The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) publishes annual and semi-annual Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) that serve as a reliable indicator of the number, rate and types of crime and criminal activity known to, and reported by, the state’s law enforcement agencies. In addition to overall crime statistics, domestic violence crimes and arrests are segregated in the UCR providing separate data and rates specifically for these crimes.

The 2016 UCR was released this month and reflected that overall crime decreased 2.8 percent, and domestic violence crimes decreased by 1.9 percent. Domestic violence homicides in 2016 decreased 3 percent and represented more than 17.4 percent of all homicides in Florida. The report further revealed an increase of 11.8 percent in aggravated stalking. While overall reported aggravated stalking offenses are still relatively small, any increase is cause for concern as stalking is a common precursor to domestic violence homicide.

In 2016, law enforcement agencies reported a total 105,668 domestic violence offenses and made 63,193 arrests. Domestic violence crimes against spouses and cohabitants are overwhelmingly the most frequently reported relationship between perpetrators and victims.

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While the statewide incidence of reported domestic violence decreased slightly, 10 counties experienced increases of 10 percent or more. Overall, 32 of Florida’s 67 counties reported increases in domestic violence crimes, 34 experienced decreases and 1 remained constant. It should be noted that information contained in the UCR represents only domestic violence offenses reported to law enforcement agencies; and, it is widely recognized that domestic violence is a significantly underreported crime.

Additional information
• The 2016 UCR
• Specific domestic violence data
Bridging the Gap: A Collaborative Approach to Ending Domestic Violence

FCADV’s 2017 Statewide Biennial Training Institute

FCADV’s two day Statewide Biennial Training Institute, Bridging the Gap: A Collaborative Approach to Ending Domestic Violence, was intended to broaden our view of solutions to prevent and respond to domestic violence and discuss pressing issues that impact survivors, their families and communities.

Survivor safety and offender accountability have been central components of the work in the domestic violence field for many years. As a result, we’ve seen a significant expansion in crisis responses and legal interventions that are available to survivors and their children. When various members of the community coordinate their efforts to support survivors and hold batterers accountable, these efforts are more successful. Coordination helps to ensure that systems work more efficiently for survivors, perpetrators are appropriately sanctioned for their violence and survivors and their children are protected, and receive the services they need. A critical step towards coordinating responses is developing a common understanding of domestic violence and what it takes to provide effective system responses to domestic violence. During the conference, participants had the unique opportunity to engage with domestic violence experts from around the country and to have in-depth conversations regarding how to create supportive environments for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Author, filmmaker and National Women’s Hall of Fame Inductee, Jean Kilbourne conducted a fascinating keynote presentation the first day of the Institute. Her pioneering work helped develop and popularize the study of gender representations in advertising. Kilbourne’s presentation illustrated how the objectification of women creates a toxic cultural environment that encourages violence against women. She described domestic violence as a public health issue that is preventable and affects all of us. With wit and warmth, she encouraged dialogue and discussion and inspired people to take action. The second day’s keynote speaker, Marcus Bruning, a retired Supervising Deputy Sheriff with the St. Louis Sheriff’s Office, highlighted the importance of strategically working together to collect evidence in order to prosecute perpetrators.

In addition to the keynote speakers, the Institute included seven additional tracks that included:

- Effective Advocacy
- A View From the Bench: Fitting The Pieces Together
- Child and Youth Advocacy
- High Risk Responses
- Contracts and Grants
- Quality Assurance
- Collaborative Partnerships
The following is excerpted from a letter written by Susan Still in honor and recognition of Barry Krischer receiving the Vincent Mazzara Law Enforcement Leadership Award.

You receiving this award is so befitting on all accounts. By far you are a Champion for people like me. The work you have done and continue to dedicate your life to doing should be acknowledged and applauded.

We were a special team, Vince, you and me. Working together to bring his vision to life was one of the greatest things I will ever have been a part of, and I know you feel the same. I watched and listened to the two of you many times, observing the knowledge you shared, the mutual respect, planning of our work, and friendship between the two of you. In the work, you were extensions of one another. I'm crying as I write this, thinking back about two of the greatest men I have known in my lifetime, and what a privilege it is to continue to work with you.

