Director’s Note

Eight years ago this month, Wiregrass Angel House opened its’ doors at our current location 105 North Bell Street. Former Attorney General, Troy King was our keynote speaker. I can’t believe it’s been eight years! So much has changed since that time. We lost our long time counselor, Joyce Miller, to cancer; we built and dedicated our memorial garden; we added on to the garden with our pergola and memory pavers to loved ones; we’ve had closets built; we added a new counselor and hired an additional position for a victim’s court assistant; we’ve added additional programs with the court referral education classes as well as providing services to robbery victims and suicide clean ups.

So much has changed since we first opened at Angel House, except the core of our mission- To help family members of homicide victims. This is our primary focus and always will be. We want to be able to provide additional services to continue to provide care for those who have suffered the ultimate tragedy- the murder of their loved ones.

So thank you to each and every one of you in the community that has supported and continues to support our organization through volunteerism, prayers, kind words, as well as financial support.

Shelly Linderman- Director
Counselor’s Corner

Mad at you

You should have been anywhere else. Doing anything else.
But you weren’t and I cannot believe you were so selfish!
Didn’t you think of me at all? What about the plans we made?
Don’t you think you should have warned me? Isn’t there something you could’ve said?

How am I supposed to do this life on my own...without you?
Do you have any idea what’s been going on here...what you’ve put me through?
The sun still comes up. Every. Single. Day. And all these people expect me to just breathe!
I’m supposed to just live. Like anything could ever be normal. Without you here. Without your heartbeat.

I hate this whole world and I want to hate you.
I am so completely broken and I want to blame you.
For leaving me without saying goodbye.
For an eternity of tears and sleepless nights.

But for you, I will survive and I will remain.
Until God calls me home and we’re together again.
I will love you from here and I will get through all of this.
I will remember you and be sure no one else ever forgets.

Identifying emotions associated with the grief from a loved one being murdered can be easily misidentified. Anger is especially difficult as it quite sneaky. It lacks consistency and shows up unannounced, creating frustration and lashing out at innocent bystanders. It disguises itself in other forms and rarely travels alone. Anger keeps the company of and takes credit for bigger, uglier emotions such as: shame and guilt. Its roots are deep and often hidden, buried under layers of denial. To admit anger means recognizing feelings of being violated, feelings of resentment, or even feelings of abandonment towards the loved one for being a victim.

What if you aren’t angry? What if you don’t feel this way at all? Does this mean you are in denial about how you feel? Absolutely not. However, a lack of anger could mean that you aren’t ready to deal with certain issues yet. There’s also the possibility this simply isn’t an issue for you.

Emotions that accompany a traumatic event can be difficult to work through. Doing so is not typically a quick process because a person needs time to identify how they are feeling and why. When a person can express his feelings, not only does this provide him with a better sense of what to do, but also restores a sense of control that may have been missing since the traumatic event. Don’t create issues by looking for problems that aren’t there. Just be honest with yourself and be patient. Everyone grieves and heals differently.

Virginia Askew, M.S
Victim Assistant
Donations

Truist
Henry County Pre-Trial
Houston County Pre-Trial
IBM Employees
United Way of Greater Philadelphia & SNJ
Wiregrass United Way
Dr. Barbara Alford
Wiregrass Foundation
DA Kirke Adams
DA Ben Reeves
Ms. Addie McKinzie
Senator Harri-Anne Smith
Gibbons Automotive

National Night Out
Saturday, July 30th is National Night Out in Houston County and August 2nd in Daleville for all the citizens to come and enjoy the sounds of blue grass music, to check out the latest gadgets from the fire department, to watch the Special Response Team put on an awesome show with their maneuvers, and to check out the inside booths of all the organizations that help each day. This will be the 33rd Annual National Night out campaign to involve citizens, law enforcement agencies, and local agencies to take a stand against drugs and crime. This event will be held at the Dothan Civic Center and Culpepper Park (in Daleville) and is free and open to the public. Angel House will have a booth set up and giveaways for the kids. There will be a variety of activities for children and teenagers. We encourage everyone to come and be a part of this worthwhile event!

