

# Bon Secours Violence Response Team

*2021 Impact Report*





## THE MISSION OF THE BON SECOURS VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM: FORENSIC NURSING & VICTIM SERVICES

For nearly 200 years, the mission of Bon Secours has been to bring compassion to health care and to be Good Help to Those in Need. The Bon Secours Violence Response Team is an important part of this mission to serve our community and has been a critical resource for victims of abuse for 29 years. Most of those 29 years, the Violence Response Team was known as the Forensic Nursing Team. Two years ago, this team expanded to include victim advocacy support and recently changed its name to reflect these additional services. The team provides community outreach in a variety of ways, including participation in multiple sexual assault and child abuse response teams, as well as community lectures and presentations on sexual assault, human trafficking, strangulation, child abuse, elder abuse, and interpersonal violence.

According to a recent study of Virginia Forensic Nurse Programs, the Bon Secours Violence Response Team is the only program to be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week serving patients of all ages. The Violence Response Team is comprised of 24 staff members who are leaders in their field, serving 43 jurisdictions, partnering with law enforcement, attorneys, child advocacy centers, shelters, social services, victim witness, and many others with the goal of identifying and assisting victims of violence. Their patients receive compassionate medical-forensic care and are provided with resources to obtain justice and see hope for the future.

### FORENSIC NURSING BY THE NUMBERS



**2934** TOTAL PATIENTS



**1623** CASES  
547 PEDIATRIC  
**1021** PHYSICAL ASSAULTS  
**602** SEXUAL ASSAULTS



**1311** CONSULTS

**20%**

INCREASE IN PATIENT  
VOLUME FROM 2020

### STRANGULATION



**276** INITIAL EXAMS

**33%** increase in  
strangulations  
from 2020

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2016-2021



**266** PATIENTS

Provided services for  
**74** patients in the shelter  
(some of these included  
in the 266 total)

### VICTIM SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS



**1557** TOTAL REFERRALS



**715** TOTAL ENROLLEES

**54%**

INCREASE FROM 2020



**164** FOLLOW UP  
APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED

**92** COMPLETED

**56%** RETURNED FOR  
FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT



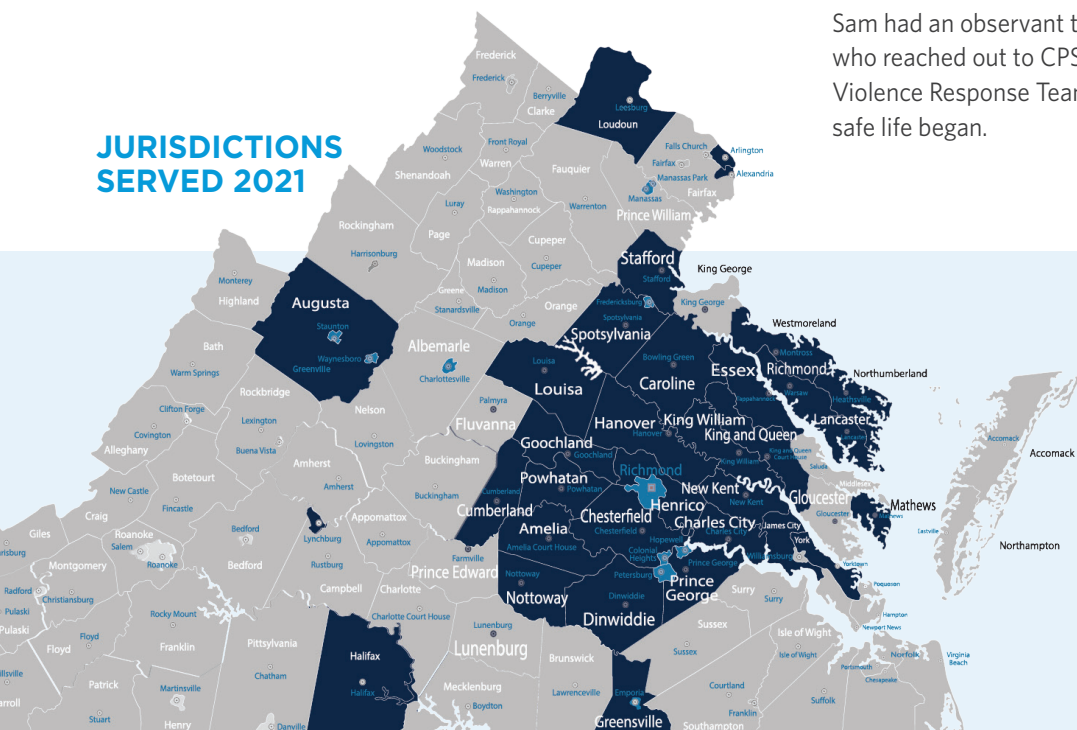
# Sam's story

The victim services advocate, Ruth, accompanied Sam and his mother throughout their stay. Ruth spoke with Alessandra to assess their needs and determine the appropriate services to ensure Sam and Alessandra's immediate safety. Sam's mother said her main concern was to keep her son and herself safe, as she recognized that the current situation was not a good one. Ruth provided emotional support throughout the hospital visit and assisted Alessandra as she created an initial plan of safety starting with arrangements to go to the home of a family member.

