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Director's Note

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To some this has been a long hot summer! To others the time has just flown by. For myself, as I get older, I wonder did the 24 hours of a day, somehow become shortened to 20 hours. The last few months have been very busy for our organization with courts, crisis counseling, conferences, etc.

But for this article, I would like to write about someone that is so much a part of our organization. Someone who has brought so much to so many people over the years. I would like to give her the praise and admiration that she so richly deserves.

Joyce Miller, our counselor. Some of you know her and some of you have only heard of her. She is the kind of person who you always know where you stand. She is a true champion for families who have lost loved ones to homicide. She has been working this specific area of counseling for over 12 years. Her will and determination have NEVER wavered when it came to

fighting for the rights of a victim's family. She has never cared who it offended, be it a district attorney, judge, governor, compensation commission, etc. She has always realized the victim's family must be taken care of - no matter what. She feels the family has suffered through so much trauma and tragedy and it is her duty to make sure to try and ease their pain even if it is in a small way.

Joyce is a fighter. She always has been. That is what makes her the wonderful, common sense type of counselor that she is. She lets her clients speak to her in a very real way. She cries with her clients... she laughs with her clients...she even tells her clients getting mad is a good thing. She has a wonderful gift when it comes to working with the children.

Joyce is truly a blessing for Wiregrass Angel House. We are so glad to have her on staff. We just wish she could be here on a full time basis.

Shelly Linderman



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

A HUGE SUCCESS

Saturday, July 30th was National Night Out in Houston County. By the measure of the crowd it was a huge success.



Families and individuals alike turned out in droves for the 2011 Dothan National Night Out, sponsored by the Dothan Police Department.



Along with numerous games for children, the event provided information from various law enforcement agencies and military branches along with events such as rock

climbing.

Many non-profits, local businesses, and various law enforcement groups were on hand to speak to the citizens about their different roles in the Wiregrass area.



There were a variety of activities for children and teenagers.



Captain Jay, once again, did a spectacular job coordinating all the functions in and out of the event.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER--

Why don't I feel better after the trial has ended? How many of us have felt this way? You wait and wait and wait until the trial begins. You know that if you can just get through the trial, and you see the murderer convicted, you are going to know justice was served and feel better. You sit through the hours and hours of testimony. Some of the evidence so horrible you think you might lose your mind at any minute. But you endure everything for your loved one.

You hold on to the thought, that if I can get through this trial and see justice, I will feel better. As the closing arguments end and the judge begins to instruct the jury as to their duties, you feel a sense of anticipation knowing "the end" is very near. As the jury files back into the courtroom, you are also anxious to hear the one word that you know will make it all worth the months or years of delays and the hours of gut wrenching testimony. You hear it finally- "guilty". You know you will now get to speak for your loved one through your victim's impact statement. You will get the opportunity to remind the world that your loved one is not forgotten and that every day you are here, without them you are in sorrow.

As the prosecutor begins to speak with you and the rest of your family, you realize that you don't feel any different. You still feel the empty hole in your heart. You think, the realization has not sunk in yet. I'm still in shock. So you give it a few days; a few weeks; a few months... You think I still don't feel any better. What is wrong with me?

Nothing.... Because most of us think that if we could see justice served to the memory of our loved one, it will make us feel whole again. Nothing will make us feel that way again except bringing our loved one back. Because that's what we all really want... to feel normal again. Then we begin to realize that "normal" will never be again. We learn that we have to learn a new kind of normal in our daily lives. We learn that our loved one's murder has changed the way we live.

Joyce Miller, MS, LPC

Dale/Geneva County News

In our last newsletter, we reported Jarmon Barrow was convicted of murder and his sentencing date would be in August. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison by Judge P.B. McLauchlin. It is wonderful when a judge gives a sentence that assures the family that justice has been served.



On August 24th Matthew Leske, a convicted murderer, requested a parole hearing on a twelve year manslaughter sentence. DA Adams went with the family of Brent Cook. Leske has only served two years of his sentence. The parole board denied his parole but he will end his sentence March 23, 2013, and be released with time served.

It is comforting to families to know when the DA cares enough to personally go speak on their behalf.

Inside C.R.E.P.

By: Robert Parsons

Substance abuse treatment is a relatively new field. Outpatient treatment programs such as Spectra Care and Bradford have only been around in the last 40 years. Outpatient offers help and hope to those suffering with substance use disorders. Outpatient treatment programs have grown in popularity and demand with the courts making treatment mandatory for those convicted of alcohol and drug (A/D) related crimes - i.e. DUI's and possession of controlled substances.

There are three levels that a person convicted of an alcohol or drug related crime could be sentenced by a judge to complete. The first two are education programs known as level one and level two. They were discussed in a previous article. Level three or treatment is for those defendants with multiple A/D related offenses and/or who have been identified by the court referral officer (CRO) as having a substance use disorder.

Most treatment programs are designed after Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). AA is a spiritual program that consists of twelve steps or suggestions. Two recovering alcoholics in the late 1930's founded AA. AA has since grown to a worldwide recognition and has helped change the lives of millions of people suffering addiction. There are also other groups such as Narcotics Anonymous that have developed and adopted the 12-step model.

Once a defendant is referred to Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) he must complete 100 hours of treatment in six months. Most IOP's meet in three hour groups three days a week. After completion of the core program the defendant may be required to complete after care, which is a one time a week group that tracks the defendants continued progress in maintaining sobriety for up to an additional five months.

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