Just as there is no other like Vince, there is no other like you Barry. The passion, fire, and knowledge you take into every program you implement, training you do, and piece of legislation you write, in the pursuit of justice for victims, is why the work you do is so impactful. Obviously others have taken note.

The last time I spoke with Vince he told me he would be watching over us. Today, I know he smiles.

This letter has been edited for space purposes. Susan Still is a survivor of domestic violence who works regularly with FCADV to train law enforcement officers on responding to domestic violence. She conducted numerous trainings in partnership with both Vince and Barry.

Help Now of Osceola Wins the Healthy Advocate Challenge

Advocates from throughout Florida participated in this year’s Annual Healthy Advocate Challenge. The Challenge honors advocates’ hard work and dedication by providing space and time to intentionally engage in self-care activities and display their journey in an artistic manner. During the four-week challenge period, advocates are encouraged to engage in various self-care activities and use a tracking chart to record daily progress. The cumulative efforts of advocates from participating certified domestic violence centers were displayed through a poster board contest at the Biennial Institute.

Congratulations to Help Now of Osceola - the winner of the 2017 Healthy Advocate Challenge!

Vincent Mazzara Law Enforcement Leadership Award

In his memory, FCADV created the Vincent Mazzara Law Enforcement Leadership Award to honor and recognize the dedication and commitment Vince exhibited throughout his career to make Florida safer for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Vince had a vast and highly decorated career in law enforcement that began in Detroit, where he worked as an undercover officer infiltrating and investigating organized crime. He was appointed by the Palm Beach Sheriff to lead their new Domestic Violence Program and then came to FCADV to expand the Coalition’s Law Enforcement Training Program. Vince had a deep passion for helping women and children who were living in fear—he saved more lives than any of us will ever know.

Vince’s wife, Tina Mazarra, joined FCADV’s Brandy Carlson this year in presenting the award to The Honorable Barry Krischer of Palm Beach County. Mr. Krischer was nominated by Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse in recognition of his dedicated career to ending domestic violence by improving and enforcing domestic violence laws in Florida.

In 1992 Mr. Krischer was elected State Attorney in Palm Beach County. During his 16 years in office, he created the Domestic Violence Elimination Unit, also known as DOVE, which provides advocacy and legal services for survivors seeking justice through criminal court proceedings. He continuously committed time to train his community on domestic violence, its impact on children, and the criminal justice system’s role in eliminating domestic violence through the prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators.

After his service as State Attorney, the Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County implemented the Barry Krischer Scholarship Award to support survivors of domestic violence and their children who are seeking higher education. It is his lifelong passion to end domestic violence, which makes the Honorable Barry Krischer the perfect recipient of the Vincent Mazzara Law Enforcement Leadership Award.
With almost 200 people attending, the annual Youth Summit hosted by FCADV and AVDA, was complete with steel drums, step routines, and statewide action planning to prevent teen dating violence. The Summit was held at Boynton Beach Community High School, and a team of students from the school helped to coordinate the day-long event. The Youth Summit is hosted every year around Teen Dating Violence Awareness month and brings young people from across the state together to talk about equitable relationships, teen dating violence prevention, and youth activism to change the conditions in our society that support violence.

The Summit began with performances by two youth groups: The Chobee Steelers and Step In School. Both groups use the arts to support youth leadership and engagement in healthy relationships. Byron Hurt, documentarian of *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, followed with an interactive discussion of gender norms: the pressures to “be a man” or “act like a lady.” Participants discussed how these norms impact their lives and relationships. Rigid gender norms are a risk factor for domestic violence and teen dating violence, and preventing violence requires understanding and addressing these beliefs about how men and women should act.

For the remainder of the day, the young people present participated in a variety of workshops. Break the Cycle hosted “Real Talk” sessions, an opportunity for youth to have honest and open conversations about teen dating violence. SafeHouse of Seminole’s BRAVE (Bystanders Rising Above Violence Everywhere) Ambassadors demonstrated bystander intervention and responding to unhealthy relationships by using role plays and video skits. The Chobee Steelers with Martha’s House, the certified domestic violence center in Okeechobee, demonstrated the steel drums and how they are used for prevention work. Students at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) helped young people write letters to their future selves. These letters encouraged youth to think about their hopes and dreams, as well as sending their future selves support and encouragement. Meanwhile adults attended workshops on mentorship and supporting youth leaders.

