JULY 2025





MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: AMY GRANT-OUONCE

July is recognized as Disability Pride Month and this year we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Disability Pride Month is a time to promote awareness, inclusion, and the achievements of individuals with disabilities.

Domestic violence against people with disabilities is a significant issue that often goes unnoticed. In the United States, 1 in 4 adults have a disability of some kind, the most common being a disability that affects mobility. Individuals with disabilities are at a higher risk of experiencing domestic violence; 70% of disabled individuals experience some form of abuse in their lifetime, and they are 3 times more likely to be sexually assaulted.

The prevalence of this abuse is often overlooked, with up to 85% of cases going unreported. Abusers target disabled individuals because this population is more vulnerable and often less capable of escaping or defending themselves. As a result, once an abuser and victim are in a relationship, it can be even harder than normal for a survivor to recognize this abuse and escape it.

Learn more about Increasing Accessibility for Survivors with Developmental (Dis)Abilities at an upcoming FREE training at Jefferson Community College on Thursday, July 31, 2025 10-11:30am. Register today at https://bit.ly/3Urya19

*Statistics from domesticviolenceshelters.org

WWW.VACJC.COM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: AMY GRANT-OUONCE

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24/7 HOTLINE: (315) 782-1855 Office Hours: Monday- Friday 8am-4:30pm (315) 782-1823



BEHIND THE MISSION



CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Jefferson County, St. Lawrence County, and Lewis County Regional Child Fatality Review Team reviews child deaths to understand how and why they happen, using those findings to prevent future deaths and improve child safety.

Our team includes the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Departments of Social Services, the Office of Children and Family Services, County Health Departments, Medical Examiners and Coroners, District Attorneys, County Attorneys, local law enforcement, New York State Police, Sheriff's Departments, Emergency Medical Services, and pediatricians. We meet quarterly in a hybrid format, rotating through all three counties.

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We have distributed the following safety items to our communities in the past year:

89 Life Jackets, 327 Bike Helmets, 55 Pack and Plays, 92

Sleep Sacks, and 163 Gun Locks!





WE'RE HIRING!





VAC District Attorney Advocate CAC Forensic Interviewer Crisis Services Advocate(s)



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sam has helped by

Sam has helped hundreds of clients navigate very difficult situations.

Sam comes to work every day with a smile on her face and ready to help wherever needed. Sam is a strong advocate and will speak up on her client's behalf to make sure they are treated fairly and have access to the help they need.





SRD ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Join us for an exhilarating Cornhole Tournament that will test your skills, ignite your competitive spirit, & create unforgettable memories - all for a great cause to benefit the Child Advocacy Center of NNY.





BRING YOUR OWN PARTNER \$60 PER TEAM



CONTACT US 315-755-1434

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF NNY, A PROGRAM OF THE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CENTER

RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 4th annual

Witches Gafa

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025 1000 ISLANDS HARBOR HOTEL, CLAYTON NY

Magic Meets the Mission

Sporsors Against Violence

For more information on
Sponsorship Opportunities
contact Development Director,
Kristin
(315) 755-1434 or
kristinp@vacjc.com