



# TEXOMA ALLIANCE To STOP ABUSE

Working Together To End Family Violence In Our Community

TASA NEWS July – September 2021 Issue 6

## SPOTLIGHT

This quarterly spotlight is TASA's newest employee, Michaela Goodrum. She will serve as the community educator and advocate.

Michaela was raised in Vernon her whole life. She graduated from the University of North Texas in 2020 with a bachelor's in integrative studies with focuses in Biology, English, and Spanish.

In her spare time, Ms. Goodrum enjoys drawing, painting, and playing with her 2 cats and dog.

When asked why she wanted to be a part of TASA's team, Michaela stated, "I want to make a difference in the community. I am excited to educate the public on domestic violence and provide resources and protections to victims seeking services."



## HIGHLIGHTS

\* This quarter the Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) reviewed 9 new family violence cases.

\* Advocacy and other services were offered to 6 additional victims of domestic violence this quarter.

\* A HUGE thank you to everyone who gave during Texoma Gives! Because of all the generous contributions, TASA was able to raise \$4,408. Every dollar has a huge impact and will go directly toward family violence services.

\* 46<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney Staley Heatly along with TASA's Executive Director Rachel Lira, will be presenting at the Collaborative Responses to Domestic Violence in Rural Communities virtual conference. They will be discussing how to create and operate a rural family violence program.

\* TASA welcomed its 2<sup>nd</sup> full-time employee, Michaela Goodrum.

## UPCOMING

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), and TASA has some events planned to raise awareness.

\* **Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** Mayor Gosline will sign a proclamation recognizing October as DVAM in Vernon.

\* **Oct 9<sup>th</sup>** TASA will have its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Remembrance Walk to honor and remember victims and survivors of DV. This will be held at the Wilbarger General Hospital track at 2pm. This is a free event, and participants are encouraged to wear purple.

\* **Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>** will be our first "Paint & Sip" Fundraiser. Local artists will lead participants in painting a beautiful sunset while enjoying wine and appetizers. You can register at <https://texomaalliance.org/>. All proceeds will go toward TASA services. Reg. Fee is \$50.

\* **Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>** TASA along with Mayor Gosline will host a round table with other local organizations to discuss how we can work together to improve our response to DV in the community.



## RESOURCES & INFO

As the Gabby Petito case grips the nation, there are some things we can learn about our approach to domestic violence and the impact of coercive control. Offenders of DV are crafty and will use the same manipulative techniques on police officers as they do on their victim. When law enforcement is called to a scene it is common to see the abuser calm and collected while the victim appears frantic and crying. Because of the difference in behaviors, it is easy for the abuser to blame the victim and deem her as crazy while he appears reasonable which can be mistaken as him being truthful. "We must do a better a job of responding to DV. Women are dying every single day across the country because we are getting it wrong," says District Attorney Staley Heatly.

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