



# Family Justice Center Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2017

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200 W. Tennessee Street  
 Florence, AL 35630  
 256-284-7600

## Grand Ole Opry Impersonation Show A Success



**Center: Chris Connolly & Mike Adams, Right: Wayne Chaney, Alyssa Ashley, Chris Connolly, and Dennis Odem**

The Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum was packed on Saturday, January 21 for a Grand Ole Opry Impersonation Show. The show was a tribute to the Grand Ole Opry and Doo Wop greats.

Florence Mayor Steve Holt welcomed the crowd and the show opened with Alyssa Ashley singing a song she wrote about One Place.

The event raised \$10,000 for One Place of the Shoals. All the entertainers donated their time and talents to help make the event so successful.

"I feel our first Grand Ole Opry Impersonation Show was beneficial to the very worthy

and deserving organization...One Place of the Shoals. I am truly honored to have been involved. The real 'thanks' goes to the numerous entertainers, volunteers, sponsors and many others who helped it come together and be a success. We look forward to next year," said event chairperson Carolyn Odem.

Thanks to our Entertainers:

Alyssa Ashley, The Cadillacs, David Phillips, Mike Adams, Stacey Hayes, Emily Annerton, Debbie Hester, Cari Buchanan, Joel Slaton, Wayne Chaney, Dennis Odem, Lee Ann Womack, Reggie Furtick, Audry Annerton and JD Sumner.

Thanks to our sponsors:

- Counts Brothers Music
- Courier Journal
- Fisher-Smith Animal Hospital
- John & Barbara Harrison
- Laura's Studio
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- John S. Odem, Attorney

## One Place Staff and Volunteers Celebrate the Holidays



ONE PLACE WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE TENNESSEE TITANS AT THEIR SEASON-ENDING GAME WITH THE HOUSTON TEXANS ON JANUARY 1 AT NISSAN STADIUM.

### Office Volunteers

Marla Berryhill  
Savanna Burns  
Linda Cameron  
Makayla Dawson  
Jose Figueroa-Cifuentes  
Barbara Harrison  
Carley Harrison  
Sandra Lair  
Sheila Martin  
Joan McFall  
Sandra Powell  
Winter Prado  
Keturah Pruitt  
Mary Anne Rippey  
Myra Toner  
Geraline Willis  
Tommy Wilson

### One Place of the Shoals Staff

Elizabeth Moore  
Executive Director

Michelle Castaneda  
Victim Services Specialist

oneplaceoftheshoals.org



Below, Back Row, Left to Right: Jeff Wright, Geraline Willis, Marla Berryhill, Tyler Brannon, Steven Stracener, Elizabeth Moore, Kristi Coburn, Barbara Harrison, Sandra Powell. Front Row: Winter Prado, Michelle Castaneda



One Place staff and volunteers gathered at One Place for a holiday celebration including a potluck lunch, an ugly sweater contest, and a dirty Santa gift exchange. Lauderdale County District Attorney Office Investigator, Jeff Wright won the prize for the ugliest sweater and Mary Anne Rippey walked away with the most popular present of the day.

“We spend our days working on very serious matters. It

is good for the team to get to relax occasionally,” said Elizabeth Moore, Executive Director of One Place.

Visit our website or follow us on Facebook to learn more about joining our great team of volunteers.

Teams members not pictured at the celebration:

Tommy Wilson, Carley Harrison, Mary Anne Rippey, James Distefano, and Krista Woods.

## Pettus to push for Hollie’s Law

After failing to get Hollie’s Law out of committee last year, Rep. Phillip Pettus is ready to try and push it forward during this legislative session.

The bill would create a law that would enhance penalties for domestic violence cases where children are present.

Hollie’s Law is named after Hollie Newbury, who was shot and killed by her ex-husband, Christopher Rich, in December 2009 while her two young children were in the car.

If approved, the law would double the penalty for convictions of first-, second- and third-degree domestic violence if a child younger than age 18 witnesses the act.

The bill also includes a capital offense of murder if the death is witnessed by a child younger than 18, and the victim is a parent or legal guard-

ian of the child.

Officials with One Place of the Shoals, the area’s family justice center, worked last year with students from the University of North Alabama and Pettus to develop the bill.

Hamilton, a member of the One Place of the Shoals Board of Directors and an adjunct professor at UNA, said the law addresses a key issue in domestic violence situations.

She said in 2016, UNA students did research on domestic violence and found that nationwide, there were an average of 15 million domestic violence cases each year where children younger than 18 were present.

“Of those, 3,500 to 4,000 involved a fatality that the children witnessed,” Hamilton said.

Pettus said he is committed to doing all he can to see the bill become law.

“It’s an issue that needs to be addressed,” he said. “I couldn’t get it out of committee last year, but I’m hopeful I can this time.”

From the [Times Daily](#) on February 12, 2017  
By Tom Smith



Angie Hamilton  
Chief Assistant District Attorney