



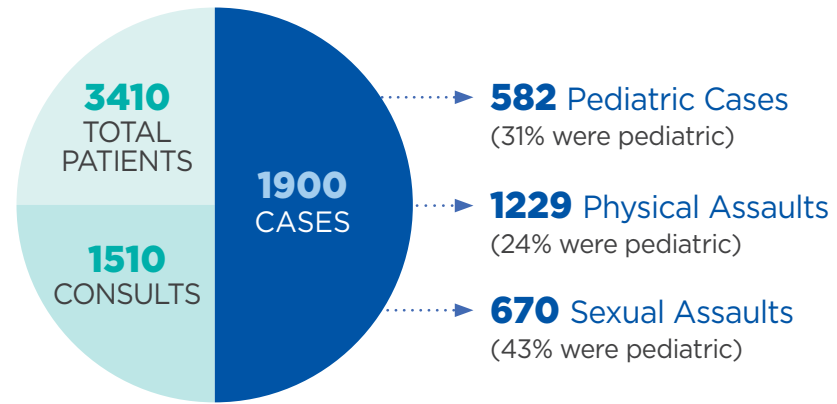
Bon Secours Violence Response Team

2023 IMPACT REPORT

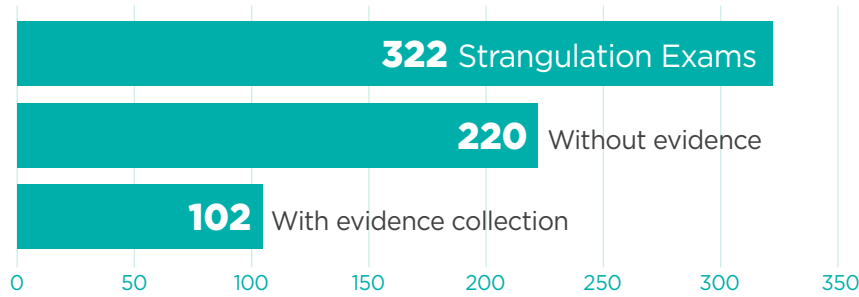
The Mission of the Bon Secours Violence Response Team

For 200 years, the mission of Bon Secours has been to bring compassion to health care and to be Good Help to Those in Need. The Bon Secours Richmond Violence Response Team is an important part of this mission to serve our community and has been a critical resource for victims of abuse for 30 years. Most of those 30 years, the Violence Response Team was known as the Forensic Nursing Program. In 2020, this team expanded to include victim services advocates and changed its name to Violence Response Team to reflect the expanded services provided to our patients and community. The Violence Response Team provides community outreach through a variety of ways, including participation in multiple sexual assault and child abuse response teams, as well as community lectures and presentations on sexual assault, human trafficking, strangulation, child abuse, elder abuse, and interpersonal violence. This Bon Secours program is one of only two across Virginia to be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, serving patients of all ages. The Violence Response Team is comprised of 30 staff members who are leaders in their field, serving 41 jurisdictions, partnering with law enforcement, attorneys, child advocacy centers, shelters, social services, victim witness, and many others with the goal of identifying and assisting victims of violence. Their patients receive compassionate medical-forensic care and are provided with resources to obtain justice and see hope for the future.

2023 FORENSIC NURSING BY THE NUMBERS



STRANGULATION



68% returned for follow-up exams



VICTIM SERVICES ADVOCATES

1474 Total referrals | **1037** Enrollees



HUMAN TRAFFICKING (2016-2023)

369 Patients | **35** of those seen in 2023

168

Requests for expert witness testimony

377

Hours of community education

39%

Increase in community education from 2022-2023



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE (Started Aug. 2023)

October 1-December 31, 2023:

46 Referrals | **20** Enrolled



CASE STUDY:

