



WHEN FAITH HURTS

**EMPOWERING THE FAITH COMMUNITY
TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO
CHILD ABUSE & SEXUAL ASSAULT**

*A conference for members of faith communities
and community partners*

GREENVILLE, SC

October 10th-12th, 2023

**DEVELOPED BY
ZERO ABUSE PROJECT**

**ADAPTED BY
JULIE VALENTINE CENTER**

Agenda

October 10-12, 2023

Tuesday, October 10th

- 8:30 am Welcome and Opening Remarks - Carrie Nettles and Shauna Galloway-Williams, Julie Valentine Center
- 8:45 am When Faith Hurts Part 1 - Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am When Faith Hurts Part 2 - Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm When Faith Hurts Part 3- Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project
- 2:30 pm Break
- 2:45 pm Mandated Reporting for Clergy - Shauna Galloway-Williams, Julie Valentine Center
- 4:30 pm Embodied Debriefing - Laura Thien, Julie Valentine Center
- 5:00 pm Dismissal

Wednesday, October 11th

- 8:30 am Race, Religion, and Trauma - Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am When Children Offend- Kim Ponce, Julie Valentine Center
- 11:45 am Lunch
- 12:45 pm Creating a Spiritual Home for LGBTQ youth and their families - Adam Schultz, Project Horizon
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm Questions/Reflections
- 3:00 pm Dismissal

Thursday, October 12th

- 8:30am Special Interest Sessions A: Lessons from the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examination) Room; Internet Safety; The Ever-Growing Positive Impact of Faith Communities & Victim Service Agencies Collaborating
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am Special Interest Sessions B: "Love, Honor, and Obey?" The Implications of Martial Rape; The Power of Prevention; Human Trafficking
- 11:45 am Lunch
- 12:45 pm Special Interest Sessions C: Addressing Spiritual Injury from Trauma-Informed Pastoral and Mental Health Perspectives; Child Sexual Exploitation in Places of Worship; Child Abuse Prevention in a Faith-Based Setting
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm Special Interest Sessions D: Challenging Dynamics in the Church: Case Examples for Addressing Sex Offenders in Places of Worship; What Happens After A Child Discloses; Spiritual Abuse in the Hispanic Community
- 4:00 pm Break
- 4:15 pm Moving Forward: Practical Application

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

- **When Faith Hurts: Understanding, Recognizing and Responding to the Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Impact of Child Maltreatment (Parts 1, 2, 3)**

Victor Vieth, JD, M.Th., Chief Program Officer, Zero Abuse Project

This opening session will provide an introduction to the issue of child abuse in faith-based communities. The speaker will highlight the prevalence of child abuse, how children disclose sexual abuse, the impact of sexual abuse on spirituality, behaviors indicative of sexual abuse, the interest sexual offenders have in faith based camps and schools and the methods often used in selecting children to be abused, effective policies for deterring sexual offenders, helpful rules and lessons from youth-serving organizations, physical abuse signs, types of emotional abuse, the role of background checks and worker interviews, how to respond when the church, synagogue, seminary or other faith institution is sued by a victim or group of victims, and suggestions for speaking with an adult survivor disclosing childhood maltreatment and an adult confessing child sexual abuse. The ongoing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) studies out of Kaiser Permanente and the Center for Disease Control suggest that childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction are major risk factors for the leading causes of illness, death and poor psychological adjustment in the United States. Cumulative adverse childhood events have a role in poor physical health, problematic health risk behaviors, learning challenges, behavior problems and disease. The presentation will introduce faith leaders to this research and discuss the importance of faith, medical and mental health providers working to address having a holistic approach to fulfilling a child's needs.

- **Mandated Reporting for Clergy**

Shauna Galloway-Williams, M.Ed., LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Julie Valentine Center

One of the most important roles a clergy person plays in protecting children and responding to a disclosure of child abuse is that of a mandated reporter. This session will provide an overview of definitions, important laws, and procedures for fulfilling the role of the mandated reporter and will address the issue of clergy/penitent privilege.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

- **Race, Religion, & Violence**

Victor Vieth, JD, M.Th., Chief Program Officer, Zero Abuse Project

In this workshop, participants receive an overview of the use of religion in justifying slavery, segregation and other oppressive practices. Students will also see the seeds of these teachings in modern day conspiracy theories. Armed with this knowledge, students will receive practical suggestions for addressing this aspect of historical trauma.

