

THE ALLY

IMPACT STORY - Crystal Slaughter - Counseling Manager

NAMES OF CLIENTS AND COUNSELORS ARE WITHHELD FOR CONFIDENTIALITY PURPOSES.

“Betty” called Hope Alliance when she was living in a violent situation. “Betty” was being physically and emotionally abused and felt that there was no way out. She felt hopeless and scared.

“Betty” was apprehensive about developing an exit strategy because she was sharing a lease with her former partner. The lease still had several months left and she was worried about breaking the lease and adversely affecting her credit. She had very limited support and did not have any money in savings.

“Betty” called the hotline at Hope Alliance. The hotline advocate treated “Betty” with respect and compassion as they educated her on the services provided by Hope Alliance. “Betty” was advised of the legal advocacy program, which would assist her in exiting her lease without a financial penalty. Ultimately, “Betty” was able to exit her lease through the Violence Against Women Act with the assistance of Hope Alliance. This was a huge relief to “Betty” as she could now begin to rebuild her life free from her abuser.

During this extremely painful and frightening transition, “Betty’s” abuser disposed of her car keys, installed cameras in the house, and disabled her iPhone. Throughout this time, Hope Alliance provided “Betty” with 12 weeks of counseling, which was critical to her well-being as she processed her trauma.

Throughout her time working with Hope Alliance, “Betty” began to feel less isolated and more hopeful. Hope Alliance assisted her in managing her contact with her abuser, who continued to call her from blocked numbers. Hope Alliance assisted “Betty” in reestablishing contact with her family and friends, from whom she had isolated herself in the abusive relationship.

Betty is slowly, but steadily rebuilding what was lost. And, most importantly, she finally feels safe.



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IMPACT DATA

Hope Alliance collects every piece of data we can. We believe in reporting on all our Direct Services in a straightforward, transparent way. By doing so, we attempt to let our donors know what we accomplish with their financial support. Hope Alliance provided the following services for the year **2023**:

Total number of clients served = 1,410

Total number of service sessions provided = 31,216

Total Sheltered Nights of Safety provided = 8,890

Total number of sheltered clients served = 280

Total number of Hotline calls answered = 4,068

Total web-based Crisis Chats answered = 522

Total sexual assault accompaniments = 66

We keep track of more data than shown above, but the point is that donors ought to know that Hope Alliance is dedicated to helping clients break the cycles of abuse in which they live. At the same time, Hope Alliance is equally dedicated to spending a donor's contribution as effectively and efficiently as possible.



“(I) enjoy the sessions with my counselor. They played a crucial role in helping me recover from decades of trauma during my divorce process from a narcissist. My mental wellbeing has improved significantly since having the opportunity for therapy sessions and supportive relationships with other clients to network with for support.

MORE IMPACT DATA

In addition to keeping data on the number and types of services provided free of charge to our clients, it is important for us to know if the services provided are having the desired positive impact on the lives of our clients. To assess our impact on clients, we ask them to anonymously respond to a survey when they choose to exit our care.

Clients exiting our care in February 2024 told us the following:

- **85% FEEL SAFER,**
- **90% FEEL LESS ALONE,**
- **93% FEEL MORE HOPEFUL,**
- **83% LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY VIOLENCE / SEXUAL ASSAULT DYNAMIC, AND**
- **100% WAS THE OVERALL SATISFACTION RATING.**



When our clients tell us we helped them save their lives, the survey results above support their claim.

ALLY OF HOPE SPOTLIGHT



OUR JOURNEY

“Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing grows without a seed, and nothing ever changes without a dream.”

This quote by Debby Boone inspired a group of 13 women to join together and form a women’s giving circle in the spring of 2009. They wanted to impact their community immediately and in the future by identifying what needs in Georgetown were not being met and providing a philanthropic path to address those needs.

The name they selected represents the idea of many small seeds being planted to grow into something strong that benefits its surroundings. Seeds of Strength was born.

The Giving Circle provides the opportunity for individuals to combine their dollars in a shared fund, and through a voting process, they collectively decide which local non-profits receive funding and support. Alongside grant funding, the group educates members on community needs and provides education opportunities. Seeds of Strength members meet quarterly through events such as luncheons and socials. Members contribute to the grant fund and participate on various committees.

Through partnerships and initiatives like Seeds of Strength, Hope Alliance continues to make a meaningful impact in our community by providing "HOPE" to our clients through the delivery of individualized, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, hope-centered direct services free of charge to our clients.



Hope Alliance expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Seeds of Strength for all your support and guidance throughout the years, and we look forward to a long, continuing relationship.

