

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/](http://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

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

Coupons

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](mailto:volunteer@valdostahaven.org)

### **Club Matters**

**T-shirts** will be available for pick-up Friday, Monday and Tuesday from

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 20<sup>th</sup>**!! Have a good week

**Gina-Marie Guyette**