- **When Children Offend**

Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, LPC, Programs Officer, JVC

We spend a lot of time talking about the characteristics of adult offenders and how to best protect children against these offenders. Did you know that 36% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone under the age of eighteen? Child on child sexual abuse can be just as traumatic as when abuse is inflicted by an adult. When abuse is inflicted by an older peer or sibling, families and even mandated reporters may be resistant to reporting and seeking interventions. This session will focus on the issue of children abusing other children. This includes: Risks of older children serving in supervisory roles of younger children in youth and faith settings, the importance of reporting incidents of child on child sexual abuse, Age appropriate sexual behaviors and concerning behaviors, Understanding the reoffending risks of child and adolescent offenders, and why reporting these incidents and treating young offenders is so important

- **Creating a Spiritual Home for LGBTQIA+ Youth and Their Families**

Rev. Adam Schultz, M.Div, Pastor, Good Shepherd and Chaplain, Project Horizon

Whether you know it or not, LGBTQIA+ people exist as part of every community--even communities of faith--and even well-intentioned faith communities can impart unwelcoming messages and spiritual abuse to LGBTQIA+ children and youth in the congregation. In this module, we will define the LGBTQIA+ community, explore the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ children and youth, discuss how the lived experience of LGBTQIA+ can deepen all of our understanding of the gospel, and learn about what you as individuals and congregations can do to create communities of welcome for LGBTQIA+ children, youth, and their families.

Thursday, October 12, Session A - 8:30 am - 10:00 am

- **Lessons from the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examination) Room**

Ellen Kennedy, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, SANE Coordinator, Prisma Health Upstate

In this session our community SANE coordinator will educate participants on the process of patients seeking a rape kit, dispel myths about evidence collection and prosecution, and enhance our capacity to respond sensitively. Participants will learn about local and national resources for survivors. Through this module, faith leaders will be better prepared to provide a supportive and empathic environment for survivors of sexual assault in order to aid the healing process and foster a safer community for all members.

- **Internet Safety**

Rick Floyd, Greenville County Schools

This session will cover current trends in threats to groom and exploit children online, measures safe adults can take to help protect our children and our technology, digital hygiene 101, as well as appropriate measures to take when we discover child sexual abuse materials on our devices.

- **The Ever-Growing, Positive Impact of Faith Communities & Victim Service Agencies Collaborating!**

Roger Acton, SCVAN

This session will cover the history of these collaborations across the state, highlight the ways that we can build effective trauma-informed partnerships, and our hope for future improvement and expansion so that survivors may experience wholly helpful support and community in their healing.

Thursday, October 12, Session B - 10:15am - 11:56am

- **“Love, Honor, and Obey?” The Implications of Marital Rape**

Mary McGee, RN, SANE-A, Prisma Health

In this session, we will address the unique social and legal aspects of this crime, its ties to traditions of power and social control and its intersection with other related interpersonal violence. Through case studies and testimony from survivors, we as providers will discuss what tools we need to provide the greatest amount of support and healing for this trauma. In doing so, we will hopefully lift the veil and bring light to an important aspect of sexual trauma.

- **Power of Prevention**

Alexa Harper, JVC, Anna Spatafora, Safe Harbor, and Rick Floyd, GCS

Research indicates that prevention education is powerfully effective in equipping children to recognize and report threats to bodily integrity and grooming. This session will define personal safety, consent, healthy relationships, and boundaries. Each presenter will offer an overview of the curriculum available to bring into your congregations and organizations further empowering all children and adults to maintain safe relationships.

- **Human Trafficking**

Roger Acton, SCVAN

This session will define human trafficking and its various iterations, highlight common tactics traffickers employ to coerce and control others, and discuss effective and trauma-sensitive responses faith communities are encouraged to embody in concert with local agencies and best practices.

- **Addressing Spiritual Injury from Trauma-Informed Pastoral and Mental Health Perspectives**

Laura Thien, MSW, LISW-CP, Therapist, JVC and Rev. Dr. Jay Kieve, M.Div., Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

This session focuses on trauma-informed approaches to addressing spiritual injury, through the lens of both pastoral care and mental health treatment. Participants will work through the six principles of trauma-informed care and discuss practical application in their contexts.

- **Child Sexual Exploitation in Places of Worship**

Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, LPC, Programs Officer, JVC

This module aims to assist participants to better understand how to identify and prevent child sexual exploitation in faith communities. We will learn how South Carolina defines sexual exploitation. This includes trafficking but is more commonly the exploitation of children to create digital records of sexual content. We will explore myths and facts of sexual exploitation, victims, and perpetrators. We will also highlight case examples that occurred in places of worship or were perpetrated by faith leaders, both nationally and in South Carolina.

- **Child Abuse Prevention in the Faith-Based Setting**

Nina Mitchell, Human Resources Director, Brookwood Church

Participants will receive information about child abuse prevention and protection policies in the church setting, as well as information about how child safety education programs will benefit church leadership, children, and parents.

- **Challenging Dynamics in the Church: Case Examples for Addressing Sex Offenders in Places of Worship**

Rev. Carrie Nettles, MDiv, Chaplain and Dr. Jay Kieve, M.Div., Th.M., D.Min, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Church leadership often faces challenges when making decisions about how to address sex offenders in the Christian environments, how to address issues arising from sex offenders and survivors in the same place of worship, and how to provide appropriate safety measures and pastoral care. This session will discuss these dynamics and provide practical case study examples for discussion and application.

- **“What happens after a child discloses?”**

Krista Alessandrini, CAC Program Coordinator, JVC and Dr. Lyle Pritchard, Prisma

This session gives an overview of the role child advocacy centers play in responding to child abuse in the community. After a child discloses abuse, the CAC facilitates the investigative party's evidence collection and response to the needs of the child and family. Participants will learn about the general trajectory of children's cases and the routes to justice and healing provided by community partners.