HOPE ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



"I'm a massage therapist that is going on twenty years of doing what I love. In my free time I enjoy time in nature, hiking, yoga, travel and reading while one of my cats snuggle up with me. My family is very important to me along with my journey on personal growth and wellbeing.

I choose to volunteer with Hope Alliance because I have seen many women finding themselves in difficult situations and feel no one that can or wants to help them. I have seen my own sister survive abusive relationships. She had family and community to help her out and she was able to move forward raising her four children and become a nurse. I have even found myself in scary situations but I had family that helped me out. I have the time to help other's with their journey and I'm happy to give a helping hand. We are all part of this world and we all need to help each other out at times."

- Nicole Smith

Nicole recently finished her advocacy training and is so excited to start hands-on volunteering. She's training to cover front desk and wants to help on the weekends covering Hotlines. We're getting ready to start her Hotline training! She's been a cheerful addition to our volunteer rotations and always has a great positive, go get 'em attitude and I can't wait to work more with her.

-Sandra Zamora Guerrero, Resource Development & Volunteer Coordinator

Do you have a little extra time on your hands?
Hope Alliance can always use your help. If you are Interested in becoming a volunteer, then click [Here](#) to go to the volunteer page on our website. Check out how to get involved and what different opportunities we have.



HOPE ALLIANCE FUNDRAISING EVENT NEWS

Our **2024 Amplify Wilco Day** was held on March 6-7, 6pm-6pm. Hope Alliance partnered with Smokey Mo's to kick-off Amplify Wilco Day on March 6th from 5:30pm-8:00pm at 17280 N FM 620 in Round Rock. 15% of orders were donated to Hope Alliance by Smokey Mo's. We were able to raise over **\$23,000 for Amplify WilCo** this year, thank you all who supported us!

I Live Here
I Give Here®

Amplify Wilco Day



THE 6TH ANNUAL
ALLIES OF HOPE
DINNER, AWARDS, & CASINO NIGHT!
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 6:00 - 10:00 PM
HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SERVICE TO SURVIVORS

HOPE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN DELIVERING "HOPE" TO THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS. THIS YEAR AT ALLIES OF HOPE LET'S BRING BACK THE 80'S! DRESS TO EXPRESS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF THE 1980'S

Our **6th Annual Allies of Hope Dinner, Awards & Casino Night** is on May 18, 2024, at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center. We will be honoring law enforcement in service to survivors. Recognize Hope Alliance's 40th Anniversary! This year's theme will be 1984. Dress to express your favorite memory of 80's fashion. We want you to join us for fun, food, fellowship and inspiration! Click [here](#) to become a sponsor or to purchase tickets to the dinner.



18TH ANNUAL WOMEN
FORE
HOPE
GOLF TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 12, 2024 AT
CIMARRON HILLS GOLF &
COUNTRY CLUB

The **18th Annual WoMen Fore Hope Golf Tournament** is scheduled at Cimarron Hills Golf and Country Club for August 12, 2024. Tee Time is 9:00 AM. Click [HERE](#) to register a team or to become a sponsor for this iconic event!

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Our silent auction will begin at 8:00 AM and don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets to win \$2,500 in gift cards to the winner!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SAAM DAY OF ACTION ON 04/02/224 WHERE EVERYONE WEARS TEAL!



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It is a time to honor the voices and experiences of victims and survivors. #SAAM2024 www.nsvrc.org/saam

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)
Key Dates: April 2024

SAAM Day of Action—*Everyone Wear Teal!*: **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

SAAM Day of Giving: **Thursday, April 18, 2024**

Denim Day: **Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

National Public Health Week: **April 1-7, 2024**

National Crime Victims' Rights Week: **April 21-27, 2024**



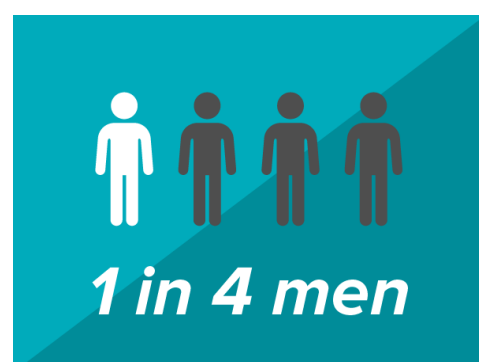
Sexual violence impacts survivors, their loved ones, our communities, and society as a whole. We recognize how we speak about sexual violence shapes our world and that our voices have power. As such, it is up to all of us to prevent this type of violence before it occurs.

#SAAM2024 #ConnectedCommunities www.nsvrc.org/saam



One in five women in the United States experience completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.

