

**1 in 6 women
in Florida have been raped.***



Help Us to Assure Them:
You're Safe Here



*The Women's Center
of Jacksonville
conducts more than
300 sexual assault
forensic exams
each year
to ensure evidence
is gathered
in the
pursuit of justice.*

The Women's Center of Jacksonville, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was founded in 1995 to provide for the unmet needs of women in our community. Co-founder Shirley Webb served as the Women's Center's Executive Director until 2015 when she retired. Succeeding Shirley is Teresa Miles, a 30-year veteran in the field of human services and a long-time advocate for sexual assault survivors. The Women's Center offers mental health counseling, adult literacy tutoring, GED training, breast cancer support and education as well as advocacy and support for victims of sexual assault. Through direct service and outreach, more than 7,200 individuals, along with their families, are served annually.

The Women's Center of Jacksonville is the only Certified Rape Crisis Center for Duval, Nassau, and Baker Counties and serves victims of sexual assault regardless of their gender. As such, the Women's Center offers a 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline to provide support, advocacy, and counseling to victims of sexual assault and their families. The Rape Recovery Team has victim Advocates on call 24/7 and victims can receive support whether or not they report their assault to law enforcement.

Beginning in 2014, the Women's Center of Jacksonville assumed responsibility for conducting the sexual assault forensic exams for the tri-county area. These exams involve evidence gathering and are conducted by specially trained and certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. Overseen by our Medical Director, Dr. Wade Barnes, the sexual assault forensic exam (S.A.F.E.) Program conducts more than 300 exams each year.

Survivors may call the Women's Center of Jacksonville's 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline, visit the center's main office at 5644 Colcord Ave. or go directly to the organization's S.A.F.E. building at 403 W. 10th Street. Many survivors also elect to speak to religious leaders, medical personnel or contact law enforcement after suffering a sexual assault. Survivors may choose different ways to report their attacks, as sexual assault is a very personal, emotional and confusing crime.

*The Women's
Center of Jacksonville
offers advocacy, 24-hour
Rape Crisis Hotline Services
and forensic medical exams.*

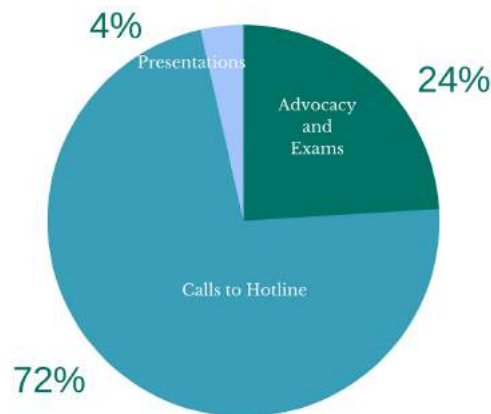


Whether or not a sexual assault survivor elects to report the crime to law enforcement, the Women's Center of Jacksonville offers advocacy and a forensic medical exam after an assault. Exams are conducted by a licensed Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner who documents all injuries and collects and stores all forensic evidence.

Evidence is stored with the Women's Center of Jacksonville until law enforcement collection. When a survivor chooses to report to law enforcement, evidence is given to the appropriate law enforcement agency for processing. If the survivor elects not to report, the evidence is stored by law enforcement for at least two years.

The Women's Center of Jacksonville has experienced a significant increase in the number of sexual assault survivors seeking help and the current S.A.F.E. building is inadequate to meet the current need.

Rape Recovery Team
2015 - 2016 Activity



4,080 Served



*41.8% of women in Florida have been victimized by sexual violence other than rape.**

The Women's Center of Jacksonville's Rape Recovery Team services include:

*8% of rapes or sexual assaults involve a male victim***

- 24-hour, 7-day a week on-call support
- Advocates to inform survivors of their rights and options
- Crisis intervention and emotional support for survivors and their loved ones
- Information, referrals, outreach and long-term support
- Peer-led, empowerment based support groups
- Assistance navigating the justice system for survivors who have chosen to report to law enforcement
- Advocacy services in a variety of languages for survivors of different backgrounds.

The Women's Center of Jacksonville's Rape Recovery Team of trained personnel includes a licensed medical doctor serving as the medical director, licensed sexual assault forensic examiners and certified sexual assault victim advocates who provide comfort to survivors while assessing their current needs and explaining their options.

The Women's Center of Jacksonville also provides rape survivors and their loved ones with trauma-informed, mental health counseling.

To educate our community about rape and the effects of sexual assault, the Women's Center of Jacksonville provides sexual violence prevention programming, educational presentations on sexual assault and relationship violence prevention to college and university students. The Women's Center also offers training for professional staff from colleges and universities, medical facilities, social service agencies, judges, attorneys and law enforcement personnel.



The Women's Center of Jacksonville has been widely recognized for innovative programs and outstanding delivery of services. In 2015, the Women's Center of Jacksonville was named the Best Small Agency of the Year by Mental Health America. That same year, the director of the Rape Recovery Team received the State Victims Advocate Award. The Non-Profit Center of Northeast Florida also awarded the Women's Center of Jacksonville the Local Focus: Lasting Impact award for Innovative Programming for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (S.A.F.E.) Program. Shirley Webb, founding executive director of the Women's Center of Jacksonville was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Woman Business Owners organization in the same year.

The Women's Center of Jacksonville has been instrumental in my recovery. Through their counseling services and community for survivors of sexual violence, I have learned to empower myself and embrace the changes in my life, good and bad; knowing that no matter what I go through, the caring and competent staff at the Women's Center will be on my side and in my heart. I am forever grateful to the Women's Center of Jacksonville for their support, love, acceptance, and guidance."

*-Caroline Yazdiya,
Women's Center of Jacksonville Client*



In keeping with our tradition of offering the highest quality programs to those we serve, the Women's Center of Jacksonville is committed to ensuring that victims of sexual assault are treated with respect, dignity, and compassion and that sexual assault forensic exams and evidence collection and storage are conducted using recognized best practices. In order to continue this commitment, the Women's Center of Jacksonville has purchased a building that will serve as a model S.A.F.E. building for other Florida counties, as well as nationwide.

"The Women's Center of Jacksonville plays a crucial role in the treatment and recovery of crime victims. Their dedication and commitment to professional treatment and compassionate care also helps bridge the gap of trust between victims and police. We are grateful for this agency and our valued relationship."

-Sheriff Mike Williams, Jacksonville Sheriff

"I will be forever thankful to the Women's Center of Jacksonville for their assistance in my recovery. They more than succeed in their mission to rehabilitate and encourage victims of violent crime, helping them become strong and confident survivors."

-Rape Recovery Team Client



The current S.A.F.E. building does not have immediate access for people with disabilities and does not allow for multiple survivors to receive services simultaneously. Additionally, the existing S.A.F.E. building does not allow for survivors to enter the building separately, to provide privacy.

Once renovated, the new S.A.F.E. building will include two full accessibility waiting areas, two exam rooms, two interview rooms, four restrooms (two with showers), permanent and temporary evidence storage rooms, front and rear access to the building for privacy and confidentiality, counseling rooms, and several rooms for use by staff and law enforcement personnel. In addition, a large conference room will serve for meetings and trainings. The S.A.F.E. building will offer a place where sexual assault victims and their families can find support and compassion and be assured that "You're Safe Here". With this additional space, our community will provide forensic exams, free counseling and advocacy for all who walk through the doors.

5300 Emerson St. Conceptual Floor Plan





Proposed Location of New SAFE Building

The Women's Center of Jacksonville is raising \$3 million for the purchase, renovation and operations of the S.A.F.E. building, located at 5300 Emerson Street. The organization is offering a variety of opportunities to participate in this community initiative to create a safe place for sexual assault survivors.

This state of the art facility will allow victims to begin their journey of healing the moment they walk in the door. Your support will help victims become survivors. After all, rape is not one survivor's problem, it is a community problem, and in Jacksonville, we are committed to alleviating the pain, shame and suffering that rape brings to so many members of our community.



*Will you
help us to assure
sexual assault
survivors,
"You're Safe Here"?*



You're Safe Here

with the
**WOMEN'S
CENTER**
—of JACKSONVILLE—

www.youresafehere.org

904.722.3000

24-Rape Hotline: 904.721.7273