Dating violence is a prevalent issue that affects the daily lives of teens. These numbers, and the potential lifelong impacts of such behaviors, are startling. One in four adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year. Among 11-14 year olds in relationships, 62 percent say they know
The Chobee Steelers put an emphasis on promoting healthy relationships, team-building, self-esteem and positive thinking, all while learning and performing the steel drums.

Rural Domestic Violence Statewide Training Institute’s 20th Year!

The 20th Annual Rural Domestic Violence Statewide Training Institute took place in June in Pasco County. The theme for this year’s conference, “Embracing Culture, Seeking Justice, Fostering Collaboration” highlighted the efforts of rural communities throughout Florida to enhance domestic violence service provision and community response. Workshop topics included cultural and linguistic service provision, animal abuse, trauma-informed practices, cultural competency, digital advocacy and offender accountability.

This year’s Keynote speaker, Olga Trujillo, an internationally recognized trainer, opened the conference by sharing her early life experiences of physical and sexual violence, and her journey in healing the effects of trauma as an adult. Trujillo, an advocate, attorney and author, provided conference attendees with information about the influence culture can have in domestic violence situations and in the support services available to survivors. She additionally conducted two workshops after the Keynote that focused on how individuals can create trauma-informed responses to domestic violence and enhance culturally responsive services.

FCADV provides a multitude of resources to conference attendees, including brochures, training materials, books and tip-sheets. Attendees are encouraged to bring these materials back to their local rural communities to share with their partners. Conference attendees left with a wealth of knowledge and resources.

Mellie McDaniel Award

Since 2007, FCADV has presented the Mellie McDaniel Award to an outstanding law enforcement professional responding to domestic violence in rural communities. The award is in memory of Mellie McDaniel who was a Victim Advocate for Jackson County and the wife of the former Jackson

Participant feedback from the Institute:

“I loved the variety of topics and all of the resources available.”

“Awesome, informative, engaging and inspiring workshops and presenters!
Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you!”

Want to see more? To view the 2017 Youth Summit highlight video click: http://bit.ly/Youth2017

friends who have been verbally abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend, according to a Liz Claiborne Foundation study. According to a 2010 study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2,546,000 Florida women will experience rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. However, research from CDC also indicates that teen dating violence is preventable.

Preventing teen dating violence takes the work of all of us, especially young people as those directly affected by the issue. The Youth Summit is a place for young people to learn more about teen dating violence, and get involved in activism to prevent it. Teenagers are making change throughout the state of Florida to help move us towards a violence-free future.

(Continued on page 6)
Rural Domestic Violence  (Continued from page 5)

County Sheriff, John McDaniel. She was killed outside of her home by two men with criminal histories. We honor her memory each year by giving this award to an outstanding Victim Advocate or a Law Enforcement Professional working in a rural Florida community who has demonstrated, without exception their commitment to creating a safer environment for the survivors within their community.

This year’s Mellie McDaniel Award recipient has demonstrated this commitment in Pasco County. Detective Ryan Oakley, the Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST) Detective at the Pasco Sheriff’s Office, was nominated by Sunrise of Pasco’s InVEST advocate for his dedication and determination in assisting survivors of domestic violence and working diligently to ensure perpetrators of domestic violence are held accountable for their abuse. Detective Oakley is known for his patience and empathic work directly with survivors and conducts training at the Sheriff’s office that focuses on compassionate victim-interviewing strategies, the importance of survivor’s confidentiality and safety needs of survivors. He is active in several of Pasco County’s coordinated teams, including InVEST, Pasco Fatality Review Team and the Pasco Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force. Detective Oakley was presented the award by Sunrise of Pasco Chief Executive Officer, Kelly Sinn, InVEST Advocate, Megan Ibison and Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco.

Domestic Violence does not go away by looking away.

It stops when we stand up together.

It stops when we say it must, and not just one of us, but all of us.

Sponsored by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.