

Fort Oglethorpe Kiwanis Newsletter

October 28 2016 5-4

The Fort Oglethorpe Kiwanis met at Park Place on November 4, 2016 with Kim presiding with 11 members and 1 guest present.

November of Giving: Don't forget to bring in items for the Ronald McDonald House donation drive. Members who bring in donations will get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a gift card at the end of the month. Thanks to everyone that has already donated!

Salvation Army = Alice is working to get available times from them for us to sign up to ring bells. The club voted to contribute \$100 to the Salvation Army in memory of Leonard Fant.

Christmas at the Post and Parade = December 10th. We will gather on the day of the parade and put a float together.

Our speaker for the week was Kristy Lawson, the director of the Family Crisis Center.

1. What is it?

a. The crisis center is a non-profit organization created in 1995 to serve Walker, Catoosa, Dade, and Chattooga counties. It is one of 46 state-funded shelters in Georgia, receiving state and federal grants. The center received a Mary Kay Foundation grant this year to help fund programs. It provides services primarily for victims and families of domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence will leave their abuser an average of 7 times before it becomes permanent.

2. What does it do?

a. The center provides housing, food, clothing, personal care items, and any other items needed for the victims and their families as they begin to heal and start a new life. The center has 18 beds and can house up to 24 people, including children and babies. There is a waiting list to get in, but the center does not turn anyone away. The staff will find hotels for the families if necessary. The average stay of a family in the center is 90 days, but some stay longer if they need to. The center provides assistance to approximately 600 people in any given year.

b. In addition to covering basic needs, the center provides counseling for the victims and their families. There are also advocates for children's services and legal services available to assist the families. These advocates help with tasks including but not limited to: completing and submitting paperwork to get birth or marriage certificates and file for temporary protective orders.

c. The center is a member of 3 different taskforces: the Fatality Review taskforce, the Elder Abuse taskforce, and the Teen Dating taskforce.

i. Fatality Review: this taskforce investigates cases of domestic violence that end in death. Their focus is on what was done right, what could have been done better, and what was done in error or oversight. This allows law enforcement and resource groups to receive targeted training to enhance response protocol.

- ii. Elder Abuse: this taskforce trains CNAs, social workers, caregivers, and members of law enforcement to recognize the signs of elder abuse. This includes education on abuse ranging from physical to financial.
 - iii. Teen Dating: this taskforce functions in partnership with a shelter in Athens, GA to educate teens about the dangers of abusive relationships and how to get help. 1 in 3 teenagers is in some form of an abusive relationship. The taskforce runs a text line for teens so that they have an anonymous support person to reach out to when they are scared, confused or in danger. Trained professionals will respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - d. At Christmas time, the center helps every family they've served that year.
3. How can we help?
- a. The center has a thrift store in Lafayette and another in Summerville. The money raised by the stores fund the center. These thrift stores fund the crisis center but they also support the entire community. For example, they provide clothes to men and women that were just released from prison or to families whose house burned.
 - i. Shop there. Donate items. Volunteer your time.
 - b. The center accepts donations. All basic care items are needed including food, cleaning supplies, school supplies, personal care items, and clothing.
 - c. Money. Money keeps the center functioning. In the future, they would like to expand by adding additional beds and also by providing transitional housing to families who aren't quite ready to go out on their own but who don't need the intensive services the center provides.

Thank you to Nicole for volunteering to help me with newsletter by reporting when I am out. This week was reported by her. This Friday I need someone else to take notes and send to me as neither Nicole or i will be at the meeting. I plan to be there the next week.

Upcoming Events

December 10 Christmas at Post and parade

If you have items for the weekly newsletter send them to Dwight at dwright@dwrightwatt.com

If your email address is changing send Dwight your new address so you will keep getting the newsletter.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.

