



# The Triangle TRIBUNE

Volume 11, No. 9

Rest Of Today: Sunny with a high of 70

SEARCH:

October 29, 2009

- [Homepage](#)
- [The Opinion Poll](#)
- [About The Tribune](#)
- [News](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Community Focus](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Arts and Lifestyle](#)
- [Health/Wellness](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Site registration](#)
- [Tribune Blogs](#)
- [AutoNetwork](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Other Services](#)
- [The Post Foundation](#)
- [The Charlotte Post](#)
- [Contact Us](#)



## News

### Vigil honors domestic violence victims

Published Sunday, October 25, 2009 7:00 am  
by Maria Magher

RALEIGH – Five years ago, Rene Raeford planned a trip to visit her sister Yvette in Richmond, Va., and to meet her sister's new boyfriend. Instead, she ended up making the trip to say goodbye to her sister after she was shot to death by a former boyfriend.

Yvette Raeford, 39, a former schoolteacher, had moved to Virginia to make a new life for herself, and Rene Raeford said she had "finally found true love." But one night, Yvette's former boyfriend stepped from behind a tree and shot her about a dozen times.

"I truly believe through the tragedy that my family has gone through, there is a hidden agenda and a blueprint that nobody knows but the Lord, and I think that part of that agenda is me being here today," Rene Raeford told a crowd gathered in front of InterAct's Family Safety and Empowerment Center Oct. 22 for a candlelight vigil to remember victims of domestic violence. "For you out there that have lost a loved one and for you out there that are silently hurting, trust in God."

Raeford said she got a lot of support from volunteers at InterAct after her sister's murder, and she thanked the organization for helping her in the healing process.

InterAct sponsored the vigil to promote awareness about domestic violence and to remember its victims. Organizers asked those in attendance to light their candles as a "beacon of hope" to let survivors know that support is available.

The agency also held an open house to allow survivors and other members of the community learn more about the services offered at its new center on Oberlin Road, as well as to celebrate its 25th anniversary. On display was a traveling display of purple shoes, colored so because purple is the color used for domestic-violence-awareness ribbons. The shoes represent those who have died of domestic violence in the last year. The display travels to different domestic-violence agencies throughout the state.

A \$5.3 million capital campaign helped pay to renovate the old YWCA into the new center, which opened in February. At the same time, it opened a new 45-bed shelter at a confidential location. The previous shelter had 18 beds.

The center brings together nine on-site collaborators providing different services for victims of domestic violence. The Raleigh Police Department maintains a Family Violence Intervention Unit that includes 14 officers. Legal Aid of N.C. also provides services, including the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative, which can issue domestic violence protection orders, and the Battered Immigrant Project, which focuses on the special needs of immigrant populations.



Other partners focus on health needs. Wake Health Services maintains a satellite site, offering services for minor injuries and other minor medical issues such as the flu and colds. Easter Seals UCP has a full-time mental-health counselor on-site to counsel victims. And Southlight Pathways provides outpatient substance-abuse counseling, as well as substance-abuse assessments.

InterAct provides a number of other services, including walk-in crisis counseling Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., counseling for children and court advocates. The center conducts outreach in Wake County schools, talking to students in grades three through 12 on topics ranging from safety, good touch, safe dating and violence in relationships.

There is also a non-denominational spiritual center, which includes a spiritual counselor. "Often, spirituality is very important to the victims," said Jo Lawson, director of community-based services.




The center provides a 24-hour crisis hotline. For domestic violence, call (919) 828-7740; for rape/sexual assault issues, (919) 828-3005; and for the S.A.F.E. Center, call (919) 828-3067.

## Comments

### Leave a Comment

Name:


E-Mail:

  
  
stop spam.  
read books.

[Send this page to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2009 Triangle Tribune

[| Homepage](#) | [The Opinion Poll](#) | [About The Tribune](#) | [News](#) | [Editorials](#) | [Business](#) | [Community Focus](#) | [Sports](#)  
[Arts and Lifestyle](#) | [Health/Wellness](#) | [Religion](#) | [Site registration](#) | [Tribune Blogs](#) | [AutoNetwork](#) | [Events Calendar](#) | [Classifieds](#) |  
[Advertising](#)  
[Other Services](#) | [The Post Foundation](#) | [The Charlotte Post](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Empowered by  Accrisoft Freedom