About one in four male victims of completed or attempted rape first experienced it between the ages of 11 and 17.



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



The Denim Day story began in Italy in 1992, when an 18-year old girl was raped by the 45-year old driving instructor who was taking her to her very first driving lesson. He took her to an isolated road, pulled her out of the car, removed her jeans and forcefully raped her.

She reported the rape and the perpetrator was arrested and prosecuted. He was convicted of rape and sentenced to jail. Years later, he appealed the conviction claiming that they had consensual sex.

The Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction and the perpetrator was released. A statement from the Court argued that because the victim was wearing very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was not rape but consensual sex. This became known throughout Italy as the “jeans alibi.”

Enraged by the verdict, the women in the Italian Parliament launched a protest by wearing jeans on the steps of the Supreme Court. This protest was picked up by international media which inspired the California Senate and Assembly to protest on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento.



Patti Occhiuzzo Giggans, Executive Director of Peace Over Violence, saw this in the media and thought everyone should be wearing jeans to protest all of the myths about why women and girls are raped. Denim Day in LA was born. The first Denim Day in LA event was held in April of 1999, and has continued annually since. (<https://denimday.org/why-denim>)



HOPE SPEAKS - STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Name: Tara Atkins

Job Title: Client Services Coordinator (PM)

Length of time employed at Hope Alliance: 5 months.

Hometown: Fremont, CA

Fun Fact About Me: I'm an adrenaline enthusiast who has bungee jumped, swam with sharks and skydived several times!

During time away from work I enjoy: Spending time with friends and family, fostering animals, and traveling.

The most rewarding thing about working at Hope Alliance: Seeing our clients make the difficult choice to get themselves and their children to safety through our resources makes me emotional every time. Their bravery and perseverance is inspiring.

Fast Favorites

Food: Mexican!

Activity: Paddleboarding or bike riding

Color: Purple

Movie/TV Show: The original Jurassic Park. Breaking Bad is my all-time favorite show!

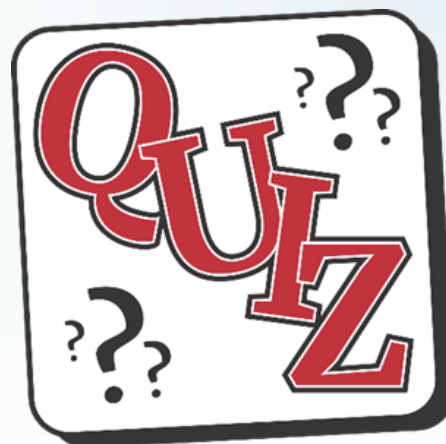
Supervisor comments about Tara:

Tara has been an amazing addition to our Client Services team. She is friendly and welcoming to our clients and she works hard at ensuring smooth operations at the front desk. Tara's work has shown me that she truly believes in our mission and that she cares about our clients and her coworkers.



FROM THE CEO - Richard M. Brown, Ed.D.

As mentioned in previous articles, Hope Alliance would love to receive a gift from your estate. To make such a gift, you need to have an estate plan. Everyone needs an estate plan. If you own something that you want to be cared for in a certain manner after your passing, then you need to have a written plan to make that happen. How much do you already know about estate planning? Take the Quiz below; send an email asking for the answers to: rick.brown@hopealliancetx.org.



Estate Planning Preparedness Quiz

1. **True or False:** No more than 30% of the people in this country have created a Will of their own.
2. **True or False:** Everyone, regardless of net worth, should have an estate plan.
3. **True or False:** An estate plan involving only the Last Will and Testament guarantees probate.
4. **True or False:** Property owned in "Joint Tenancy with Rights of Survivorship" guarantees probate.
5. **True or False:** An estate plan involving a funded Revocable Living Trust avoids probate.
6. **True or False:** If I pass away with assets totaling less than the Exclusion Amount, then my estate will not have to pay federal estate taxes.
7. **True or False:** Proceeds from life insurance policies, may go through a probate process at the survivor's death.
8. **True or False:** My spouse and I own everything as "Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship." By owning our assets in that manner, we have maximized the risk of our estates paying estate tax.
9. **True or False:** My spouse and I own everything as "Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship." By owning our assets in that manner, we have maximized the risk of the survivor paying income tax.
10. **True or False:** I have made my son a co-owner of my home with my spouse and me. Therefore, if either my son or I become incapacitated, my spouse will be able to sell the home, but only with legal assistance.

**DON'T LEAVE THE PROPER DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR ESTATE TO CHANCE.
CREATE AN ESTATE PLAN.**