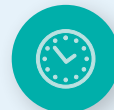
With Ruth's support, Alessandra, decided to talk with police about the abuse she had suffered. While Sam and his mother received medical care, the Violence Response Team met with the CPS worker and the investigator to discuss next steps and a safety plan for the family. After talking with Sam's mother, arrangements were made for Sam and his mother to go to the local domestic violence shelter. Sam and Alessandra received wrap-around support from the Violence Response Team and community partners. With time, the physical injuries healed, and the emotional pain began to lessen. Alessandra and Sam's lives were strengthened because Sam had an observant teacher, a school nurse and administrator who reached out to CPS, which brought them to the Bon Secours Violence Response Team, where their healing and plans for a new, safe life began.

**Sam was eight years old and in the 3rd grade when his teacher noticed that he was wiggling in his chair.** She called him to the side and asked why he kept jumping up from his seat. Sam said, “because it hurts to sit down.” When his teacher asked him why he was so uncomfortable sitting, Sam looked at the floor and whispered, ‘I can’t tell.’ Sam’s teacher became very concerned and walked Sam to see the school nurse. When the school nurse asked Sam if he was OK, Sam began to cry and told the nurse that Mike hurt him. The school called child protective services (CPS), who came to talk with Sam. He told the CPS representatives that Mike is his mom’s boyfriend and hits him when he gets mad. The CPS worker called Sam’s mother and asked her to meet them at Bon Secours St. Mary’s Hospital so Sam could be examined by the Bon Secours Violence Response Team.

## JURISDICTIONS SERVED 2021



## 133 REQUESTS FOR EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY IN COURT



**244 HOURS OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION**



## Make a gift

To make a gift to support the Bon Secours Violence Response Team (formerly Forensic Nursing program), visit [bsvaf.org/richmond](https://bsvaf.org/richmond), click "make a gift" and choose Forensic Nursing from the dropdown OR mail gifts to 5008 Monument Avenue, 2nd Floor, Richmond, VA 23230

Contact **Angie Dempsey** at [angie\\_dempsey@bshsi.org](mailto:angie_dempsey@bshsi.org) or 804-514-5440



### BON SECOURS VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM

5801 Bremo Road, Richmond, VA 23226

**NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER: 804-281-8574**

St. Mary's Hospital  
Chester Emergency Center  
Memorial Regional Medical Center  
Rappahannock General Hospital  
Richmond Community Hospital  
Short Pump Emergency Center  
St. Francis Medical Center  
Southside Emergency Care Center  
Southside Medical Center  
Southern Virginia Medical Center  
Westchester Emergency Center

**EMERGENCY NUMBER: 804-281-8184**

Ask for the forensic nurse

# Wine Women & Shoes

## OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Jasmine Turner, an anchor and reporter for NBC12 News, was the emcee of our week-long celebration of the Violence Response Team. She led us through the presentations, beginning with the kick-off on Monday and a special message from Bonnie Price, Forensic Nurse and Administrative Director of Community Health Advocacy and ending Saturday with special guest speaker, Katelyn. She bravely shared her story of sexual assault while in college and how law enforcement and the forensic nursing team worked together to find justice through identification and collection of evidence, then testifying to their findings in court. In between, Jasmine as well as Megan Marconyak, social media emcee, provided a framework for forensic nursing videos on topics such as "What is a Forensic Nurse?", education regarding strangulation and child abuse, and even a video in Spanish with English subtitles! Megan introduced Teresa and Bryan Mueller, owners of Closet Factory, as they shared why they support the Bon Secours Violence Response Team, as well as ideas and options for YOUR closet. Dr. Bonnie Price, took us on a virtual tour of the newly expanded and renovated space. Annual staples like the Mystery Box Pull, Forensic Nursing Fun Wagon, Key to the Closet Raffle, and our amazing Silent Auction took place throughout the week. Although we were once again unable to be in-person due to COVID-19, we exceeded our goal of \$100,000 for the Violence Response Team!

An anonymous donor offered to match up to \$25,000 of donations to support the Violence Response Team and WWS2021. The donor was so impressed that we met the match, they gifted an additional \$25,000, totaling \$50,000! Thanks to our anonymous donor and to those of you who helped us meet the challenge by giving generously. You helped the Violence Response Team make a difference in the lives of so many children and adults who are victims of violence in your community.

SAVE  
THE DATE:  
**10/23/22**

IN 2021  
WE EXCEEDED:  
**\$100,000!**

To see the videos shown during the week-long celebration, visit our website at [winewomenandshoes.com/Richmond](https://winewomenandshoes.com/Richmond)