# The AVALON Center Voice

Special Edition: Annual Report









Giving Hope. Changing Lives.

## Message from the director

In 2016 the Avalon Board of Directors underwent a thorough, thoughtful strategic planning effort that resulted in a new vision, mission and strategic plan for the next three years.

#### Vision

Avalon Center envisions an aware community that works together to promote healthy relationships and to end domestic and sexual violence.

#### Mission

Avalon Center works to end domestic and sexual violence by breaking the cycle of abuse through prevention, education, shelter and support services in the Williamsburg area.



photo by Corey Miller

This exercise brought keen focus and clarity to our work, setting the course for the coming months and years. With the plan in place we have set priorities, identified areas of growth and established methods to manage development across the agency. Highlights include expansion of youth services, which you will read more about on the next page. Additionally, Avalon is working to enhance all of our programming to achieve the highest standards of accreditation for comprehensive services. You can review the strategic plan on our website at www.avaloncenter.org/about-us.

To help us accomplish our mission and goals, Avalon has formed many strategic partnerships in the community including local police, courts, schools, hospitals, military leadership, The College of William & Mary and local agencies. We have been fortunate to have strong support for our work from local business, civic and religious groups and more than 300 active volunteers. Your generous donations of time, talent and money multiply many times over by extending our reach and providing the local match required for us to access hundreds of thousands of dollars in state and federal grants. With good stewardship of every gift and grant, building vital partnerships and

providing the highest standards of service, we will work successfully together to make a more peaceful community.

With your continued help and support, we are confident that Avalon will have the resources needed to best serve our community now and in the future. Thank you for being a partner with us. I invite you to call any time, to learn more about Avalon and how you or your group can be more involved. We welcome your participation!

Sincerely,









Welcome "Aboard"

Please join us in welcoming these new members to the Avalon Board of Directors:

Mike Rock of Nationwide Insurance, TJ Ptachick of King Investing, and Rob Beall of Eastern Virginia Bank.

## Avalon Youth Services Expands

Avalon Youth Services (AYS) offers direct services for children and youth who are victims of violence or abuse or were witnesses to violence. Services address the emotional, mental health and behavioral needs of these most vulnerable victims of crime by developing coping skills, building resiliency, promoting healing and focusing on strengths-based behaviors.

Program staff provide group and individual counseling, advocacy, crisis intervention, information and referral, safe visitation and custody exchange services, and a summer camp for child/youth victims. In the first year, direct services will be provided to an estimated 250-300 youth ages 7-17 years.

#### Healthy Relationships

Teens need to know the signs of unhealthy relationships:

control dishonesty disrespect hostility
intimidation
physical and/or sexual
violence

and, that it is OK to ask for help from safe supportive adults such as family, friends, teachers, faith community leaders, a doctor or nurse.

"The new Youth Services will be filling a great need in the community for supervised visitation and custody exchange, as the legal community has indicated to us with much enthusiasm and support for the program. We look forward to helping families with these and other support activities," says Youth Services Director Crystal Skeeter-Davis. Most recently, Davis has led Residential Services for Avalon and has a background working with survivors and the courts.



The grant is provided through the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund. For this first year, the state will provide the match to the funding; in succeeding years, Avalon will need to raise funds locally to meet the matching requirements.

The VOCA Fund was created by Congress in 1984 to provide the match to provide federal support to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. The VOCA Fund is derived entirely from fines and penalties paid by offenders at the federal level, not taxpayer revenue, and is largely distributed to the states through a formula grant.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in a recent national survey one in 10 teens reported being hit or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend at least once in the 12 months before the survey. One in 10 teens reported they had been kissed, touched, or physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to at least once by someone they were dating.

School Resource Officer Prasit Niranont and Sabrina Clemons, youth advocate/services coordinator reach out to students at Warhill High School about healthy relationships and issues of teen dating violence. Follow AYS on Instagram @Avaloncenter.

