

Orange County Rape Crisis Center
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Local Nonprofit Agency Wins Purple Ribbon of Excellence

The Orange County Rape Crisis Center has been awarded the inaugural Purple Ribbon of Excellence for 2016. Presented by the Training and Education Committee of the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, the Purple Ribbon of Excellence recognizes the Center's efforts to prevent child sexual abuse through their community education programs. With 1 in 10 children experiencing sexual abuse before the age of 18, violence prevention programs are crucial.

Over the last thirty years, the Center's Safe Touch program for children and Start Strong program for teens have helped prevent child sexual abuse by teaching children and adolescents to identify inappropriate behavior, to develop an understanding of consent and healthy relationships, and to stand against sexual violence in their schools and communities. These programs are designed for continuous learning, so the skills and knowledge they gain are consistently reinforced and built upon. Conversations about bodily autonomy, boundaries, and respect eventually shift to how these ideas apply to treating and respecting others. The Center offers Safe Touch programs to pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade classes in every public elementary school in Orange County. They also offer Start Strong in a number of seventh and ninth grade classrooms.

Additionally, the OCRCC offers adult and family education programs designed to help adults talk to their children about keeping themselves safe. This comprehensive approach empowers children, parents, and teachers to prevent child sexual abuse in their communities and educates students about boundaries, consent, and healthy relationships using an effective, long-lasting model.

During the 2015-2016 school year, staff and volunteer community educators from the Orange County Rape Crisis Center presented 1,027 programs to over 15,904 audience members. Additionally, in a 2014 survey, 100% of school counselors and 94% of teachers in schools receiving Safe Touch programs said they felt that the education programs increased students' awareness of personal safety and protection against sexual abuse.

For more information or to schedule one of our award-winning programs, please contact Community Education Director Rachel Valentine at rvalentine@ocrcc.org or 919-968-4647.

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