

NEWS

Chattanooga City and Hamilton County Officials Recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month



By Camm Ashford
April is the 21st anniversary of the pronouncement of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Sexual violence impacts every community and affects millions of people each year.

In honor of SAAM, Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger and Dr. Mary Lambert, on behalf of Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly, last Friday proclaimed: “April 2022 as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month within Chattanooga and Hamilton County, and join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence.”

Dr. Lambert, who currently serves on the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Health Council, is the city of Chattanooga’s director of community health.

The proclamation ceremony took place at the Courts Building, 600 Market St.

Each year during the month of April, state, territory, tribal and community-based organizations, rape crisis centers, government agencies, businesses, campuses and individuals plan events and activities to highlight sexual violence as a public health, human rights and social justice issue and reinforce the need for prevention efforts.

SAAM traces its history to the 1970s, when activists first began organizing on a national scale to reduce sexual assault and violence against women. Advocates fought tirelessly to bring a topic once taboo for public discussion out of the shadows and shed light on the widespread problem of sexual assault.

The theme for this year’s SAAM campaign is “Building Safe Online Spaces Together.”

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center website, “Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. For too long harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse and exploitation have come to be expected as typical and unavoidable behaviors online. ‘Building Safe Online Spaces Together’ is possible when we practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content and behaviors, and promote online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety. We know that one month isn’t enough to solve the serious and widespread issue of sexual violence. However, the attention April generates is an opportunity to energize and expand prevention efforts throughout the year.”

For further information or help, contact the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults at (423)755-2822, or info@partnershipfca.com. Or call the 24/7 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline at (423)755-2700.

IN THE HUDDLE with Coach Jennings

Walk Away

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE

(Genesis 26:22, TLB)

Abandoning that one, he dug again, and the local residents finally left him alone. So he called it, “The Well of Room Enough for Us at Last!”

“For now at last,” he said, “the LORD has made room for us and we shall thrive.”

TODAY’S WORD

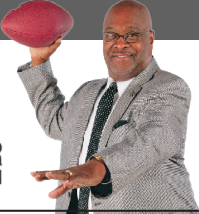
In Genesis 26, Isaac moved to the valley to get away from the local Philistines’ opposition. He could have fought them and won. Once in the valley, he reopened two wells that were rightfully his, but local herders quarreled over the wells, so he let them have the wells. One of the wells he named “argument” and the other “opposition.” He knew that although he could have kept them, it wouldn’t be worth the ongoing strife and conflict. He then dug a third well that was not contested, and he named it “room enough” or “wide-open spaces.” Too often we get bogged down at the well of argument and opposition, trying to prove our point and convince people we’re right. Sometimes you need to stay and fight for what belongs to you, but some battles that you could win are not worth fighting. There are times when you need to walk away and let GOD make it up to you. Take the high road to the valley where there’s room enough, abundance, and wide-open places.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

FATHER, thank YOU that I can avoid getting stuck in trying to prove my points and win arguments. Thank YOU that beyond the wells of opposition are valleys where there is room enough. I believe that YOU are leading me into wide-open places of abundance and wholeness. In JESUS’ Name, Amen.

Lurone “Coach” Jennings

Mary Walker Foundation
Executive Director



CARTA’s Easter Holiday Schedule

In observance of Easter, there will be no CARTA fixed route bus or Care-a-van services on Sunday, April 17th. The St. Elmo/Incline Shuttle will operate from 8 a.m. until 8:30 p.m., and the Downtown Shuttle will operate from 9:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Additional information on CARTA’s routes, schedules and services may be obtained by calling the CARTA Information Line at (423) 629-1473, or by visiting the CARTA website at www.gocarta.org.

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OUR CEO

DeVan Curry is the founder and current director of ANCUR, Inc. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga earning dual Bachelor of Science degrees in both Biology and Psychology. DeVan then advanced to Georgia State University earning his M.S. in Urban Policy Studies – Policy Analysis and Evaluation from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies in Atlanta, GA. Some of his accomplishments include:



- Developing Disaster Preparedness training, policy, and exercises for U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Through ANCUR INC, DeVan gained nearly six figures in Payroll Protection Program loans for his clients from the SBA, with a 100% approval rate, during the COVID-19 Crisis in 2020
- He has assisted over 200 small businesses and startups throughout the Southeast to become successful and profitable, helping others to achieve their vision.

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