

APRIL 2023

# Mental Health Matters

## *Everyone Has A Story*



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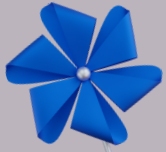
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# Baldwin County Child Advocacy Center



April is child abuse prevention month. The Baldwin County Child Advocacy Center (BCCAC) serves all children who have suffered or witnessed severe physical and sexual abuse. The BCCAC has two locations in Summerdale and Bay Minette. The mission of the BCCAC is “to provide resources and services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse, their supportive family members, and the community through a multidisciplinary team approach while empowering all towards child abuse prevention.” The BCCAC provides counseling services, forensic interviews, family advocacy, court school, prevention education, TransParenting classes, and Rollercoasters program. Last year, the BCCAC served 447 children in Baldwin County through direct service programs (counseling, forensic interviews, medical exams, and advocacy) and 8,570 children through the prevention programs. 143 children received therapy in 1,977 sessions at BCCAC last year.



*Every Child Matters*

[www.baldwincountycac.org](http://www.baldwincountycac.org)



Friday, April 21, 2023

*Oak Hollow Farm • Fairhope*

Great Food • Fabulous Music • Dancing • Drinks  
Silent Auction • Live Auction • Doors open at 6pm



## How Can I Help the BCCAC?

- Collect snacks and supplies from their wish list (see website for list). This is a great way to celebrate birthday parties by requesting snacks be donated in lieu of gifts or having a classroom or school club initiate a drive to collect items for the BCCAC.
- Put child abuse prevention signs and pinwheels at your school to acknowledge Child Abuse Prevention Month. The sign and pinwheels can be purchased through the BCCAC.
- Purchase “Every Child Matters” pinwheel pins and bracelets.
- Adults can attend the annual fundraiser event, Under the Stars at Oak Hollow Farm. This year’s event will be held **Friday April 21**.



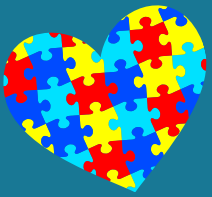
Pictured below are some of the incredible staff of BCCAC



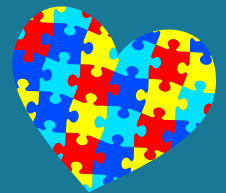
## SHOUT OUT

Shout out to **Robertsdale Elementary School** for their annual “Hug Day” event which recently raised \$1,240.08 for the Baldwin County CAC. Pictured left to right: Mrs. Serena Forrest (counselor), Mrs. Niki Whitaker (BCCAC Executive Director) Mrs. Dena Armbricht (Assistant Principal), Mrs. Shannon Rubio (counselor) and Dr. William Duncan (Principal),





# AUTISM AWARENESS



April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a broad range of behaviors such as repetitive behaviors, challenges with social skills, speech and nonverbal communication, all of which are most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association merged four distinct autism diagnoses into one umbrella diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). They included autistic disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome. In 2021, The CDC reported approximately 1 in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In 2018, data showed 1 in 27 boys and 1 in 116 girls identify with ASD, boys being four times more likely to be diagnosed than girls. For more information, visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

Located at 8909 Rand Avenue in Daphne, AL, the American Autism & Rehabilitation Center provides speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, summer camp programs, legal services, and family services.



AMERICAN AUTISM  
& REHABILITATION CENTER

Dr. Mary Temple Grandin is a Colorado State University professor of animal sciences and animal behaviorist. She is a prominent and widely cited proponent for humane treatment of livestock for slaughter. She was born in 1947 and did not speak until age 3. She is diagnosed with Autism and is an activist for autism rights and neurodiversity movements. Her remarkable career includes being a prominent consultant in the livestock industry and over 60 scientific articles on animal behaviors. She is the focus of a semi-biographical HBO film, Temple Grandin (2010). Visit [www.templegrandin.com](http://www.templegrandin.com) for more information on her incredible life.



## Mobile Bay Earth Day 2023

April 22nd 2023 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. in Fairhope

The Mobile Bay area celebration of Earth Day is inspired by the worldwide and national Earth Day, which promotes environmental citizenship and steers environmental awareness around the world. Live Music, Innovative solutions for Going Green, Children's Activities, Recycle Drop-Off and More. To learn more about this festival go to [www.earthdaymobilebay.org](http://www.earthdaymobilebay.org)



# Prevention & Support Staff

Love

## Spotlight

Learn

### *Mrs. Shamika Bramble*

Mrs. Shamkia Bramble is the school counselor at Silverhill Elementary School. This is her 16th year as a school counselor and her 7th year at Silverhill Elementary School. Prior to then, she taught first grade for three years. Mrs. Bramble earned her Master's degree in school counseling from the University of South Alabama and her Education Specialist degree in school counseling from the University of West Alabama.

Mrs. Bramble was born in Mobile, AL. She and her husband, Mr. Augustus Bramble, have two sons, Augustus III and Gavin. In her free time, Mrs. Bramble enjoys spending time with her family and friends and "filling other people's buckets." She serves as the director of the church nursery, facilitates youth Sunday school lessons, and works with the Christian Education Department at Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church. When asked what she loves most about being a school counselor, Mrs. Bramble states, "supporting students unconditionally, empowering students to believe in themselves, providing them with resources, and loving them as if they were my own."

