

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



One in three U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before they become adults.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and the Love Is Respect Youth Council has selected "Be About It" as the 2023 theme. Their [website](#) states that they, "amplify the voices of teens and young adults and those who support them by uplifting positive, healthy and safe relationships." Their [website](#) offers resources such as a TDVAM action guide and 2023 calendar of events.

Safe Haven of Pender is acknowledging the month by distributing 10,000 brochures to students, hoping to start a conversation about the risks of unhealthy relationships. Safe Haven is partnering with Brown Dog Coffee in Burgaw and My Gal's Bakery in Rose Hill to make awareness cookies available at Brown Dog. They are also handing out coffee sleeves with info to local coffee shops.

### Survivor Resource Center: A 'Monumental Step Forward' in Serving Mecklenburg County Survivors

The complicated process of pressing charges leads roughly 80% of victims to walk away before receiving help.

The Survivor Resource Center, which opened in February 2021, represents a step forward in simplifying this system. Located in the Children & Family Services Center in Uptown Charlotte, this inclusive center offers a short-term, small-scale solution to the challenge survivors can face when they seek help. They refer cases to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center and Safe Alliance, all of whom collaborate to address the highest-lethality cases for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child maltreatment. The center provides staff to help victims navigate the multi-step process.

The Survivor Resource Center represents a wide-ranging partnership among a variety of Charlotte-Mecklenburg agencies. It not only includes the aforementioned organizations but also off-site service providers that include Atrium Health's Domestic Violence Healthcare Project, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg District Attorney's Office, Mecklenburg County District Court and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office.

The Survivor Resource Center serves as a precursor for the highly anticipated, comprehensive Charlotte-Mecklenburg Family Justice Center model, named The Umbrella Center. The Umbrella Center will be comprehensive in scope, offering a full range of services to survivors of domestic, child, sexual and elder abuse, as well as human trafficking. This center will serve as a walk-in center open to anyone who self-identifies as a survivor of the five victimizations previously stated.

For more information, visit the [Survivor Resource Center website](#).

### State Victim Assistance Academies – A long-standing effort by the US Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime

To fulfill its long-term goal of encouraging victim assistance courses of study across the country, OVC introduced the State Victim Assistance Academy initiative in 1998. The purpose of SVAAs is to provide fundamental, comprehensive, and academically based education and training for victim assistance providers, victim advocates, criminal justice personnel and allied professionals who routinely deal with crime victims.

Shortly after the introduction of OVC's SVAA initiative, GCC began working with several agencies in North Carolina to form an advisory group to develop curriculum for NC's State Victim Assistance Academy and provided funding to support it. Today, NC's State Victim Assistance Academy is housed within the NC Victim Assistance Network.

[NCVAN](#) is offering Victim Service Practitioner Certification for practitioners who work with victims of crime. This is 40+ hours of training approved by the National Advocate Credentialing Program. The curriculum is also approved through the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

### GCC 2022: By the Numbers

Happy New Year! Last year was a successful and busy year for both GCC and our subrecipient community. Here is a quick look at the numbers:

- 621 new grant applications submitted.
- 2 grant workshops hosted.
- 5,579 subrecipient reimbursement requests processed.
- 327 total grants awarded.
- 6 GIST newsletters published.
- \$58+ Million total grant funds awarded.
- 11,770 cups of coffee consumed

### GCC staff volunteer at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC



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