# 2016: A year of growth for Avalon Center

Monetary contributions

15% 1

85+%

of funds go directly to client services.

Management undraising **Avalon Program** 

Serving more clients than ever

120%

Total Contributions in FY 2016

Clients served

Phone inquiries answered

\$1,042,139

600

2,000

Only with your help can we do what we do at Avalon Center. Generous and kind individuals from all corners of the Historic Triangle and beyond ensure that Avalon can receive and support the hundreds of survivors that come through our doors each year.

<sub>In</sub> 2016,



306 active volunteers gave

5,052 hours of service. The bottom line:

volunteer time equated to

\$119,025



Pictured above are Sofia T. and Cathryn H., Girl Scouts who created the Avalon Read-A-Long program for children in shelter to have books and accompanying audio books to encourage reading. Left: The Virginia Gazette Angel Tree provides many needed items for shelter residents during the holiday season and winter months. Cindy Jenne (right) gives the presents collected to Priscilla Caldwell of Avalon and her helper Calvin.

Avalon Voice Annual Report 2016

# Thank you to our generous community of friends

Thank you to our generous donors who help Avalon break the cycle of violence and create

a more positive and peaceful future ...

Gifts received January 1 through December 31, 2016 Donors who have given for 5 consecutive years are denoted with  $\mathbf{X}$ 

Individuals \$5000 or more in 2016

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James R. Hayes Leopold and Carol Schmidt &

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"Talking with my counselor is something I look forward to each week."

"It has given me strength to endure and know what to look for [to keep safe]."

"My counselor treated me with concern genuine concern ... I felt that she treated me like a personal friend or family member and cared about me as such.'

"I have received more help than I expected ... emotional and legal help."

-- 2016 Avalon Clients

In Honor of

Ms. Lou Cale: Elizabeth Lawson-Taylor Teresa Campbell: Carolyn Campbell Laura French: Alan and Nancy Bolash Our grandchildren: James and Linda McGee

**Iennifer Hartley:** Martin and Ruth Barber

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**Bev Scott:** Butterfly Bend Pottery

Children, grandchildren, and in-laws: James, Caryn, James III, Vivienne, Aislinn, Kristin, JB, Sammi, Alex, Julia, Wil, Sarah: I and Donna Smith **Staff and Volunteers:** Richard and Isi Dawson

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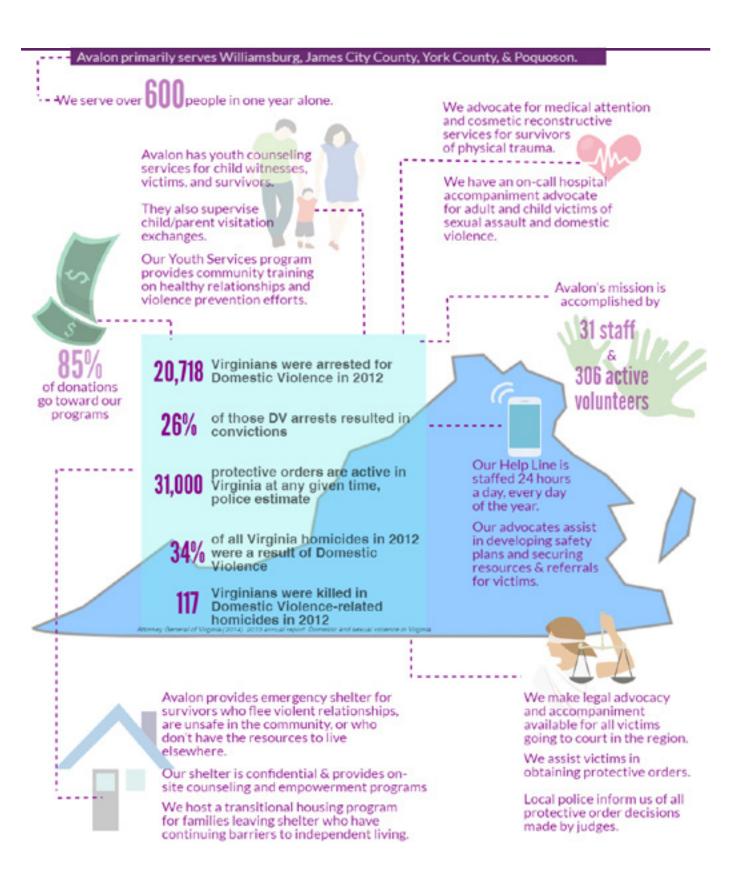
Iennie Seiler

