



For Immediate Release

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Partnership Asks Community to Start By Believing

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes to Kickstart April's National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

(Chattanooga, TN) March 28, 2019 – For April's National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults (Partnership) joined the [Start By Believing](#) campaign, which is a national campaign designed to change the way we respond to sexual assault.

Start By Believing stresses that when someone tells you they were raped or sexually assaulted, knowing how to respond is critical. A negative response can worsen the trauma and foster an environment where perpetrators face no consequences for their crimes.

The goals of the campaign are to break down traditional barriers of shame and fear, so victims can gather information, explore options, and take action. According to StartbyBelieving.com as few as one in five victims report their sexual assault, so they often don't get the help they need. Without a report, law enforcement misses the chance to identify perpetrators in their community, repeat offenders go undetected, and more people are victimized.

Partnership is offering several free events along with community partners this April to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Events include workshops, trauma informed yoga, artful meditation and RISE 2019, an awards dinner featuring keynote speaker Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who empowered more than 150 women to speak out against U.S.A. Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar and sentenced Nassar up to 175 years in prison. All events can be found on their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

"You don't have to have experienced violence to participate in our events," said Mindy Kolin, marketing coordinator. "You just have to want to help those who have, and ensure Partnership continues its mission of serving our neighbors in need."

For more information contact Mindy Kolin at mkolin@partnershipfca.com or 423.697.3828

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The Partnership for Families, Children and Adults has been serving the Tennessee Valley community for 140 years through professional counseling, crisis intervention, and prevention services. It began with the 1877 establishment of the Ladies Aid Society, which later became the Florence Crittenton Home. Under direction of United Way, The Florence Crittenton Service, Family Service Agency and Travelers Aid Society merged into Community Services of Greater Chattanooga, Inc. in 1973. In 1981, the agency assumed the name Family and Children's Services of Chattanooga, Inc., and in 2003 became the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults.