective order so victims can keep their pets safe too! In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the link between domestic violence and animal abuse, the Family Justice Center is having an event for children to increase awareness.

Each week, **Therapy Animals of San Antonio** provide pet therapy in the FJC Lobby to soothe and comfort the emotional distress victims of domestic violence and their children face during their time of crisis. Clients pet the dogs, share personal stories about their pets, and relax! Having the Pet Therapy Program at the Family Justice Center helps bridge the gap from animals being used as a tool for violence, to animals being used as a tool for healing. Join our pet parade!

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS!](#)**

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**Bexar County Family Justice Center**

**BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

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