



P.O. Box 142, Daytona Beach, Florida 32115 ❖ 386.257.2297 ❖ Fax: 386.248.1985
www.domesticabusecouncil.com

January 16, 2014
For Immediate Release:
For more information contact:
Lynn Kaiser Conrad
lynn@domesticabusecouncil.com
386-257-2297 ext. 22

Last year 166 different children lived in the only state certified emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in Volusia County. They ranged in age from newborn to 17 years old. Between them, they spoke six different languages. They attended pre-school, public school, private school and on-line school. They participated in the shelter's "Hugs & Love Children's Center."

Demetra Murphy the Children's Case Manager reports that for the months of January and February of this year, 31 new child intakes have already come to the Children's Center.

According to Murphy, she is implementing several new initiatives this year to integrate safety planning with education and fun. With spring approaching, she is working with the children to plant an herb garden. Murphy says that by planting the garden, the children will learn nurturing by caring for a living thing.

"This project that can apply to children of all ages and since the children live in the shelter temporarily, the project can be maintained by new residents after old residents leave. Plus, the children will learn about botany and science principles" Murphy said.

"Another practical benefit of this project is that the adult residents in the shelter will be able to use the fresh herbs as they prepare meals for themselves and for their children. This further teaches the children about how to be green and it is a valuable lesson in being self-sufficient." Danielle Stansbury, Shelter Manager said.

In addition, to the science project, Murphy has implemented a reading hour in the Children's Center. After school, she holds a reading circle. Children claim their spots and read books from school or from the library in the center. Murphy has already seen a noticeable improvement in the children's behavior, in their grades at school and in their willingness to express their feelings and fears. Through these activities, safety planning and case management, Murphy anticipates a positive impact of the children's self-esteem.

(more)

Murphy says the Children's Center needs supplies to maintain and complete these and other projects. The Hugs & Love Children's Center needs four sturdy youth desk chairs, a seven foot diameter round reading rug, children's music on compact discs., a CD player, potting soil and plastic potting containers and several plastic table clothes for both large round tables and rectangular tables.

For more information on how you can help or about programs or services offered through the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. contact 386-255-2102.
END

Services

- ❖ Emergency Shelter ❖ Transitional Housing ❖ School Based Prevention Programs ❖
- ❖ Court/Legal Advocacy ❖ Community Education and Professional Training ❖





In the photos: Demetra Murphy, Children's Case Manager, Domestic Abuse Council of Volusia County, Inc.