Miss Angel Queens 2016

Congratulations to the 2016 Miss Angel Queens. They were crowned June 12th at the Dothan Opera House. A special thank you director, Ashley Thomas, for all of her hard work to make this program a success.

WIRED 2016

For a week in June, several teens and their adult leaders took time to volunteer their time, tlanet, and sweat to make a difference to non-profits across the wiregrass. Angel House was a recipient of that volunteerism and reaped such wonderful benefits! First one group worked on the memorial garden by weeding, removing debris, and throwing pine straw. The second group took two days to remodel our porch. The boards were rotted and needed a lot of work. So thank you to all the teens and their leaders for donating your time and supporting our agency. The porch looks beautiful!
**Homicide Support Group**

May and June have been busy months for the support group. At May’s meeting, the group made baskets for the police departments around the wiregrass area and filled them full of homemade goodies. The group members delivered baskets from Barbour County all the way to Coffee County and most of the city police departments in between. They wanted the officers to know they are appreciated and show their support during National Police Week. June’s meeting was filled with making wind chimes for the garden in memory of various loved ones. If you have not attended, you’re missing out. Many plans are taking place with the group in order to pay it forward to new families affected by homicide. The next meeting is Thursday, July 21st at 5:30 at Angel House. Paul Eubanks will be the master griller and will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for the group. Come on and join in the special time.

**Nationally Recognized for Volunteerism**

Congratulations to Mrs. Barbara Ward and Mr. Tony Luker for being recognized by the Office of the President of the United States for their over 250 hours of volunteer hours at Angel House. They both received silver pendants.
In Remembrance

It was the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Anniversary of the murder of Daniel Dawsey. Daniel was a guy who was known to be a family man who loved his children and his siblings. His sister, Kim, wanted to make a good memory for Daniel’s children as well as his extended family. The trial was over and she knew it was time to try and start the healing process. She decided to have a memorial and plant dedication in Daniel’s honor at Angel House. What a tribute it was! Over 125 family members and other victims’ families attended. Kim spoke the most loving words of tribute to her dear brother. Afterwards, each set of family assisted in ceremonially planting the rose bush in Daniel’s honor, as they listened to the music of “Dancing in the Sky”.

SOFTBALL ANYONE.....

Wiregrass Angel House was honored to be able to buddy with the Cardinal’s team at Miracle Field to play their last softball game. The volunteers and board members had a blast! Even though it rained and we didn’t get to play, our board members and volunteers were able to visit with the team and their families.
Barbour & Bullock County News:

Kelvin Moore was in court this month. He is charged with murdering Alfonzo Gatchett. The hearing was for a plea docket which he did not enter a plea at that time. Another plea docket has been set for July 11, 2016 at 8:30am with Judge Smithart.

Danny Parkers’ accused murderer Au’derrius Washington was in court July 1st. At this hearing the Judge decided the evidence was sufficient to go to grand jury.

Brandon Kennedy was in court twice this month. First, on June 7th a trial began. The judge declared a mistrial due to a juror speaking to a family member. On June 20th Kennedy was back in court facing harassment charges. His trial was reset for July 12th. He has been charged for the murder of Grady Knight.

Janarris Smith, accused murderer of Dexter Rumph was in court on the 20th of June to be arraigned.

Coffee & Pike County News:

In the trial of Jasen Caradine, he was charged with Murder, however, after being tried the jury deliberated for hours and came back with a lesser included charge of Assault 1st (class B felony). The verdict was rendered on May 13th and he will be back in court for sentencing on July 21st.

In the murder of Thurston Yavari Allen, his murder is still being investigated. This family needs justice. The police are asking for assistance from the public.

