

ALBEMARLE

Hope Lines

ALBEMARLE HOPELINE'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Treasure the Journey You Are On

Since its inception in 1981 Hopeline has had both a mission and vision for victims of domestic and sexual violence. For twenty-five years through an incredible effort the mission of guaranteeing services has been met. The vision of the elimination of violence and abuse, however has been sadly illusive. Yet much has been accomplished over these twenty-five years. Services have been born from a desire to keep families safe; and programs have developed from innovative ideas both borrowed and agency produced. Over the years our community has grown and become increasingly aware and responsive to the issues Hopeline addresses. This was never more apparent than in the last year.

The opening of the new Hope House Shelter and Direct Service Facility moved services in our community to greater heights than ever before. Through the support of many caring and concerned citizens, battered families now have adequate space in an atmosphere conducive to healing and new life. This support has become increasingly stronger as our community has grown and evolved. Today's level of awareness and collective responsibility is something each of us should own with pride. We may not be located in the heart of one of the larger cities of North Carolina, but we are located in a multi-county area with an abundance of heart. One that works together to provide for its citizens, ensuring basic needs and opportunities for change.

No, we have not yet achieved our vision of the elimination of family violence, but we can and should treasure the journey we have been on while fulfilling our mission. It is one filled with accomplishment and promise made possible by a community that cares.

Journey

We are on a journey, she said.

To a place where no woman is beaten simply because someone is stronger, tougher, or richer.

To a place where women are valued for all that makes them who they are.

And children play comfortably without guarding for the next glancing blow, the next assault or the next barrage of mouthy vermin.

We are on journey, she said.

To a place where safety and security are expected conditions, not intermittent snapshots of what might or could be.

To a place where ideas are treasured, emotions embraced and uniqueness welcomed.

Where children laugh with abandon, knowing there is no one to crush their dreams, their toys or their small fragile bodies.

We are on a journey, she said.

To our home away from home, where each day holds the promise of all that our minds and our hearts can envision.

To a place where mornings extend a slate to be filled with new beginnings, thoughts and dreams.

Where mothers are free to be, children are children and life tastes as sweet as our imagination will carry us.

We are on a journey.

Patricia Youngblood
Executive Director

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to increase the public's understanding about sexual violence in our society. This effort can help communities support rape and sexual assault survivors, victims, and their families, as well as the individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services. It is also a time to encourage the public to take steps to address sexual violence. The hope is that a month of intensified awareness efforts combined with the broad spectrum of sexual violence prevention work throughout the year will bring us closer to ending sexual assault.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault encourages all individuals to wear a teal ribbon to signify their support in ending sexual violence. We ask

you to join us in our annual efforts to promote awareness and end sexual violence.

THE FACTS about sexual assault

- Every 2 ½ minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted
- About 44% of rape victims are under 18 years old; 15% under the age of 12
- One in six American women have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape
- About 10% of sexual assault victims are men
- About 2/3 of all sexual assaults are committed by someone who is known to the victim



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Changes

As we move from winter to spring I am reminded that change is inevitable. Some changes are welcomed, others are not.

Many of the changes we have witnessed at Albemarle Hopeline have been incredible. We have moved from a 3,200 square foot, aging house to a 14,000 square foot facility where women and children can feel safe in a warm and inviting environment.

While these changes are marvelous, our goal and mission remains the same. To provide women and children who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault with all of the services that are available, and to help families restore their dignity. Albemarle Hopeline is blessed to have a dedicated staff. Their job is not just a career, it is their passion and I applaud their enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, not all changes have been for the better. We continue to see a rising need for the services that Albemarle Hopeline provides. We continue to hear

of sexual assaults taking place. Many times the victims are those that are the least capable of defending themselves, they are our children. We must stop these predators. We have to get over our concern for the perpetrator's rights and put our children's rights first. Children have a right to be safe in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. It saddens me that my grandchildren will never know the freedom of coming home from school, getting on their bicycles and peddling all over the neighborhood, not getting back to the house until dusk.

It is our duty as parents, grandparents, and neighbors to keep our children safe. Driven by the news of the next battered and assaulted child, I pray that society will hold these predators accountable. That no one who assaults a child will be given a slap on the hand and put on probation. Our children deserve better.

*Bonnie Curling
President, Board of Directors*

Christmas at Hope House

Once again Albemarle Hopeline played "Santa" for 87 families, 284 individuals, during the 2005 holidays under the direction of Operations Coordinator, Carol Patterson. The Southern Riders Motorcycle Club held their annual Toy Drive in November 2005 to also bring joy to families in need. With the help of numerous individuals, civic groups, and churches, many Hopeline families were able to have a merrier holiday season.