**Paul Smith** 

Allison Percy Donna Percy



Children from Williamsburg Christian Academy made bears and donated them to the children in the care of Avalon.



Photos on the front cover from top left clockwise: During the United Way Day of Caring, volunteers from Ball Metal refurbished the playground for children staying at Avalon. | Colonial Heritage held a 5k to benefit Avalon, and Avalon. Board Member Tina Gallien and her daughter participated, as well as Augusta Casone, volunteer coordinator for Avalon, and youth volunteer Calvin C. | Improvisational Theatre (IT) of William & Mary held "I.T.'s Annual IMPROVATHON!" I.T. performed for donations for 12 hours straight one Saturday — all for the benefit of Avalon! | MBA students from the Mason School of Business Brooke Waggoner, Richard Smyth and Kaitlin Wooddell provided career counseling and held a suit drive for Avalon residents.

1st Annual Wine Tour de France for Avalon May 1, 2016



### **Ways to give to Avalon Center**

These days there are myriad ways to give to Avalon. All gifts, all ways are welcome! Gifts of stock, automobiles, art, real estate, and planned legacy gifts.

For tax benefits, **gifts of stock** may be most beneficial for some donors. Transferring appreciated securities directly to a nonprofit can eliminate taxes on gains. Donors receive an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

Please contact Avalon at 757-258-5022 for instructions to make a transfer.

IRA contributions: The Pension Protection Act allows donors age 70 ½ or older to make contributions from their Individual Retirement Account without paying income tax. The key provisions of this law are as follows:

1. You may contribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA to publicly supported charities like Avalon.

2. The transfer must be made directly to Avalon from your IRA. You may not withdraw funds and then write a check to Avalon.

**3.** You must be age 70 ½ at the time of the gift. You may not receive any benefits in exchange for the gift. Your IRA administrator will need this information about Avalon: **1.** Legal name: "Avalon: A Center for Women and Children." **2.** Avalon is a qualified charitable organization under the Pension Protection Act as described in Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code. **3.** Federal Tax ID #52-1208945. **4.** Mailing address: Avalon, PO Box 6805, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188.

**Real Estate Gifts:** Gifts of property may allow donors to avoid sizable capital gains taxes.

**Life Income Gifts:** Establishing a "charitable remainder annuity trust" can be an excellent option. Trusts of this kind allow an annual return of 5% or greater, which can be paid to you or a loved one for life, after which the assets would be distributed to Avalon.

**Bequests** provide a lasting, meaningful legacy helping survivors for years to come. Please talk to your financial advisor for guidance.

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Alpha 🞗

**Berkeley Realty** 

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Karen A Easop Trust Kiwanis Club of Toano King of Glory Lutheran Church Liz Moore & Associates, LLC Macy's / Bloomingdales Mason School of Business - MBA Association Merck Partnership For Giving Merry Maids **Microsoft Matching Gifts** Program Mobil Foundation, Inc. **Morning Glories** 

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"I came here broken, feeling like I wasn't a good mother, that I had nothing to offer the world. The people here helped fix that with counseling. I have become my old self; with the advocates I felt people cared about me again. The housing made me not fear where me & my children would end up, and with the other people who were unfortunately put here from their own situation,
I genuinely felt I wasn't alone."
-- 2016 Avalon Client

From the Documenting Our Work (DOW) independent surveys

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