

# ACCIS NEWS

November 2016



## The Missouri Domestic Violence Shelter Tax Credit

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, ACCIS, relies heavily on the support of members of our community to provide our programs and services. When you make a donation or gift to ACCIS that is tax deductible, there is a way to maximize the benefit to you as a taxpayer and ACCIS supporter.

If you would like to pay less Missouri state income taxes while at the same time empowering women and children to rise above the pain of domestic violence, then this program is for you. Domestic Violence Shelter tax credits are applicable up to a 50% tax credit. Your tax credit donation will allow ACCIS to fulfill its mission to Educate; Empower; and Serve victims of domestic and sexual violence.

It's a very simple process to receive the tax credit. When you make a donation of \$100 or more and mention that you would like to receive the tax credit, you will get a letter of confirmation along with the application form. Your tax credit can be claimed for the year that the donation was made, or any unused portions of your credit can be claimed for up to four years from the time of the donation. Please consult with your tax advisor and see if this is a program that will be helpful to you.

You can be assured that any donation made to ACCIS will be used to help us continue to offer the best quality services possible to the members of our community whose lives have been impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Through our Outreach Office, Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Housing programs we strive to help the survivors of violence enhance their safety, learn more about how to have healthier relationships, and begin to heal from the abuse that they've endured. Our programs serve people of all ages, races, and socio-economic statuses.

If you would like more information about the Domestic Violence Shelter Tax Credit, or any of our programs, please feel free to contact us at 581-3835.

### Defining Childhood Domestic Violence

Childhood Domestic Violence is when a child grows up in a home with domestic violence. From a childhood standpoint, domestic violence is violence between your parents or towards a parent from a step-parent or significant other. The violence can be physical or non physical. Today in the United States 15 million children are living with domestic violence which can have a profound and lasting impact on their lives and hopes for the future. Those who grow up living with domestic violence are 6x more likely to commit suicide, 50x more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, and 74x more likely to commit a violent crime. Awareness, understanding, and sharing are essential for change to occur.



## Thank You to Area Schools for Raising Awareness with Audrie and Daisy

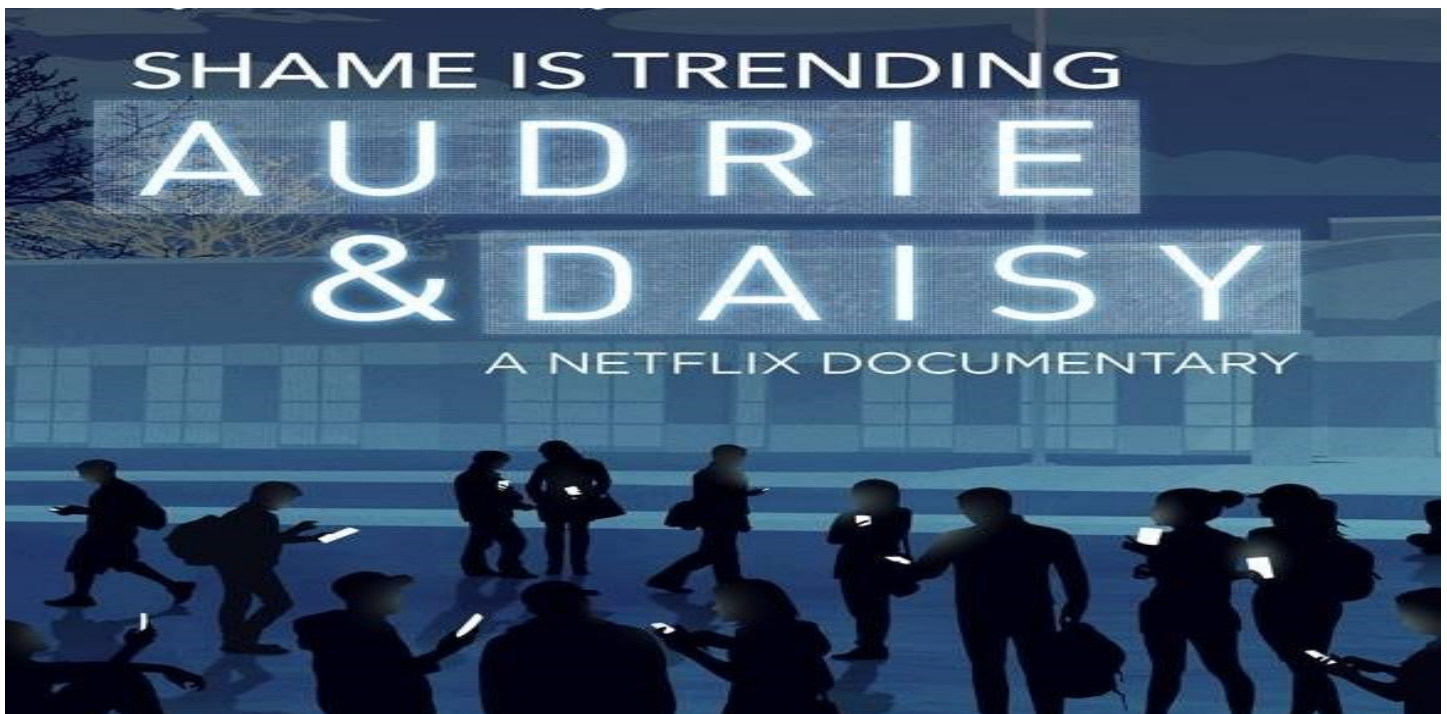
It was our pleasure to partner with the Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney's office in bringing free screenings of the Netflix film **Audrie and Daisy** to several schools in our area. We are thankful to have been able to help raise awareness via the viewings and following discussions at **Van-Far, Vandalia, Community R-6, Mexico Military Academy, and Centralia schools!** Kudos to those school administrators for recognizing the deep need for our youth to be better informed about the topics of sexual assault and bullying.

