

The AVALON Center VOICE

Special Edition: Annual Report



2017
Giving Hope. Changing Lives.

Message from the Director

I have heard it said, that unless you stop and turn around once in a while, you won't notice how far you've come. The work of a visionary small group of concerned citizens who wanted to address the incidence of domestic violence in our community, eventually altered the landscape for survivors in our community for decades to come. As we get closer to the 40th anniversary of Avalon and we look back to see how far we've come, it's important to recognize everyone who has been a part of the journey, and to also look forward to being as visionary as the founders.

The past year was a time of growth and transformation for Avalon -- from expanding services to youth to extending our service area to cover the Middle Peninsula region. Avalon has formed new partnerships and collaborations, and increased staff levels to meet the needs of our growing community.

Thanks to the support of the Commonwealth of Virginia, volunteers and donors, we moved into a new Outreach Office in August, which provides sufficient spaces for individual and group counseling for children through adult age, a safe visitation and exchange center and a separate meeting and training space for volunteers and donors. The new satellite office in Mathews opened in January, providing access to all of the same programs including emergency shelter and a second visitation and exchange center.

Each year, trained advocates answer over 2000 helpline calls 24 hours a day; provide emergency shelter and transitional housing for about 200 homeless adults and children most of whom are fleeing domestic or sexual violence, stalking or human trafficking. In addition, counseling, hospital accompaniment, legal advocacy and support groups are provided to another 300 survivors every year through the Outreach Office. Youth Services alone are expected to reach over 2000 area children in 2018. Using the best practices and standards available to us, we know these programs work.

We are so grateful for your support through generous donations of resources, time and expertise. With more than 300 volunteers, 600 annual donors, and dozens of partners across the region, we all are working together to create an aware community that is knowledgeable about domestic and sexual violence and works with us to break the cycle of abuse. Together, we can imagine and build a more peaceful world. It begins at home, with each one of us. I invite you to join us on the journey. We welcome your participation!

If you or your church, community group or business would like more information about Avalon or how you can get involved, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Teresa Christin
Executive Director



Welcome New Board Members!

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

Joe Harrow of Middle Peninsula Insurance,
Susan Keilitz, J.D., of the National Center for State Courts,
and Jacquelyn Liebler of Revolution Golf & Grille.

Avalon at a Glance

When we speak with friends, neighbors, colleagues and other members of our community about Avalon, they often know that we help provide safe shelter for those fleeing domestic violence; however, what we have found is that sometimes people are surprised to learn of the scope of services Avalon Center offers.

Avalon helps all survivors of abuse of any sort, whether it be elder, financial, or emotional. Also, Avalon helps those who have been stalked, exploited, or coerced, including victims of human trafficking. Avalon Youth Services help children who have experienced trauma from violence or crime.

Here is an overview of the various services offered by Avalon, now in its 38th year serving the region.

24/7 Helpline

Avalon's team of trained advocates are available 24/7 to provide those in need with immediate support to empower survivors to move toward safety, self-sufficiency and lives free from abuse.

Emergency Shelter

Avalon operates the only emergency shelter in the Greater Williamsburg and Middle Peninsula area. Though our primary mission is to serve those affected by domestic and sexual violence, we also serve those experiencing homelessness in our service area when space allows.

Counseling

Avalon offers counseling for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, both past and present. Counselors work with clients to heal from past trauma and work toward a safe and self-sufficient future. Like all of Avalon's services, counseling is confidential and free of charge.

Legal Advocacy

Legal advocates help clients understand and navigate the criminal justice system. Advocates share legal information, connect clients with local legal clinics, and accompany clients to court proceedings.

Avalon Youth Services

Avalon Youth Services offer supervised visitation and custody exchange, counseling, workshops and advocacy for children and youth who are victims or witnesses of crimes or who experienced trauma. AYS also works with area schools to teach youth about healthy relationships and personal safety.

Community Outreach

Avalon offers presentations and workshops on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. We speak with civic organizations, religious groups, educational organizations and more. Avalon also sets up informational displays and attends community events to educate the public about our services.

Transitional Housing

Avalon maintains six two-bedroom units available to shelter residents and their children who need additional support beyond their short-term shelter stay. Transitional housing residents sign a lease with Avalon and pay a subsidized rent during their stay.

Hospital Accompaniment

Avalon has a team of trained staff and volunteers on call 24/7 to go to local hospitals and help survivors receiving medical care navigate the progress and make sure their needs are met and respected.

Ways to Give to Avalon

The Endowment Fund

One way to support Avalon, which helps ensure the future, is giving to the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was created for the 35th anniversary of Avalon. Board of Directors Chair Emily Rossiter and her husband are both generous contributors to Avalon.

Mrs. Rossiter recently shared why she believes it is important to support the Avalon Endowment.



