7th Annual Golf Tournament

Wiregrass Angel House will be hosting its 7th Annual golf tournament Thursday, April 7th at the Highland Oaks Golf Course in Dothan, Alabama. This is Angel House’s only major fundraiser for the year. Please join us to help raise funds for families that have been affected by homicide and robbery victims in the Wiregrass area.

Door prizes for participants --- Lunch will be provided.

Putting Contest at 11:00.

Hole Sponsors are $500.00 and corporate sponsorships start at $1,000.00.

Come be a part of this worthwhile cause. All proceeds go to benefit robbery victims and homicide families’ members in the wiregrass.
DONATIONS

Thank you to the following for donations to our organization. Without you our job would not be possible...

Tint Guys
Houston County Pre-Trial Program
Henry County Pre-Trial Program
Wiregrass Area United Way
ADECA
Truist
IBM Employees
Slingluff Insurance
Dale County DA’s Office
Myra Edmondson

Angel House has a new car!

A special thank you to Kirke Adams, District Attorney for Dale and Geneva Counties, for donating a vehicle to Angel House.

It is so nice to have reliable transportation to see our clients!

A special thank you “The Tint Guys” for donating the lettering.
Angel House is expanding….

In 2007, The Flowers family was gracious enough to donate two lots and a home located on Bell Street, to our agency. In front of our house was the parking lot to the Old Flowers’ Hospital. It had been donated to The Ark.

Our board found a way to purchase the parking lot in order to see our agency expand.

A special thank you to SB&T bank and the Angel House Board of Directors for having a vision for our organization to grow. Our next venture….. is to pave the parking lot!

Miss Angel Queens

Since our pageant was held in July the Miss Angel queens have been busy across the Wiregrass being great ambassadors for our agency. From winning 3rd place in the Peanut Festival parade with their float, to participating in over 7 various parades across our area, these ladies have been working in the community to bring public awareness to our organization. Thank you queens and director, Ashley Thomas, for bringing attention to Wiregrass Angel House and their services.
Counselor’s Corner

Taking Action

If I walk around angry all the time, my blood pressure stays high, and I don’t feel well. Some days someone looks at me wrong and I fall apart. I’m so depressed. I take these pills and I don’t feel anything. I walk around in a haze and I hate it. If I happen to have one good day, I feel guilty for a week. I know they wouldn’t want me to feel this way. How should I feel? Time has passed…shouldn’t I be doing better? I’ll never get over this. I’ll never stop feeling this way.

Several years ago I worked with children at an inpatient treatment facility. One of the groups I facilitated addressed emotions and actions. I would draw three columns on the board and title them with “good”, “bad” and “ugly”. I would encourage the kids to call out different feelings and emotions, and then identify which slot that word fit best in. Typically the responses were that all positive feelings went into the good column, happy, loved, and joyful. Emotions identified as being bad were usually negative, such as: sad, sarcastic, and irritated. The ugly column held aggressive or painful emotions such as: hateful, violent, and suicidal. When we had several feeling words in each category, I would erase the lines between the columns and the titles of two columns, leaving only a “good” column. Why? How can the bad and ugly feelings ever be considered as good? Let me assure you—they are.

Feelings are motivators that encourage us to take action. If we are tired, we should rest. If we are thirsty, we should drink water. Our feelings are what drive us to stand against the wrongs of the world. The feelings that occurred as a result of segregation helped us recognize that it is wrong, and strive to put it to an end. Children being taken advantage of or abused, those feelings inspired us to implement child labor laws and mandatory reporting. If we reach the point of feeling lost and alone, we know something is wrong and changes need to take place. The feelings are good. It is the action occurring as a result of the feeling that is questionable.

If you are struggling with a sadness that is overwhelming, reach out. There is someone else that feels the same way you do and they need to know they aren’t alone. If you have reached a place of acceptance and peace, please share this with others. Spread reassurance. Tell them what you’ve done to get to where you are. If you are angry, I encourage you to also take action. Participate in the elections and let your voice be heard through your vote. Come to the vigils, attend the group meetings and share your story. Use that anger to make a difference and promote change. However it is that you are feeling, know that those feelings are okay and yes, they’re completely normal. Let those feelings motivate an action that perpetuates hope and healing.

Virginia Askew, MS, Victim’s Assistant
It has been busy in Henry and Houston county with preliminary hearings, bond reduction hearings, and arraignments. This past quarter we have assisted over 70 robbery victims and family members of homicide. There are several murder trials on the docket in the upcoming months. We are hoping they are not continued so there will be justice for these families.

We’ve had two murders in Houston County since November. Please keep the families of Paxton Kennedy and Trevon Lingo. Both families have already had to endure preliminary hearings and it was excruciating for both to have to sit through.

One of the offenders, who watched Christian Markoff be killed, pled guilty to Murder and was sentenced to a 20 year split sentence.

The trial for Chris Findley, accused murderer of Debbie Ayres is set for trial the week of March 21st in Geneva.

A trial was held the week of February 22nd where Lorenzo Greene was accused of shooting his estranged girlfriend in the back. He was charged with Attempted Murder. Despite overwhelming evidence and an outstanding prosecution team, the jury found him guilty of a lesser included charge of Assault 2nd.

Congratulations to Stuart Smith for his newly elected position as District Judge in Dale County. He will be filling the position of Judge Fred Steagall, who is retiring.
Coffee County News

Just a few days before Christmas, the family of Joey Chandler lost their son to a senseless act of violence.

Please be in prayer for this family as they are learning how to cope with not only the death of their child, but the act of how he was taken from them. Also, we want to acknowledge the Coffee County Investigator Knowles and DA Tom Anderson of Coffee County. Both men have been upfront and open with Joey’s family. They have shown respect and honor to Joey’s family. Good job guys!

A sweet young man who had faced the world, with many physical limitations, took on these challenges and became independent rather than others having to take care of him. His only mistake was trusting people too much. Believing there was good in everyone. James Matthew Hill was murdered in Enterprise February 18th at his home. He leaves behind his mother, father, grandparents, and siblings. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they travel this new journey.
As victims and everyday citizens it is important you know what is going on in the legislature. There are bills being passed that can affect your case and for those who are not victims it will make you stop and think how little victims are thought of in the legislative system.

Senate Bill 237, sponsored by Senator Dick Brewbaker, would create an Alabama Innocence Commission where a convicted person sentenced to death could petition for a hearing before the commission.

This would affect approximately 19 families who are victims of these death row inmates. The inmates affected have exhausted all their appeals and will soon have an execution date set unless there is a moratorium. These 19 death row inmates have been on death row from 27 to 38 years. There are 184 total inmates on death row. A moratorium of any length would be detrimental to all family members of the 184 victims that were murdered.

This bill was unanimously passed out of committee and heading to the floor for a vote. Please call not just your Senator but others that are on the committee and tell them this wrong!

House Bill 108, sponsored by Representative Whatley, is another bill to watch closely. This bill would raise the age of youthful offender and would not limit the number of times youthful offender status can be used. Offenders can apply for youthful offender status in murder, robbery, assault, etc.

Senator Harri Anne Smith and Senator Jimmy Holley have always been outstanding supporters of victims’ rights. It is the other Senators and Representatives that concern me. Please make your voice heard to the other legislators and express your concern and outrage of the thought of either of these bills passing.

(334) 242-7800 Senate and (334) 242-7600 House of Representatives
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED