

Agency Background

Haven of Lake & Sumter Counties, Inc. was established in 1977 to meet the needs of Domestic Violence victims. In the 33 years of existence, Haven has expanded its base of services and today provides comprehensive, unduplicated services to victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence. Our primary objectives are to provide these victims with alternatives to abuse or life-threatening situations, and empowerment to establish a violence-free life. Our services are rendered upon request, free of charge, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

Below is a brief list of services that are available to victims of violence.

Domestic Violence Services: Counseling, advocacy, and/or referrals for children through 17 years of age, who are victims of, or witness to domestic and/or sexual abuse, group counseling and positive parenting sessions; 24-hour hotlines provide immediate crisis intervention. Victims and their dependent children receive emergency shelter, food, clothing, transportation, and counseling (individual and group). Continuing services include education and employment referrals; outreach counseling is available in both Lake & Sumter Counties; Transitional living is available to victims requiring longer term physical and/or emotional healing; legal advocacy provides victims with referrals in cases of injunctions, child custody and support and other legal issues. The advocate can also help secure financial assistance under the Victims of Crime Act.; male victims may also receive Haven services.

Sexual Assault Services: Rape crisis hotlines, available 24 hours a day, provide immediate response to sexually assaulted victims (including children of all ages). Our professional staff provides emotional support for medical examinations and law enforcement investigations. Post-rape counseling is an integral part of our services, as is legal advocacy for the sexually abused victim. Counseling is also available to the families of the rape victim; as well as victims of incest, dating violence, and child molestation.