**Audrie and Daisy** is an American documentary about three cases of rape, two which occurred in Missouri. This documentary paints an honest picture of the effects of date rape and the resulting online bullying associating with a story of two teens who fell victim to these humiliating acts. One story recounts of 15-year old Audrie Pott, a girl from Saratoga, California who was sexually assaulted while drunk at a party and subjected to pictures posted online, a heinous act that resulted in her committing suicide. Then there's a second story covering 14-year old Daisy Coleman, a girl from Maryville, Missouri who along with her friend Paige was date raped and subsequently became a target of online harassment, along with her parents. These stories are told through interviews of the victims

and their families, police investigations, social media, and following court cases.

The problem this documentary covers is not just the brutality of rape, but also depicts how teens are not educated enough about the dangers that lie in the social realm and the perils of online social media. Then the more absurd aspects involve how the parents become victims of online scrutiny by the public who were intent on shaming the victims rather than holding the perpetrators accountable.

**It is critically important** that we begin to recognize the need to begin educating our young people early on about the topics of consent, sexual assault, date rape, teen dating violence, bullying, and healthy personal boundaries and relationships! Changing the culture that allows these brutal attacks to continue won't happen overnight, but having the difficult conversations early on with children and teens can provide life changing foundations for their future and the future of our communities. While there are no fast answers to the issues brought up by the film, it is crucial that communities band together to raise awareness and work toward prevention in a proactive manner.



Living with domestic violence is physically and emotionally devastating, and the pain often stays with the child long into adulthood and often with dire consequences. Many times children of domestic violence grow into adults who display higher levels of depression, trauma-related symptoms, and lower self esteem. A growing body of research has now proven that childhood domestic violence causes cognitive and emotional damage that goes much deeper and lasts much longer than we ever previously suspected. Prolonged exposure to domestic violence for children has been shown to be no different than the psychological and neural effects that soldiers experience in military combat, but because it is happening to a child whose brain is still developing, the results are often more traumatic and long lasting. Living with domestic violence burdens children with a sense of loss and profound guilt and shame because of their mistaken assumption that they should have intervened to prevent the violence, or that they were the cause of it.

## Third Annual Membership Dinner

We will hold our 3rd annual membership dinner at 6:00pm on November 15th at Steinman's Banquet Hall. We will be swearing in our new Board Officers, honoring those in our community who have provided outstanding services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and will be displaying and discussing some of the past year's accomplishments. We will open the doors at 5:30pm and hope to see many of you there.



## Christmas is Coming Soon

Our Christmas Adopt a Family tradition will be continuing this year. Each year it seems that we have a greater need than the last, and this year will be no exception with our outreach office, additional shelter space and Transitional Housing program we are able to serve more people. We need people willing to provide gifts, wrapping paper, gift bags, gift boxes, tape, and some who are willing to help wrap the gifts. Those who are interested in adopting a family, or donating items to be gifted can contact Kathy Yohe for more information about specific needs at 581-3835.

## Outreach Office Renovation Project

Some of you may remember us mentioning in a previous newsletter that our Outreach Office on the square is in desperate need of repairs. We've made some progress and wanted to update everyone, so here's the run down:

Remove and replace the front awning with metal awning: \$4,900

Remove and replace the rear gutter and repair damaged seam: \$2,450

Remove and replace the exterior door and repair water damage to wall: \$2,490

Remove and replace flat roof: \$36,215

Remove and replace carpeting, add vinyl flooring in upstairs bathroom: \$12,000

Replace front door with metal door, replace suspended ceiling, repair and paint walls: \$4,000

Remove and replace front reception desk, add walls for additional office: \$6,000

Remove south wall and expand group room, repair and paint wall, replace drop ceiling: \$5,500

Build walls for additional office in back of building: \$6,500

Remove paneling, sheetrock and paint hallway: \$3,500

Replace ceiling tile in remaining 3 offices: \$1,500

Paint paneling in upstairs offices: \$1,000

Remove wallpaper and patch walls in upstairs hall, paint hall and stairway: \$4,000

Contingency fund: \$5,000

**Total Project Cost: \$95,055**

**Total Raised To Date: \$16,575.00**

**Balance Still Needed: \$78,480.00**

## Newsletters Available Via Email

With the cost of postage, paper, and printing on the rise, as well as the concerns about the cost to our environment, we thought that it might be the right time to see how many of our wonderful supporters would prefer to receive their newsletters via email rather than through the postal service. If you are interested in being added to the e-news list please send an email to Jeannie at [volunteer.coordinator@audraincountycrisis.org](mailto:volunteer.coordinator@audraincountycrisis.org)