Legend's Legacy of Community Support for his Family

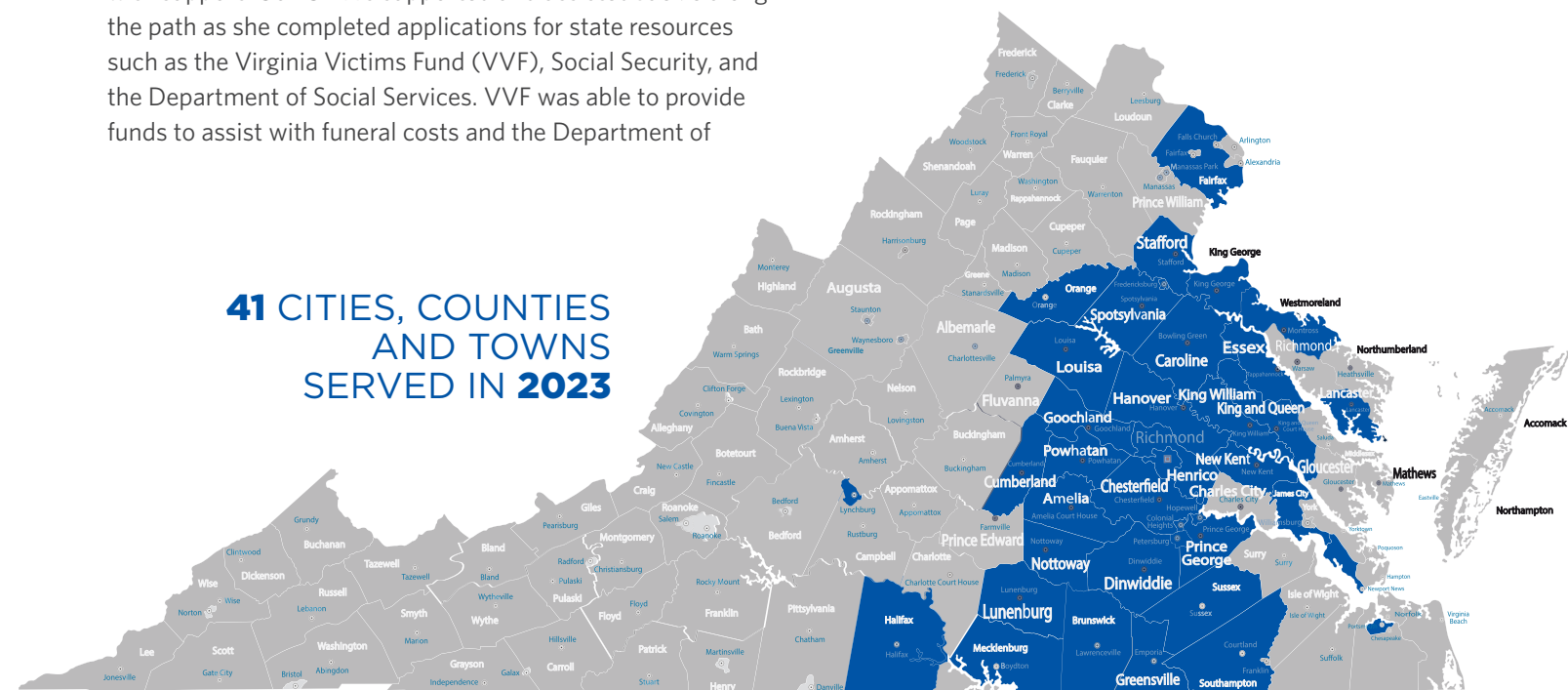
In November, while attending a local multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting, information regarding a community resident in need of resources was brought to our team's attention. Tragically, this resident lost her 10-year-old son, due to an act of gun violence about five months prior. The young boy, Legend was shot through the family's third story apartment home window and died in the presence of his mother, Jackie, and two siblings, Ava and Noah. Since the shooting, the family remained in the same apartment which continued to be triggering and re-traumatizing. Jackie shared that Ava and Noah would duck down when walking past the windows in the apartment. Jackie was unable to go into Legend's room. She had become extremely depressed and started to fall behind on some financial responsibilities.