A big "thank you" to everyone that helped by sponsoring a family and/or donating toys, clothing, gift cards and money.



Lorrie Meads gets into the Christmas spirit at Hope House!

Grand Re-Opening of Thrift Store



Hopeline employees Alfreda Harris (left) and Rebecca Eves (right) help prepare for Clothesline's "grand re-opening".

Hopeline's Clothesline Thrift Store, located on Halstead Boulevard in Elizabeth City, has recently been remodeled and doubled in size. The store now has a larger space for furniture, as well as, more room for clothing, toys, books and home accessories. It also has a huge sorting and processing area, making it easier to quickly utilize donated goods.

Remember Hopeline's Clothesline when doing "spring cleaning". All donations are accepted, even automobiles! Store hours are Monday – Thursday 10 am to 5 pm and Friday – Saturday 10 am to 8 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bonnie Curling, *President*
 Marcia Phillips, *Immediate Past-President*
 Susan Scurria, *Vice President*
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Operations Coordinator
 Carol Patterson
Clinical Coordinator
 Holly Wilson
Victim Advocate Coordinator
 Helen Garrett-Cottrell
Counselors/Direct Service Providers
 Mary Jane Wilson-Parsons
 Janet Stone-Nielsen
 Susan Goodwin
 Athena Chasteen
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 Amy Barclift
 Deborah Jackson
 Dawn Snyder
Prevention Specialist
 Kathy Leary
Displaced Homemakers Coordinator
 Lorrie Meads
Administrative Assistant
 April Wooten
Staff Assistants
 Valerie Garland
 Monica Sharp
 Dawn Adkins
Assistant Shelter Manager
 Rebecca Eves
Shelter Specialists
 Alfreda Harris
 Jean Sills
 Diana Phelps
Clothesline Staff
 Pamela Berry
 Mary Louise Dail
 Marion Everett
 Cindy Sawyer

Hopeline Moves to New Facility



Executive Director, Pat Youngblood (center), cuts the ribbon for Hopeline's new facility assisted by Bonnie Curling, Board President (right) and Marcia Phillips, immediate past President (left).

Albemarle Hopeline has a new home! We moved to our new facility in December 2005 and celebrated with a ribbon cutting and open house on Monday, February 6, 2006. Over 200 friends and supporters

attended the event and toured the Patricia J. Youngblood Hope House. Named in honor of Hopeline's one and only executive director in its 25-year history, the 14,200-square-foot facility will house up to 30 women and children that are in need of emergency shelter, as well as, provide office space for direct services, counseling, advocacy and education.

Major renovations have taken place at the new Hope House in order to convert the fifteen-year-old building, formerly an assisted living facility, to a lovely, spacious, highly functional shelter for those fleeing violent, and often dangerous, situations in their own homes. The building features nine bedrooms, living room and adjoining children's playroom, resource room with computers, spacious kitchen and dining area, and laundry room. Beautiful colors and furnishings make everyone feel welcomed and safe. Work is underway to complete a fenced-in yard to give the children a place to play under mom's watchful eye.

In addition to a large conference/training room and waiting area, the direct services wing houses private offices for four counselors, two advocates, a prevention educator, the

administrative assistant and the executive director. Another room serves as both a workroom, with copier and office supplies, and a break-room, complete with a refrigerator, microwave, table and chairs. A cozy sunroom provides additional space to hold small meetings or counseling sessions. Hopeline staff decorated the offices with paint, plants and accessories to make the building warm and welcoming for both clients and visitors.

The opening of Hopeline's new facility marks the culmination of almost two years of work for the Hope Endures Capital Campaign committee. Headed by co-chairpersons Phyllis Bosomworth and Doug Gardner, the committee worked diligently to raise approximately \$1.5 million. Many generous donors supported the campaign, with rooms at Hope House bearing the names of major contributors.

At Albemarle Hopeline we are proud of our new home and would like to thank the capital campaign committee, Board of Directors, numerous donors and supporters for making a longtime dream come true.



Hopeline's Elizabeth City Staff takes a break during Open House to pose for a group portrait. Pictured: (back row, left to right) Janet Nielsen, Kathy Leary, Lorrie Meads, Amy Barclift, Susan Goodwin. (seated) April Wooten, Carol Patterson, Pat Youngblood, Dawn Snyder.