## Silverhill Elementary



### Love-Learn-Lead-Together

Lead

### *Mr. Jeremy Smith*

Mr. Jeremy Smith is the school social worker for Silverhill Elementary School. He also serves the Fairhope feeder pattern schools (J. Larry Newton, Fairhope East Elementary, Fairhope West Elementary and Fairhope Middle). Mr. Smith has been with the Baldwin County School system for 24 years. He received his social work degree from Hampton University in Hampton, VA. Mr. Smith was raised in a military family who often moved. His family moved to Saraland, AL in 1994 and he began working for Baldwin County Schools in 1999. Mr. Smith's wife is a special education teacher at Fairhope West. They have one daughter, age 11 and they live in Mobile, AL. Mr. Smith loves movies and he even worked in a movie theater when he was young. He also enjoys traveling and dining out with his family. When asked what he loves most about being the school social worker for Silverhill Elementary School, Mr. Smith states that he loves interacting one on one with the students.



Together



Baldwin County School Parents  
Please Join Us

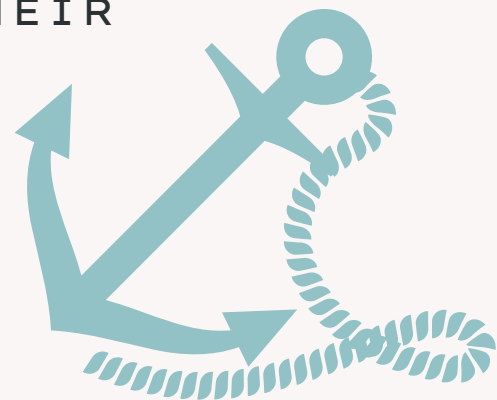
Thursday, April 13 @ 6:00 PM



# Navigating Anxiety

A SEMINAR ON HELPING OUR  
STUDENTS STRUGGLING WITH STRESS  
AND ANXIETY TO BREAK DOWN THE  
BARRIERS AND REACH THEIR  
MAXIMUM POTENTIAL

Hosted by  
The Baldwin County Virtual School  
605 US Hwy 98 Daphne Pelican Hall



# Youth Violence Prevention Week is April 24-28



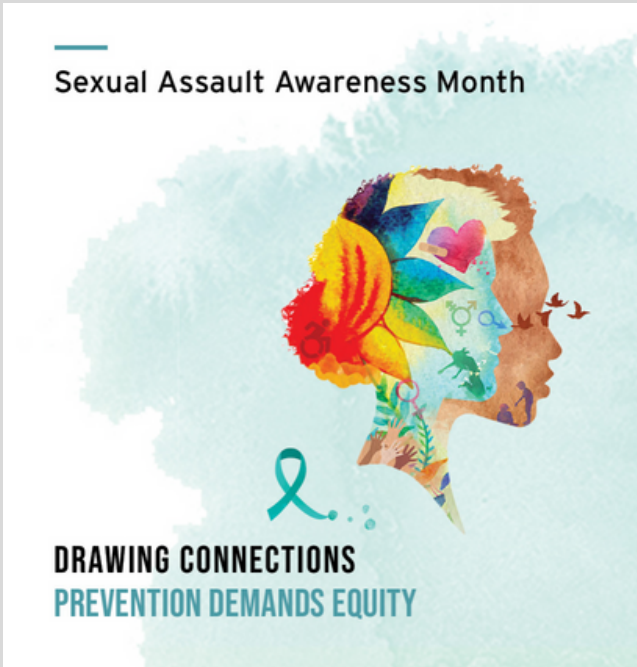
According to [www.youth.gov](http://www.youth.gov), youth violence is a significant problem that affects thousands of young people each day, and in turn, their families, schools, and communities. Youth violence and crime affect a community's economic health, as well as individuals' physical and mental health and well-being. Homicide is the third leading cause of death for youth in the United States. In 2016, more than 530,000 young people ages 10-24 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from violence. Youth violence typically involves young people hurting other peers. It can take different forms. Examples include fights, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. A young person can be involved with youth violence as a victim, offender, or witness.



## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2023 marks the 22nd anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity." According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime. 1 in 5 women in the U.S. experienced rape or attempted rape in their lifetime. 24.8% of men in the U.S. experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. 1 in 3 female victims of rape or attempted rape, experienced it for the first time between the ages of 11 and 17.

For more information, visit [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)



## The Lighthouse

*A Beacon of Hope*



LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

FOR DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SERVICES  
CALL

1-800-650-6522  
251-947-6008

THE LIGHTHOUSE

A United Way Partner

The Lighthouse, a non-profit agency founded in 1994, provides domestic violence services to Baldwin, Monroe, Conecuh and Escambia counties in Alabama. The Lighthouse also provide sexual assault services to Baldwin and Escambia counties.

The mission of The Lighthouse is the elimination of family violence and sexual assault through education, intervention services, and collaboration with the community.