Why I donate to the Endowment Fund of Avalon:

Healthy relationships in our homes, schools and workplaces are essential to our community.

I have witnessed the maturing and increasing professionalism of Avalon management, staff and volunteers over the last 10 years, becoming a model for other agencies in the Commonwealth with similar goals and challenges.

Avalon's operating budget can be challenged by fluctuations in the economy and the unpredictability inherent in state/federal funding cycles. Temporary loans are routinely needed to bridge the gap between payroll needs and reimbursement from numerous funding sources.

The need for the unique services offered by Avalon — crisis intervention, education and counseling — has grown and is expected to continue to grow in the future. A contribution to the Endowment Fund of Avalon can help to assure the sustainability of Avalon's programs and the availability of services to our community.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers from Printpack were so helpful (and had a great time) at the United Way Day of Caring!



Avalon Center's 2018 Fundraising Events

A Wine Tour de France

Join us May 20, 2018, from 4:00 - 6:00 PM at Le Yaca French Restaurant to taste unique and scrumptious wines paired with delectable *amuse-bouche*. For the connoisseur, there is a special chef's dinner at 7:00 PM. RSVP at www.avaloncenter.org/wine-tour. These events sell out quickly!



The Avalon Classic

Avalon's golf tournament is back for its second year on Friday, November 2, 2018. The event tees off at 12:30 PM at Ford's Colony Country Club. For more information and to register, visit www.avaloncenter.org/avalon-classic.



All Gifts are Welcome!

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.

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 for instructions to make a transfer.

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.

Avalon by the Numbers, 2017

157

women and children sheltered.

“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, and I have become my old self.”

- Avalon Client

6,257

nights of emergency shelter provided.

381

active volunteers gave

5,383

hours of service.

The number of gifts increased by

20%

in 2017.

“Avalon and its staff gave me my life back. Thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart.”

-Avalon Client

“Avalon gave me all the resources I needed to get on my feet.”

- Avalon Client

85%

of funds go directly to Avalon's services.

Only with your help can we do what we do at Avalon Center. Generous and kind individuals from Greater Williamsburg and the Middle Peninsula ensure Avalon can receive and support the hundreds of survivors that come through our doors each year.

286 community engagement activities.

“[Avalon's shelter] was comfortable, welcoming, and felt safe. I got a good night's rest, which I had not had in a long time.”
- Avalon Client

12,914
hours of service provided via the helpline.

Total contributions and grants in FY 2017:
\$1,299,646

“I am safe and sound. I am being cared for and loved. Thank God for Avalon.”
- Avalon Client

“I would say that [Avalon's shelter] functions like a well oiled machine. At the same time, there is genuine kindness and compassion shown. It's a godsend.”
-Avalon Client

1,300+
clients served.

“Thanks to the angels at Avalon, I was guided to where I am now.”
-Avalon Client

Thank you to our genero

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, 2017
Donors who have given for 5 consecutive years are denoted with ⚡

Individuals \$5000 or more

Anonymous ⚡

Joan Gilkinson, Gilkinson Family
Foundation ⚡

Robert M. Greenburg

Audrey Johnston

Lou & Emily Rossiter ⚡

Leopold & Carol Schmidt ⚡

Bonnie & Ron West, Ronald West
Family Foundation

Individuals \$1,000-\$4,999

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Susan & Jack Baer ⚡

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Steve Jasper

Nancy Keegan ⚡

Ingo & Susan Keilitz

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In Honor of

Avalon's Staff & Volunteers:

Lou & Emily Rossiter, Isi &
Richard Dawson, Lisa & Robb
Beall, Teresa Christin

Cameron, Bailey, Lindsay & Blair:

Claire Kersh

Lou Cale: Elizabeth Lawson-Taylor

Teresa Christin: Emily & Lou

Rossiter, Paul Scott

Ginny & Charles Crone:

Rita & Tim Murphy

Katie: Barbara and James Spiller

Jerome Lane: Williamsburg

Auxiliary Fraternal Order of Eagles

Amy Marrero:

Nancy & Barry Hoffman

Mildred: Bridge Campbell

Gloria Smith: Beth Scharlop &

Roger Schulz

Women Around the World:

Elizabeth & Robert Northrup

us community of friends

In Memory of

Kim Dziabis: Gale & Peter Zucker

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India Littleton: Fran Post

Angie Locke: Trudie Pitkin

Marie & James Mazzariello:

Margaret & William Loscalzo

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Ben Scott: Debra & Alan Williamson

Nancy Turner: A Chef's Kitchen

Bee Vaiden: Kathleen Demro

Individuals \$1-\$499

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Richard & Linda Rodgers
Linda Rosania
Patricia Rosenberg
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Individuals, \$1-\$499

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