- **Spiritual Abuse in the Hispanic Community**

Brenda Mancilla, Bilingual Advocate, JVC and Arelis Alcantara, SC Victim Assistance Network

We will be discussing the impact of spiritual abuse in the Hispanic community: what that can look like, how religion/spirituality impacts and influences the Hispanic community, and how spirituality/religion impact survivors in the community.

Keynote Speaker

VICTOR VIETH J.D., M.TH.



Victor has trained thousands of child-protection professionals from all 50 states, two U.S. Territories, and 17 countries on numerous topics pertaining to child abuse investigations, prosecutions and prevention. Victor gained national recognition for his work in addressing child abuse in small communities as a prosecutor in rural Minnesota, and has been named to the President's Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. In 2012, Victor was awarded the Pro Humanitate Award from the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare.

Victor is the Chief Program Officer, Education and Research of the Zero Abuse Project, a 501©(3) public charity based in St Paul, MN, committed to education, training, and survivor support in order to eradicate child sex abuse and remedy its resulting harms. He is the 2018 President of the Academy on Violence & Abuse, and founder of the National Child Protection Training Center. With NCPTC and its partners, Victor has been instrumental in implementing 22 state and international forensic interview training programs and dozens of undergraduate and graduate programs on child maltreatment.

Mr. Vieth graduated magna cum laude from WSU and earned his Juris Doctor from Hamline University School of Law (HUSL). In 2017, Victor earned an MA in theology from Wartburg Seminary. Mr. Vieth has published countless articles related to the investigation, prosecution and prevention of child abuse and neglect. He is author of *Unto the Third Generation*, a bold initiative that outlines the necessary steps we must all take to eliminate child abuse in America in three generations, and *On This Rock: A Call to Center the Christian Response to Child Abuse on the Life and Works of Jesus* (Wiff & Stock 2018).

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Roger Acton
Director Faith Based Victim Services,
SCVAN

Roger Acton is in his sixth year as the Faith Based Victim Services Program Director with the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network. At the beginning of 2020, he was appointed by the attorney general as the Subcommittee Chair of the Interfaith Initiative for the SC Human Trafficking Task Force. In January 2022, he was assigned to the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Interfaith Subcommittee Chair. With his desire to connect with all faith communities in this work, he is also a Board Member at Large with the Interfaith Partners of South Carolina. Roger joined the Midlands Sexual Assault Response Team this year, that creates a trauma-informed community able to respond to and support survivors and prevent sexual victimization. This Spring he began his ninth year as a part time chaplain with Marketplace Chaplains providing care ministry support to the staff of multiple businesses in the Midlands, as part of their employee benefits. With his wife, Cathy, they are celebrating 30 years of marriage this August, and are blessed with two awesome young, “adulting” daughters, Micah and Faith!



Arelis Alcantara, MA
Faith-Based Assistant Director,
SCVAN

Arelis Alcantara is the Assistant Program Director for the Faith and Victims Services Program at the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN). She joined SCVAN in April 2016 as a Paralegal and Victim Advocate for the Legal Assistance to Victims Program. Arelis’ knowledge of and credibility within the Hispanic community has been invaluable in engaging and collaborating with a variety of victim service programs and Hispanic Community faith leaders throughout the State. Arelis also actively serves in ministry in various leadership roles. She is a visionary who believes that we can certainly change the world through our service to the community. She is an Anderson University graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in Human Services and Behavioral Science and Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership.



Krista Alessandrini, MS
CAC Coordinator, Julie Valentine Center

Krista Alessandrini, MS: Krista is the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Coordinator with the Julie Valentine Center. In that role, Krista oversees the day to day procedures of the CAC. Krista earned a BA from the University of South Carolina Upstate in Interdisciplinary Studies with focus in Criminal Justice and Sociology, with a minor in Child Advocacy Studies and a MS from Capella University in Adolescent and Child Psychology. Krista previously served as a board member on the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office Foundation. Prior to working at Julie Valentine Center, Krista was a Juvenile Community Specialist with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

SPEAKER BIOS



Rick Floyd

Greenville County Schools Cyber Safe Programs Information Security Department

Rick Floyd has over 20 years law enforcement experience, retiring from the Greenville City Police Department in 2011. When he retired from the Greenville City Police Department, he was over internet/computer crimes, being responsible for investigating all electronic related crimes. He was extensively trained in computer forensics investigations in 2004 by the Federal government in Washington DC and at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Georgia. His computer training continued with state and federal training with updates and new technologies in computer forensic investigations. He was also a member of the S.C. Attorney General Internet Crimes Against Children task force (ICAC), where he received local and national training in proactive undercover online investigations. Rick had numerous classes and hours of training in tracking and locating criminals by their IP addresses, by filing search warrants with the proper Internet Service Provider (ISP) to determine the location and identify of suspects that were utilizing the internet to solicit and communicate with underage children. These investigations were conducted by Rick chatting online as an underage child utilizing underage personas. