

Hello Everyone,

Today, November 13, 2012, **Your President** introduced the guest speaker from the Haven, **Lauren Sandbach** who is the head volunteer coordinator and has a role in Public Relations. The Haven is a national and local charity that deals with domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

The Haven

“In December of 1985, two women representing Levi-Strauss Foundation approached the senior advocate at the Victim-Witness Assistance Program in the District Attorney’s office and offered to help fund a program which was to include a temporary emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence.”- valdostahaven.org/about-us/

The speaker informed us today that one of the founding women had recently suffered the loss of a friend, who was murdered by her abuser. She quizzed us on if we had heard of the Haven before and on what services we thought that it offered. Though we were aware of its presence, we still had plenty to learn.

1. **The Haven acts as an emergency shelter to domestic violence victims**
 - a. Domestic violence victims include both the immediate victim and more than likely her young children who are affected by the home situation
 - b. Domestic violence victims can be male, and the Haven will embrace them equally.
 - c. The location of the shelter is confidential and will be moving by the end of the month.
 - d. The length of shelter stay tends to be 6 weeks maximum with a few clients that must stay a little longer.
2. **The Haven acts as a rape crisis center for the sexually assaulted**
 - a. The Haven helps nine counties of Rape victims in Georgia.
 - b. They accept the call and make contact with nurses and law enforcement to organize proper forensics.
 - c. The Haven has been certified to conduct rape prevention lectures in educational settings and is working on getting certification to teach self-defense.
 - d. Another rape crisis center will be made in April
3. **The Haven works with Outreach to transition clients to their improved everyday life**
 - a. Outreach program provide “prevention, intervention and follow-up services” which may reduce the risk of serious injury to the victim or children involved.
 - b. Outreach provides ongoing support and assistance to keep the client living “a violence free lifestyle”
4. **The Haven provides legal advocacy to clients to handle their situation.**
 - a. The Haven gets women in touch with legal advocate. Children’s advocates are also available to help minors.
 - b. The Haven gives clients a case manager to come up with a plan as to their life, apart from their abuser and outside the haven. This worker also helps get the victim in touch with their former goals or dreams.
 - c. The legal steps necessary often involve retrieving identification and birth certificates. Items that may have been left behind during the escape.
5. **The Haven raises awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault within the area**

“Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated or dating. The violence takes many forms and can happen all the time or once in a while. . . Abuse is *never* a one time event.” (Domestic Violence)

The Speaker passed out informational fliers on the statistics of sexual assault, domestic violence, how Georgia compares on a national level and how to get help.

~We were informed that **we are leading as sixth in the nation to have abuse victims murdered by abusers.**

~We were also informed that **90% of the victims received in the last month at the local Haven were VSU students.**

~**Over half the women involved in domestic violence have children under 12 years old.**

<http://children.georgia.gov/domestic-violence-websites-0>

6. The Haven educates the public on awareness, resources, and basic emergency action

a. Domestic violence is not limited to physical and/or sexual violence.

“Domestic violence means behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other. . . Violence can be criminal and includes physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.), sexual abuse (unwanted or forced sexual activity), and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuse are not criminal behaviors, they are forms of abuse and can lead to criminal violence. . .” <http://www.domesticviolence.org/>

Please take a look at the Violence Wheel to get a full grasp on Domestic Violence.

<http://valdostahaven.org/our-services/outreach-program/>

The tactics to coerce a partner can include

- **Using Intimidation** - - - threatening nonverbal behaviors, destructive behaviors towards the things the victim cherishes or is in close proximity to victim.
- **Using Economic Abuse** - - -restricting the financial freedom of the victim, preventing the victim from finding a job or giving an allowance as a reward
- **Using Emotional Abuse** - - - playing mind games, constantly damaging self-esteem, instilling a fear of insanity in the victim
- **Using Coercion or Threats** - - - making and or carrying out threats, including threats that the abuser will self-injure or commit suicide if a change is made
- **Using Isolation** - - - exerting control over what the victim can do, with whom the victim can speak, the stream of information available to the victim and where the victim can go.
- **Using Male Privilege** - - - treating her like a servant, making all of the big decisions, rigidly defining sex and gender roles.
- **Using Children** - - -to relay messages, for visitation as an excuse to harass the victim **and** threatening to take the children away.
- **Minimizing** the events, **Denying** responsibility or that events occurred, and **Blaming the victim**

7. The Haven is not for profit and depends heavily on its volunteers for support.

The Haven is locally funded. Volunteers are encouraged to play towards their strengths and can be divided into two categories.

-Indirect Volunteers: Do not need training-

They help collect donations and furnish houses for victims with a new start. They host the drives in general, heavily dependent upon supplies given by volunteers and the community. These drives tend to be more than clothing and non-perishables and include toiletries, bedding, house appliances, dishes, hygiene products, household items, toys and more. While the Adopt-a-family drive is especially used during Christmas, drives and donations are ongoing year-round.

Be a Community Events Assistant

Or a Community Outreach Educational Assistant

Or a Donation Pick-up Assistant (in which you may set your own times)

Or a Donation House Assistant from 8am to 5pm on weekends

Or a Baker and Party thrower for Birthdays, delivering cards and sweets to the victim and children.

To be involved, you will need to take the confidentiality pledge. It is encouraged that you come in groups and be prepared for heavy lifting.

-Direct Volunteers: Will deal directly with victims-

They must undergo 6 hours of training with an orderly, be prepared for a background check, and also take the confidentiality pledge. All hoops are for the protection of the victims.

- Children Activity Leader (sitter)
- Transportation Assistant
- Field Trip Chaperone (sitter during parentless outings)
- Arts and Crafts Leader which is taught at the shelter; supplies are bought by the Haven
- Workshop Leader- for relevant topics and skills such as:
 - Women's issues
 - Parenting
 - Interview Tips
 - Budgeting
 - Couponing
 - Exercising
- Telephone Crisis Line Assistant from 8pm-5am, preferably 1-4 hour shifts.
- Counselor- You must own a masters in Psychology, Sociology or another related field.

To get started, send an e-mail to volunteer@valdostahaven.org

Club Matters

T-shirts will be available for pick-up Friday, Monday and Tuesday from **Dr. Browne's** office. They will be waiting for you at the next meeting if you cannot come to his office before then.

Relay for Life link is posted *right under the title* on the [Psychology Club Page](#) and here: [Our Team](#). Please donate \$10 or more to the charity and join the team. Joining the team will enable those who are in your social sphere to donate online at their convenience. If you know a business owner, pitch the idea of sponsoring us at the main event.

Meanwhile the club is still on the lookout for **interesting fund-raising ideas**. Candy grams that fit the season have been suggested along with the Raffle Basket and Bake-Sale. Please help our club stand out and earn the aid of campus. Send your ideas to **Your President** and **Vice President**.

Graduating members can still participate in community volunteering and also receive the Psychology Club minutes.

If you want to see what the **Thanksgiving Meal** is missing, look at the breakroom's refrigerator on the Second Floor or ask in the Student Office.

Upcoming Event!- Thanksgiving Meal

We hope to see you all there on **November 20th**!! Have a good week ☺

Gina-Marie Guyette