ALBEMARLE
Hope Lines

ALBEMARLE HOPELINE'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

24-Hour Crisis Line

252-338-3011

Albemarle Hopeline

P.O. Box 2064

Elizabeth City, NC 27906-2064

Phone: 252-338-5338 or 252-338-1646

Phone (Advocacy) 252-338-2701

Phone (Chowan): 252-482-9918

Phone (Currituck): 252-453-8116

Phone (Perquimans): 252-426-3800

Email: hopeline@inteliport.com



Legislative Breakfast

Hopeline's annual Legislative Breakfast was held on March 27 at Cypress Creek Grill in Elizabeth City. More than ninety local county officials attended the event. Keynote speaker was Teresa Pell, Executive Director of the North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission. Ms. Pell provided a valuable update on what is happening in the state regarding funding and other issues related to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Brief comments were also provided by Representative Bill Owens. Pat Youngblood shared a brief history of Hopeline, information about the Hope House shelter and Hopeline's plans for the future. Participants were also given packets of information including Hopeline's annual report.

Hopeline wishes to thank Bobby Plough of Cypress Creek Grill for his generosity and continuing support.



DELTA NEWS

MVP Training

On February 22 – 25 six members of the CHANGE team attended the MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) train-the-trainer workshop in Greensboro. The three-day training was conducted by representatives from the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University.

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a leadership program that motivates student-athletes and student leaders to play a central role in solving problems that historically have been considered "women's issues": rape, battering, and sexual harassment.

Utilizing a unique bystander approach to prevention, the MVP program views student-athletes and student leaders not as potential perpetrators or victims, but as empowered bystanders who can confront abusive peers. This emphasis reduces the defensiveness men often feel and the helplessness women often feel when discussing issues of men's violence against women.

Approximately 50 men and women from across North Carolina attended the training held at the Guilford Convention Center. Those attending from the Albemarle area include: Sgt. John Etheridge of the Elizabeth City Police Department; Deputy Heather Vessey, Pasquotank Sheriff's Department; Sharon Wisinger, Camden High School guidance counselor; Tyrone Smith, Hopeline volunteer and ECSU criminal justice major; Jeannie Truesdale; Hopeline volunteer and domestic violence advocate; and Kathy Leary, prevention educator at Hopeline

Communities Working Together to Promote Peaceful Relationships

CHANGE sponsored a workshop on Saturday, March 11 entitled "Communities Working Together to Promote Peaceful Relationships". The training, held at City Road United Methodist Church in Elizabeth City, was conducted by Bryan Proffitt and Tony Macias from Durham. Bryan is the co-founder of Men Against Rape Culture and speaks to groups across the state on issues concerning men's violence against women. The day-long training was attended by eleven local community leaders and CHANGE members.

Good-bye to our DELTA Coordinator

Sadly, we say "farewell" to Cynthia Duker, our DELTA coordinator. Cyndi began work at Hopeline in September 2005 and will be moving back to Delaware to be near her children. Cyndi will be missed by the CHANGE team members and we all wish her the best.

C.H.A.N.G.E. 

Coalition for Healthy Awareness of Nonviolence
through Guidance and Education

Elder Abuse Training

Albemarle Hopeline, together with the Albemarle Commission's Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Program and the Family Caregiver Support Program, sponsored a seminar entitled, "Abuse in Later Life". The day-long training was held on March 10 at the Albemarle Hospital Education Center. Featured speakers were Debby Weinstein, Executive Director of the YWCA of Charleston and Douglas P. Thoren, Assistant Attorney General with the North Carolina Attorney General's Medicaid Investigations Unit.

The seminar provided information on the importance of utilizing a community-wide response to elder abuse and practical guidelines regarding abuse and exploitation of the elderly and disabled. The

more than eighty participants learned the classic signs and symptoms to look for in suspected cases, patterns of abuse, reporting requirements and the importance of documentation.

A wrap-up panel discussion addressed how team-building is invaluable in addressing elder abuse and how a community-wide awareness of the problem should be promoted throughout the Albemarle area. Panelists included Sara Bergdolt-Munzer, MPA, Family Violence Program of Pitt County; Carolyn Dukes, Pasquotank County DSS Adult Services Supervisor; Debra Sheard, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman; and Randy Smithson, Investigator with the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department.

