

# HOPE WORKS!



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## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH EMBRACE YOUR VOICE THIS APRIL

### RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH CREATIVITY

Every April, Steps to HOPE becomes a voice for victims of sexual assault and violence and “joins the conversation” through a nationwide campaign called *The Clothesline Project*. The purpose is to be a silent but visible witness to sexual abuse and violence. The display honors a survivor’s strength to continue and provides another avenue to courageously break the silence surrounding their experience. Clients, staff, volunteers, and survivors decorate t-shirts bearing facts of sexual assault, things they were told during their experience, call to action for EVERYONE, and courageous words of affirmation for survivors.

*The Clothesline Project* appears at Stearns Park in Columbus, Steps to HOPE Thrift Barn in Landrum, McCreery Park in Saluda, and downtown Tryon.

Steps to HOPE has also partnered with local businesses to spread sexual



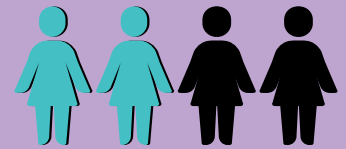
Above: Steps to HOPE participates in the nationwide campaign, *The Clothesline Project*. Below: Coffee sleeves are distributed by local coffee shops for Sexual Assault Awareness.

assault awareness through coffee sleeves (the pictured sleeve to the right). It is a reminder to everyone to be a voice against sexual assault. The sleeves bear Steps to HOPE information where survivors can access services. Join the conversation! “Don’t stand by. Stand UP!”

For full article, scan the QR code on the back.



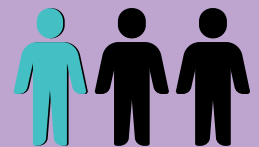
### LEARN THE FACTS



Over half of women have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime.



Every 68 seconds, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.



Almost 1 in 3 men have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime.



Sexual assault is intentional sexual contact by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

If you have **been assaulted**:

- Go to a safe place
- Preserve evidence
- Seek medical care ASAP
- Call 911 if you are in physical danger

**GET HELP**

call 828-894-2340



**BELIEVE SURVIVORS CHALLENGE VICTIM BLAMING RESPECT BOUNDARIES**

**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO INFLUENCE OUR COMMUNITY. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE.**



\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

Local  
Postal Customer

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL



From left to right: Cristen Canipe, Connie Orr, Bobbie McNut, Becky Collins, Cindy Wicklund, Lynn Starling, Diane Nelson, Joanie Newman, Sandra Halford, Mary Duran, Patty Otto, and Jessica Cashwell.

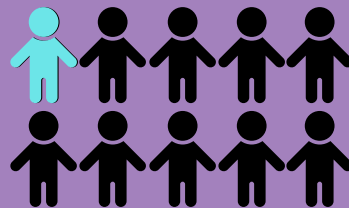
## PROJECT L.O.V.E. PROVES SUCCESS

Steps to HOPE held its inaugural Hope Gala on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Landrum Farmer's Market. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness for the problem of domestic and sexual violence in our area. The night featured live music from *Special Edition*, dinner by The Hare & Hound, Live & Silent Auctions, Wine & Bourbon Pulls, and a Polaroid photo booth. "The loveliest part was that we welcomed people from all different circles...theater, equestrian, non-profit, medical, business, and members of the community at large. I think this will become 'an event to attend' in the future." Brittany Bettini, the keynote speaker, shared her personal experience with domestic violence and illustrated how success is possible when courageous survivors have the support they need to change their situation. For information on The Hope Gala or Project L.O.V.E., please call 828-894-2340 or email [info@stepstohope.org](mailto:info@stepstohope.org).

For full article, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.



### DID YOU KNOW?



1 in 10 children in the U.S. will be sexually abused before the age of 18.

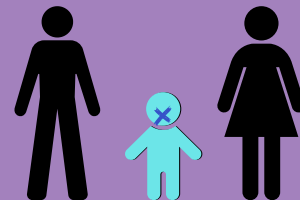
# 90%

of victims know their abuser.



# 60%

of child sexual abuse victims



NEVER TELL ANYONE.

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR NEXT EVENTS!



### SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING!

Overviews of volunteer opportunities at Steps to HOPE, STH Thrift Barn, and Second Chance Thrift Store will be discussed. STH history and the importance of each role within the organization will also be included. Email [admin@stepstohope.org](mailto:admin@stepstohope.org) for more information.



### THE HOPE GOLF CLASSIC RETURNS!

Steps to HOPE's longest-running fundraiser will celebrate its 20th anniversary on November 3rd! Plan to join us at Links O'Tryon for a great day of golf with upgrades and additions like never before! To sign up or sponsor, please email [office@stepstohope.org](mailto:office@stepstohope.org).

Stand up for children.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

To read more, scan the QR code below!



JOIN OUR  
NEWSLETTER  
CALL 828-894-2340

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