Looking for assistance, Jackie sent an email to a number of agencies she found online. One of those agencies was a partner of VRT and within 24 hours, our Community Health Worker (CHW) was able to contact Jackie. The CHW was able to further assess Jackie and the family's current needs. We learned one of her priorities was to move the family to a new apartment to offer them a less traumatizing environment in which to live. The VRT immediately began reaching out to our many community partners to rally around this family with support. Our CHWs supported and assisted Jackie along the path as she completed applications for state resources such as the Virginia Victims Fund (VVF), Social Security, and the Department of Social Services. VVF was able to provide funds to assist with funeral costs and the Department of

Social Services was able to provide assistance with utilities. The family still faced the financial challenges to be able to move to a new place; a place that would allow the family to begin to heal from their trauma and create new memories. With the support of grant funds, our team was able to rally around Jackie to assist with back rent. Once this hurdle was overcome, Jackie would be eligible for an HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) voucher, which was required in order for her to transfer to the new apartment complex. Another need of the family was access to food and medical care, our CHWs helped Jackie get access to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps), as well as reinstatement for Medicaid. In addition to our team, there are several collaborative partners that were made aware of the family's circumstances, who were also able to provide support.

The Violence Response Team continues to support and work with Jackie to ensure participation in trauma-informed counseling services remain a focus for the family and the move is successful. Through the efforts of the VRT and the community partnerships we have created, Jackie, Ava, and Noah now have the resources and support to begin to overcome the trauma of the tragic loss of Legend's life.

41 CITIES, COUNTIES AND TOWNS SERVED IN 2023



Celebrating the **30th Anniversary** of the Violence Response Team

1993 was a pivotal year for Bon Secours. Bonnie Price and two of her Bon Secours St. Mary's Emergency Room colleagues recognized that patients who had been impacted by violence needed and deserved specialized care. Through the support of Bon Secours, they were able to attend a course that would prepare them to provide this care. This training would be the beginning of what would come to be known as forensic nursing. 30 years later, the team has increased tenfold in size and last year served over 3400 patients!



We celebrated the 30-year milestone with a masquerade gala event held at the Science Museum of Virginia on Saturday, October 28. Josefa Bethea Wall and Bryon Wall joined Teresa and Bryan Mueller as co-chairs of the event. Richmond Market President, Mike Lutes, provided the opening address. Dr. Bonnie Price and Dr. Stacey Mitchell shared a glimpse through photographs and words into the early days of the forensic nursing profession. Dr. Mitchell was one of Bonnie's ER colleagues who started forensic nursing at Bon Secours. She is currently the Director of Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing. In addition to a live and silent auction, guests had the opportunity to participate in a bourbon tasting provided by Mac MacCormack during the reception. They were treated to a dessert "candy bar" provided by LuLu's Lollies, and danced to music provided by the band "Dance Candy". Photo opportunities were available at the Green Screen by Picture This. The Champion Call raised \$28,000 towards a matching challenge from The Titmus Foundation, Inc.. These funds will support the construction and furnishing of a VRT Suite at Southside Medical Center in Petersburg. VRT Heroes raised almost \$30,000 in individual donations. The event netted \$308,000 in support of the Violence Response Team!

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this year's Violence Response Team Celebration on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the Science Museum of Virginia. For more information visit <https://bsvaf.ejoinme.org/VRT2024> or contact Angie Dempsey at 804-514-5440 or angie_dempsey@bshsi.org.

Make a gift

To make a gift to support the Violence Response Team (formerly Forensic Nursing program), visit givebsmh.org/cause/richmond-va-community-health-and-wellness or mail gifts to BSRF, 5855 Bremono Road, MOB North, Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23226

Contact **Angie Dempsey**
at angie_dempsey@bshsi.org
or call 804-514-5440



BON SECOURS VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM

5801 Bremono Road, Richmond, VA 23226

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER: 804-281-8574

St. Mary's Hospital (office location)
Chester Emergency Center
Colonial Heights Emergency Care
Memorial Regional Medical Center
Rappahannock General Hospital
Richmond Community Hospital
Short Pump Emergency Center
St. Francis Medical Center
Southside Medical Center
Southern Virginia Medical Center
Westchester Emergency Center

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 804-281-8184

Ask for the forensic nurse to be contacted