Prevention Education

Albemarle Hopeline's Prevention Specialist Kathy Leary has been very busy in the past few months. Since October 2005 Kathy has provided prevention education programs to over 3,000 students in ten area schools: Buckland Elementary (Gates Co.); Grandy Primary (Camden Co.); J. P. Knapp and Central Elementary (Currituck Co.); Perquimans Central (Perquimans Co.); Northside, Weeksville, P. W. Moore, Pasquotank Elementary and Elizabeth City Middle School (Pasquotank Co.). Classes are already being scheduled for Chowan County Middle, J. C. Sawyer Elementary and H. L. Trigg Community School during the month of May. Also, Kathy and other staff members have spoken to

classes at College of the Albemarle and Elizabeth City State University during this school year.

Prevention education topics include: healthy relationships; anti-bullying; conflict resolution; respect; effects of family violence on children; sexual harassment; domestic and sexual abuse; elder abuse; and the services of Albemarle Hopeline.

If you would like to have Kathy, or another Hopeline staff member, provide a prevention program for your local school, church or community group, please call the office at 338-5338. We believe that education can help to break the chain of abuse.

***CUT IT OUT* - Stop Domestic Violence**

A new and exciting approach to outreach and awareness of domestic and sexual violence is being adopted by Albemarle Hopeline. *CUT IT OUT* builds awareness of domestic abuse through awareness materials to be displayed in salons, the Adopt-a-Shelter initiative to involve salons in helping local domestic violence agencies, and training salon professionals to recognize warning signs and safely refer clients to resources. *CUT IT OUT* is a program of the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund dedicated to mobilizing salon professionals and others to fight the epidemic of domestic violence.

Salon professionals have an advantage in reaching victims of abuse. Women often feel comfortable talking about their personal lives while having their hair or nails done. Stylists are in a unique position to see bruising on the face and neck, hair that has been pulled out and the loss of mobility; partners accompanying clients to the salon or not allowing them to change hair styles; and clients missing appointments. The average salon professional sees an

average of 200 clients every four to six weeks, with the possibility of one out of every four being in an abusive relationship.

CUT IT OUT was initially created in 2002 for the State of Alabama by The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham. The program was taken to the national level in March 2003 by the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund and a partnership between Clairol Professional, the National Cosmetology Association, and *Southern Living At HOME*.

Kathy Leary, Hopeline's Prevention Specialist, recently attended a *CUT IT OUT* training in Greensboro that was sponsored by the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Office of the Attorney General. The three-hour session was conducted by Jeri Linas, Assistant Director for the Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence. Will Polk of the North Carolina Attorney General's Office will serve as the local coordinator working to bring the *CUT IT OUT* program to North Carolina.

Voices, not Victims

Glide For Hope and support survivors of sexual violence



Saturday April 29th, 2006
Currituck Airport and Maple Park
HWY158 10am 'til 3pm

Join **Kitty Hawk Kites** for a Tandem Hang glide (fee) or climb the "Rock Wall" (fee) in Maple Park, proceeds to benefit

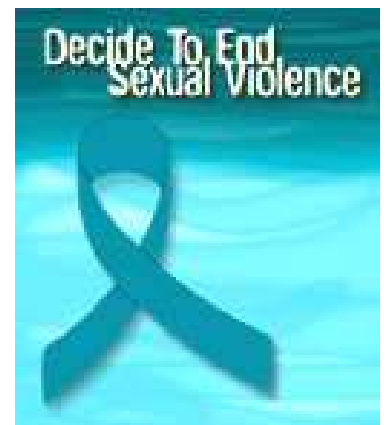
ALBEMARLE HOPELINE

Cheer on your favorite softball team when last year's champs, Currituck County Sheriff's Deputies, take on law enforcement teams from Pasquotank County.

Watch a thrilling Skateboard Exhibition
at the new "Maple Park Bowl"

Enjoy good food and family fun

No entrance fee and Donations are welcome
Call **453-8116** for more information
Rain Date April 30th



Hopeline's Clothesline THRIFT STORE

923 S. Halstead Blvd.
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
338-3107

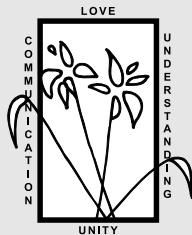
HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday and Saturday
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday
CLOSED

THRIFT STORE NEEDS

Linens, Bedspreads, Towels,
Blankets, Curtains, Kitchen Items,
Pots & Pans, Dishes,
Craft Items, Craft Books,
Yarn, Patterns, Fabric,
Household Items, Pictures,
Knickknacks & Collectibles,
Small Appliances,
Books & Magazines

Albemarle Hopeline is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive direct and preventive services to the victims of family violence, sexual assault, and teen dating violence in the counties of Pasquotank, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Perquimans, and Gates. In addition to a 24-Hour Crisi Line, Hopeline offers counseling, court advocacy, emergency shelter for victims and their children, crisis response team, volunteer training and education.



