



# Family Justice Center Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2016

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## 2015-16 Volunteer of the Year Named



**2015-16  
Volunteer of the  
Year**  
Mary Anne Rippey

**2014-15  
Volunteer of the  
Year**  
Sandra Powell

Some of the staff assigned to One Place with Volunteer of the Year

Left to Right: Rachel Gomez, Safeplace; Matt Horton, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Dept; Krista Woods, Safeplace; Mary Anne Rippey; Elizabeth Moore, One Place; James Distefano, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Dept

On Site Partners

Cramer's Children Center

Florence Police Dept.

Lauderdale Co DA's Office

Laud. Co. Sheriff's Office

Legal Services of Alabama

Safeplace

Shoals Crisis Center

University of North Alabama

200 W. Tennessee Street

Florence, AL 35630

256-284-7600

The Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Annual Meeting was held on November 4th. One Place volunteers, staff, and community partners were treated to a traditional Thanksgiving feast at First United Methodist Church in Florence.

Vice President of the Board, Joe Rhodes, reported that 2,164 intakes were conducted with clients during fiscal year 2015-16. The clients served ranged from age 10 months to 78 years old.

The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award to Mary Anne Rippey. Mary Anne has volunteered with One Place of the Shoals since the early planning days of the Family Justice Center. During fiscal year 2015-16 she served as the volunteer coordinator and was responsible for volunteer recruitment, training and scheduling. She continues to work regularly at the all volunteer front desk.

Front desk volunteers are the first people any client sees upon entering One

Place, and the volunteer is the first person a client speaks with on the phone. Mary Anne led a team of forty-two front office volunteers who donated over 2,631 hours of service to One Place of the Shoals. Please visit our website at [oneplaceoftheshoals.org](http://oneplaceoftheshoals.org) to learn more about how to volunteer. All volunteers must complete a volunteer application, successfully complete a background check, sign a confidentiality agreement, attend orientation and be at least 18 years old.

## Speak Our Against Abuse and See that No One is Alone

Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission provides the only substantial financial compensation to victims for expenses for personal injuries including medical, funeral, counseling bills, lost wages, and future economic loss. Mary Anne Rippey, Elizabeth Moore, and DeAnna Tidwell attended a seminar on October 28 in Montgomery and are trained to assist victims in filing a claim.

### Office Volunteers

Tracy Ashley  
Peggy Bergeron  
Marla Berryhill  
Savanna Burns  
Linda Cameron  
Makayla Dawson  
Barbara Harrison  
Carley Harrison  
Lida Grayce Lewis  
LaReis Liles  
Sheila Martin  
Joan McFall  
Sandra Powell  
Winter Prado  
Keturah Pruitt  
Mary Anne Rippey  
Myra Toner  
Tommy Wilson

### One Place of the Shoals Staff

Elizabeth Moore  
Executive Director  
  
Michelle Castaneda  
Victim Services Specialist

[oneplaceoftheshoals.org](http://oneplaceoftheshoals.org)



Left to Right:  
Winter Prado, UNA student volunteer  
Michelle Castaneda, Victim Service Specialist  
Makayla Dawson, UNA student intern

One Place of the Shoals participated in the Take Back the Night observance at the University of North Alabama on October 27. The Take Back the Night event is hosted by the Center for Women's Studies to bring awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault.

Victim Service Specialist and UNA student, Michelle Castaneda led a team of UNA

Volunteers from One Place in providing information about One Place Services to the students participating in the event.

Participants at the event were asked to pledge the following:  
"We assert that all human beings have the right to be free from violence, the right to be heard, and the right to reclaim those rights if they are violated."

Please remember  
One Place of the Shoals  
In your  
Year End Giving

## One Place Helps in the Fight Against Hunger

While One Place of the Shoals is not a United Way agency, the Family Justice Center volunteered with the United Way Unite to Fight Hunger event on September 13. One Place formed a team of eleven people and helped pack meals for the hungry at the annual United Way campaign kickoff event. Over 22,000 meals were packed at the event. Meals were distributed to area food banks to help local residents meet the food needs of their families.

The event provided an opportunity for One Place to give back to the local community in a meaningful way. One Place works in partnership with area organizations to help meet the

needs of clients as they begin their recovery from domestic violence and sexual assault. The team from One Place had a great time packing

meals for the hungry and plan to participate in the event again next year. Mark your calendar and make plans to join our team in 2017.



One Place staff and volunteers working the event included: Jeff Wright, Will Powell, Tommy Wilson, Michelle Castaneda, Jordan Prado, Sandra Powell, Barbara Harrison, Myra Toner, Winter Prado, Elizabeth Moore, and Joan McFall.