

VOL. 1 ISSUE 4 · MAY 2021

THE CHANGE CHASER

Official Newsletter of ACASA

A Note from the Director

Does everyone feel like the world is spinning faster and faster, or is it just me?

This quarter is one of the busiest times of the year for ACASA. Grant writing has been in full swing and completed as the staff successfully submitted their grant applications! The ACASA team ROCKS! All team members participated in the grant writing process this year. Some of us are seasoned grant writers, and others are just learning, but the process went smoothly, so I want to give accolades to all of the staff!

All the staff members have been vaccinated and are looking forward to getting back to some face-to-face work as we are permitted. Zoom has taken a toll on most of us as we have struggled with our reliance on technology for 7-8 hours per day over the last year. I will be re-evaluating our office situation this Summer and hope to have all staff in the Little Rock area back in the office this Fall. It will also be nice to return to in-person board meetings, although we will keep the Zoom feature for those who may have to travel to the meetings.

I hope you will read through the quarterly newsletter and see all of the fantastic work completed over the last few months!

Warm regards,

Monie Johnson, Executive Director



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Raise Your Voice Festival



On Saturday, April 17, 2021, ACASA held the first annual Raise Your Voice Festival at the Bernice Garden to celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The outpour of support was overwhelming! Almost 100 old and new friends came out to enjoy the day with us.

To say we could not have made this happen without the support of the community is an understatement. Between the donations for the silent auction, the vendors, local crisis centers, and the band, we were able to host a memorable event.

We look forward to what next year holds and hope this event can continue to grow and reach more people with the goal of educating community members to help put an end to sexual violence across Arkansas.

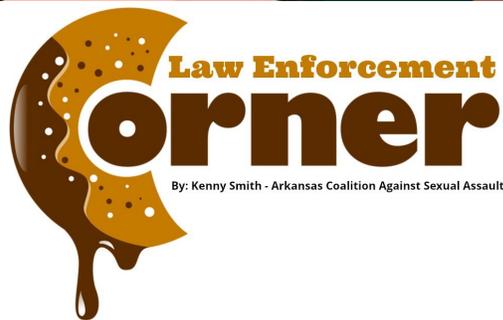
Click the link above to see all the event photos. Hope to see you all there next year!



To sign up to be a vendor or sponsor
for the 2022 festival:

Email: npress@arkcasa.org

Call: 501.246.3276 Ext 108



We conducted the first training of a brand new course, Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Violence Calls – Real-World Scenarios. This course is the second part of the Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault Series, which has a total of five courses in the program.

This second course focuses on officers responding to scenarios of various sexual violence calls. Officers learn how to effectively communicate with the survivor and in some cases with their family/friends in a trauma-informed manner.

The CoSAR Program is getting back on track as COVID seems to be on the ropes! Recently, the program has partnered with four new organizations/departments. The UAMS Medical Center, the Arkansas State Crime Lab, the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and our own Anti-Human Trafficking Program have all come on board to help strengthen the CoSAR Program and increase the resources and level of training that can be acquired for members.

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Conference

ACASA is very excited and has begun planning what we hope will be an informative and unique experience for the conference attendees. This year we will be taking the audience on a journey through the system as experienced by a sexual assault victim. At each point in the process, there are ways things go right and ways they can go very wrong.

The conference will take attendees through an actual case from right here in Arkansas. The twist is we will be using professional actors to portray scenes before each of the sessions to set up the story for the audience. The actors will also be interacting with the presenters during their presentation. Rebecca Bailey, Director of the theatre department for the University of the Ozarks is on the planning team and is writing the scripts for the actors and will be working with each of the speakers to help with the interaction with the actors during each presentation.

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Prevention Education



The Prevention Program has partnered with the North Little Rock School District Pre-K classrooms and Athletics Department for the 2021-2022 school year. Both programs are excited to bring this new aspect to their over 500 students. This expansion should allow ACASA to approach Prevention in a new, impactful way. G.E.M.S. is looking forward to expanding their program and involving their teen girls in peer advocacy programs at their schools. The Prevention Program planning more outreach events over the grant year.

Nikhol Press

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Advocate Training

This quarter we continued to provide lots of technical assistance. We have started to receive requests for training from crisis centers and colleges. We have also begun taking many of the OVC TTAC training available. We plan to use the information we learn to provide training to the crisis centers over topics such as Program Evaluation, Succession Planning, Leadership, etc. We are on track to complete all the goals for this grant. There has been some work on the national level to overturn some of the harsh Title IX regulations. This will allow us to continue our partnership with the colleges, which will allow for the completion of that goal.

This upcoming quarter we will be providing another Sexual Assault Advocacy Certification Course. We will also provide a couple live online webinars for advocates.

Kiah Hall

State Advocate Training Director, ACASA

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Anti-Human Trafficking

The curriculum for onboarding has been completed and approved for respective staff members of the coalitions. Further development for training law enforcement, medical staff, other professional services, and the community is in the works for the near future. Contact with several key persons identified throughout the state has been made in quarter two to organize a statewide advisory council. Among a few of the resources are from the College of Nursing at Arkansas State University, and the University of Arkansas School of Law. These resources will assist with the development of protocols and policies to help identify gaps in recognizing victims of human trafficking.

Shannon Holman

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month Across Arkansas Movie Nights

Throughout April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month) we partnered with crisis centers across the state to bring community events to provide residents with information about the services and support they have in their own backyard in addressing sexual violence and supporting survivors.

Kenny Smith and Shannon Holman headed out to Helena-West Helena to help out Delta Crisis Center (right) and to Batesville to work with Batesville Rape Crisis Center (left). It was so amazing to see these communities coming together to raise awareness!





Advocate Shout Outs

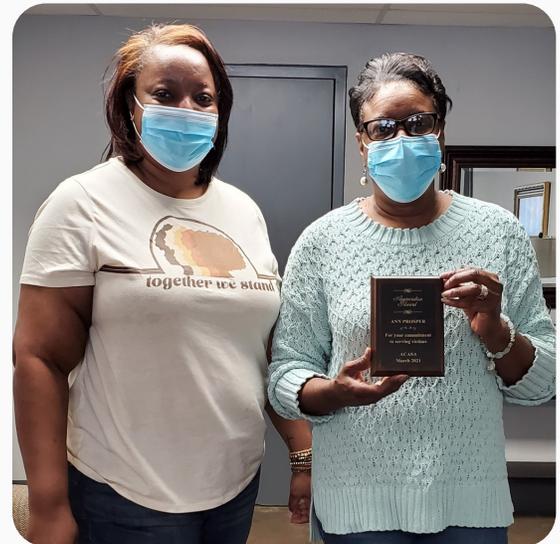
ACASA has started doing advocate shout outs once monthly to show some much needed appreciation for our membership crisis center advocates. Our very own Kenny Smith is hand-delivering a plaque and gift card to the winners across the state. The advocates do so much for victims across the state, now is our time to do what we can in return.

We'd love to see you featured next! Directors: Please send a list of your advocates with their hire dates to khall@arkcasa.org. Advocates: Give your directors a gentle reminder to submit your information if you'd like to be acknowledged.

February 2021 Advocate: Twila White - Ozark Rape Crisis Center



March 2021 Advocate: Ann Prosper - Women and Children First



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To see organization updates and current news

