

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley

PeaceWorks

November 2017

News on the work of the
Women's Resource Center of
the New River Valley, Inc.



Through the Eyes of a WRC Emergency Advocate

*Ryan is seven years old and has recently returned from a relative's house. As the evening goes on, Ryan's mom begins to notice striped bruising appearing up his legs. She takes him for a shower and notices burns going up his back. She asks him what happened and he answers a muffled "nothing mom." She calls her mother and the two of them bring him into the emergency department at the hospital.

I meet Ryan for the first time that evening. He sits subdued on the bed. His mom and grandma intermittently ask him "what happened?" to which Ryan always muffles the response "I don't know."

I come with my bag filled with fun toys, games, Play-Doh, legos, iPad, all donated by kind donors. I introduce myself to Ryan and then his mom and grandma. "I am here for you," I tell them. I see Ryan's eyes dart from the wall to my bag.

I pull out the bright red Play-Doh. Ryan is shy but after some coaxing, we are both on the floor making snowmen with crayon arms, and snails with bright orange shells. Fifteen minutes pass and Ryan has lost himself in the activities.

Soon enough though, I begin to see sadness once again steal his bright boyhood eyes away. I remind him that I am here and that he is a good boy. I tell him that he is strong and brave and that I am proud of him. He nods and we decide to read a book together. Paw Patrol is definitely his thing!

Ryan's mom begins to talk about her fears. She doesn't know what is next and if Ryan is going to be okay. As the night goes on, Ryan's grandma and mom share their own pain of abuse. We talk about what they may expect next. We talk through what DSS will do and the role of law enforcement. Their questions come thick and fast and I answer to the best of my ability. I give them pamphlets, booklets and phone numbers. However, I think in the end, it was really when I told them that they are not, alone, that I see some of the weight of hardship lift from them.

We decide to set up counseling for Ryan, his mom, and his grandma. As we say goodbye, I assure them that we would be calling in the next few days.

Like so many others, Ryan and his family will have a long and difficult road to walk. But they are on this journey knowing we will be with them.

As advocates, we are here to carry this burden of uncertainty with victims, and to let them know that we will be here for as long as they need us.

Having had the privilege of talking to many victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, I most often hear their fear of being alone in a world that once seemed so safe and inviting, but has now turned into a twisted ball of pain and confusion. They fear being alone and fear that they will say or do the wrong thing.

As advocates, we show our commitment through our programs and services. We will always respond to every sexual assault and domestic violence call. We will always respond with care, integrity, and confidentiality.

And we will always say to each victim,

"You are not alone."

**name has been changed for confidentiality.*



Contact Us!

Hotline: 540-639-1123

Office: 540-639-9592

wrcnr.org

P.O. Box 477

Radford, VA 24143

Emergency Advocacy Program Stats

FY 2017

420 **Total Calls**
To local hospitals

588 **Total Victims
Served**

1068 **Total Advocacy
Hours**



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Your November Issue of Peaceworks is here!

If you would prefer to receive WRC newsletters electronically,
please send your name and preferred email address to

communications@wrcnr.org



Santa's Helpers

"But mommy, how will Santa find us here?" Coming to a shelter can be difficult for anyone, at any time. Each year, our staff moonlights as Santa's Elves and, with your help, brings holiday joy to our families both in and out of the shelter. Last year, 217 children and adults received gifts from you through this program.

We are grateful each year for the support from holiday donors and family sponsors. Abusers often make sexual and domestic violence victims feel alone in the world. By supporting this program, the community comes together to illustrate to our clients that there is someone in their corner.

If you would like to sponsor a family this holiday season, please contact Nicole at 540-639-9592 or by email at adminassistant@wrcnr.org.

You can find a general list of holiday needs and our current needed items list on our website, wrcnr.org/donations.

Our wish for you is a joyous holiday season!

Thank You Incite Safety Sponsors!

Thank you to all who sponsored the 2017 Women's Resource Center's Incite Safety Luncheon. Thanks to you, every dollar donated at the event is being used to support free and safety centered services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in the New River Valley. For more information on becoming an Incite Safety Sponsor, please contact our Assistant Director at assistantdirector@wrcnr.org.

Save the Date: 2018 Incite Safety Luncheon, May 2nd. More information to follow.



Susan G. Anderson

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