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Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>



This Week:

August 8
High School Football
Coaches

Upcoming Meetings:

August 15th
Mark Hannah
Georgia Film Industry

August 22nd
Greg Dent and Zac Taylor
Early Cognitive
Development

August 29th
Zac Taylor
GRSP Student
Introduction

Dalton's GreenHouse

by John Hutcheson

Smitty Barnett introduced Natima Walker, Executive Director of the GreenHouse, a child advocacy and sexual assault center which, along with the Family Crisis Center and the Miracle Field, is one of this year's partner agencies with the Rotary Club of Dalton. Natima, a Rotarian herself and the mother of a two-year-old son, began her presentation with a short video which gave startling statistics about local levels of child and sexual abuse—last year, for example, there were 2,740 child abuse victims in Whitfield County alone. A Child Advocacy Center such as the GreenHouse provides a child-friendly, neutral, safe place for children who have disclosed abuse and for their non-offending family members. The largest victim demographic is that of girls ages six to twelve, with the most common offenders being white men.



Natima Walker

The GreenHouse was founded by Rotarian Jack Partain during his tenure as Conasauga Circuit District Attorney and now has a trained staff of five. Its services include three principal components: forensic interviews to gather information from children about alleged abuse, advocacy to connect victims and their families to needed resources, and no-cost therapy by qualified professionals to enable clients to regain a sense of control after trauma. Typically the GreenHouse is involved by law enforcement or the Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) when a child discloses abuse. Every effort is made to avoid subjecting children to multiple interviews with law enforcers, therapists, etc., which can often be as traumatic, if not more so, for the victim than the abuse itself as well as producing inconsistent accounts from one time to another. Services are also available to adults, especially those with special needs such as delayed cognitive development. GreenHouse staff members adhere to the highest professional standards, using a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) model which requires involvement by seven disciplines, i.e., DFCS workers, law enforcement, assistant district attorneys, nurses, mental health workers, forensic interviewers, and the juvenile justice court.

The need for the GreenHouse's services is growing, partly from a greater willingness by victims to disclose abuse, which in turn may reflect expanded support from schools and other agencies. In 2015 the GreenHouse conducted 145 forensic interviews, from which 45 clients entered therapy, and in 2016 these numbers were 173 and 75 respectively. With a projected average increase of 20% to 25% per year, 2017 is likely to see at least 200 forensic interviews. The GreenHouse is a United Way 501c3 agency, funded by donors, accrediting agencies, and limited municipal support. Upcoming events include a tennis tournament and the annual Phantom Fundraiser (a direct solicitation of contributions in lieu of holding a formal social function). All monies remain in the service area since there are no outside organizations to support.

The GreenHouse is located in an actual house at 600 E. Morris Street which was donated by Mohawk Industries; although the agency's work is clinical, its setting is intentionally non-clinical. While the present location is satisfactory, a new facility there is to be greatly desired; this would provide spaces for medical examinations and expanded therapy services which cannot now be accommodated even with an addition to the existing structure. The staff will host a conference on human trafficking this fall, and plans are underway to launch a major educational initiative, ideally through the schools.

A growing body of research shows that many social problems, such as addictions, mental illness, and a wide range of criminality, can be traced to childhood trauma. Dalton is fortunate to have a child advocacy center of the caliber of the GreenHouse; many areas of Georgia have only rudimentary services, if any, of this kind, and some states,

such as Florida, have none at all.

Club Officers:

- Kevin Brunson**
President
- Greg Dent**
President-Elect
- Frank M. Hogshead**
Secretary, Treasurer
- Bruce Satterfield**
Immediate Past President
- Vallarie Pratt**
Club Administration Chair
- John Hutcheson**
Public Relations Chair
- Cherri Robertson**
Membership Chair
- Amy Messick**
Community Service Chair
- Ricky Robertson**
Youth Service Chair
- Chris Cooke**
Vocational Service Chair
- Archana Srivastava**
International Service Chair
- George "Smitty" Barnett**
Foundation Chair

A Rotary Minute with Amy Messick

Community Service Chair Amy Messick has been marketing manager with Adhesive Technologies since 2015, after previously working as production manager for Niche Graphic Flooring. Although she started her career in 2002 as a worker on the plant floor and now holds five U.S. patents, she sees her greatest accomplishments as being mother to four boys and a servant for Jesus Christ.

Announcements and Recognitions

President Kevin reminded the Club that on August 8, the program will be the high school football coaches' annual season preview, for which the Dalton Kiwanis Club will be joining us.

Rotarian Brian Griffin was recognized as the Club's newest Paul Harris Fellow, receiving his award from Foundation Chair Smitty Barnett.



Brian Griffin

August 8th Birthdays and Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Adcock, Don W. (DON)
Minter, B. Scott (SCOTT)
Reed, Amanda (AMANDA)

Birthday

8-Aug
10-Aug
11-Aug

Partner Birthdays

Satterfield, Kayanne
Smith, Sandra
Laugahter, Ben
Johnson, Kathy

Member Name

Satterfield, Bruce A.
Smith, Ralph
Laughter, R Lynette
Johnson, Larry Alan

Birthday

9-Aug
11-Aug
11-Aug
13-Aug

Member Anniversaries

No member anniversaries this period.

Start Date

Years

Wedding Anniversaries

Abernathy, Melburn H. (MEL)
Barnett, George S. (SMITTY)
Schwenn, John O. (JOHN)

Partner's Name

Gretchen
Tammy
Judy

Anniversary

8-Aug
10-Aug
14-Aug

Years

31
32
46