Hopeline has offices in Elizabeth City, Edenton, Hertford, and Coinjoc and a thrift store, Hopeline's Clothesline, located on Halstead Boulevard in Elizabeth City.

If you or your organization would like to have a Hopeline representative provide information to your group, call the Hopeline office at 252-338-5338.

All services are free of charge

OnLine Sexual Predators

One of the attractions of the Internet is the anonymity of the user, and this is why it can be so dangerous. A child doesn't always know with whom he or she is interacting. Children may *think* they know, but unless it's a school friend or a relative, they really can't be sure. Often we think of pedophiles as having access to children out on the playground and other places, but because of the way the Internet works, children can actually be interacting on their home computers with adults who pretend to be children.

Child sexual exploitation occurs in every economic, social, ethnic, and religious group. With the explosion of the Internet into a powerful, worldwide medium, the danger to children, whether they are from New York or New Zealand, has drastically increased. Pedophiles and other sexual predators can use the Internet, with no precautions, to exchange names and addresses of other pedophiles and of potential child victims. Hidden behind screen names that are pseudonyms, they gather online and swap child pornography with amazing speed and in amounts beyond our wildest imagination, which excites them to molest even more.

- Law enforcement officials estimate that as many as 50,000 sexual predators are online at any given moment (*Dateline, January 2006*)
- Half of teens ages 13-18 often communicate through the Internet with someone they have not met in person (*Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006*)
- Almost one in eight youth ages 8-18 discovered that someone they were communicating with online was an adult pretending to be much younger (*Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006*)
- The largest group of viewers of Internet porn is children between ages 12 and 17 (*Family Safe Media, December 15, 2005*)
- The Internet pornography industry generates \$12 billion dollars in annual revenue – larger than the combined annual revenues of ABC, NBC, and CBS (*Family Safe Media, January 10, 2006*)

Dangerous Online “Friends”

Explicit photographs, obscene language, stories of drinking, drugs and partying! It's not a pornographic Website. It's **MySpace.Com** and chances are your teen has been there. One high school student said, “I think it's like, fun to look at their pictures and keep up with everyone at school.”

MySpace.com is the most popular social networking Website on the Internet these days. It gets two and a half times more visitors, or “hits,” a day than the search engine Google. It's the place, according to teens, to see and be seen, connect with friends or hook up with new ones. “Friends from other schools, you don't see them often and you can keep in touch with them through that. We met some boys on it,” another teen said.

Many of the postings are fun and innocent. Others are not. If parents took the time to navigate MySpace.com, they would be in for a shock. One mother recently visited her daughter's site and has now signed up for one of her own to help monitor her child. “You peel away the layers of MySpace.com and you get to a very ugly place in a very short time,” the mom observed.

Law enforcement offices across the country are monitoring MySpace.com and its users. “It's a dangerous Web site, very dangerous, especially with the capability you have of meeting kids on it,” said Det. Morton Grant, a Dallas, Texas police officer who monitors the site. “You are bringing the outside world into your house and strangers can come in through that internet just like they can come through your front door.” Officials remind parents even if their teens are doing the right thing, it doesn't mean their friends are behaving. Sexual predators on the site can also gain information from teens chatting with actual friends online – almost like eavesdropping.

Parents who want to check MySpace.com, should look under their teen's name, school, names of friends and even under home computer cookies.

(information obtained from CBS 11 News – Dallas / Fort Worth)

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you would like to: (check all that apply)

- Be a Volunteer
- Donate Goods and Services
- Provide Monetary Support
- Provide a Special Skill
- Inquire about Counseling Services
- Inquire about Advocacy Services
- Inquire about Educational Programs

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL TO:

Albemarle Hopeline
P.O. Box 2064
Elizabeth City, NC 27906-2064

OR CALL:

Elizabeth City	252-338-5338
	252-338-1646
Advocacy	252-338-2701
Chowan office	252-482-9918
Currituck office	252-453-8116
Perquimans office	252-426-3800

Name: _____

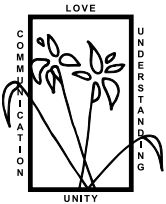
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

If you are not receiving Hope Lines in the mail and would like to be added to our newsletter list, please mail this page to Hopeline. Also, let us know if you are receiving more than one copy. Thank you.

24-Hour Crisis Line 252-338-3011



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