Dale & Geneva County News:

We would like to remember, in Geneva County, Mr. Teddy Lawrence, who was found in Slocomb under suspicious circumstances. The death is under investigation by the Geneva County Sheriff’s Office.

We would also like the family of Cynthia Craig Knight to be remembered. She was killed by Justin Tyler Walding, as he drove his vehicle, while under the influence, and hit Mrs. Knight. She left behind so many family members that are struggling.
**Houston and Henry County News**

In remembrance….. the family of William Hawkins, who was murdered in Dothan this summer. He leaves behind two teenage sons who miss him terribly.

![Image of Andrea Flagg]

Andrea Flagg made two appearances in court this month. The first proceeding was an arraignment and the second was a status hearing. Flagg is charged in the murder of James Gillard of Dothan, Alabama. He is attempting to enter a plea of not guilty due to mental defect or disease.

The jury trial that was scheduled for Brian Flournoy in the Robbery of Tessie Brackins was continued due to a witness having surgery and could not be present to testify. Trial will be set for a future date.

Kharon Davis was once again in court this month. There have been two continuances due to Davis requesting new counsel each time. He is again scheduled for a status hearing on September 06, 2016 and a jury trial on September 12th. Davis faces capital murder charges for the death of Pete Reaves.

Michael Coker Jr. was in court this month facing Robbery 1st charges. His attorney Matt Lamere asked for a bond reduction in March which was taken under advisement while Coker went to the Haven. At Coker’s appearance this month Judge Moulton, who was sitting in for Judge Lewis, reduced Coker’s bond to 60,000 with a stipulation that he moves in with his mother in Ft. Rucker where he must reside unless otherwise approved by Judge Lewis. This way there is someone at his residence accountable for him.

Herman Cunningham Jr. charged in the murder of Apolinor “Poli” Perez, Jr. Cunningham was in court this month in front of Judge Anderson in Henry County. His attorney asked for a continuance which was taken under advisement, then later granted. He has a motion hearing on July 8th and a jury trial set for October 3rd.

Jarvis Jackson was in court this month and indicted in the murder and kidnapping of Darren Minniefield. He recently received new representation. This was a status hearing in which the attorney asked for a continuance. At that time Judge Anderson reminded the new counsel how long the case had been going on and informed him of a motion hearing on July 8th and also scheduled a jury trial to begin October 03, 2016.

The trial for Ryan Petersen, who murdered Cameron Eubanks, Tiffany Grissett, and Rocky Robins, in 2012 was postponed from its June trial date, due to concerns with the status of the death penalty and if the high courts would affirm the sentencing procedure used in Alabama were constitutional. The day after the favorable court ruling from the high court, Judge Brad Mendheim set a trial date for December. We applaud Judge Mendheim for his insight for holding this case and setting the date as soon as the ruling was publicized. He truly cares about the victims’ families and justice for both sides. The families are glad the next step to justice will be rendered soon.
Wiregrass Angel House
P.O. Box 7133
Dothan, AL  36302

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Governor Robert Bentley
State Capitol
Montgomery, AL  35130
Taylor Vice, Director
Constituent Services
(334).242.7100
1.800.591.4217

Victim Contacts

Attorney General’s Office
of Victim Assistance
501 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL  36130
(334).242.7300
1.800.626.7676
www.ago.state.al.us

Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 301501
301 South Ripley St.
Montgomery, AL  36310
(334).353.3871
www.doc.state.al.us
State inmate parole info.
1.888.726.9799, Option 4

Alabama Crime Victims Compensation
Commission
Dr. Cassie Jones, Director
P.O. Box 231267
Montgomery, AL  36123
1.800.541.9388
www.acycc.state.al.us

State of Alabama Board
of Pardons and Paroles
P.O. Box 302405
Montgomery, AL  36130
VSO Debra Bonds
(334).242.8050
Fax (334).353.7701
www.paroles.state.al.us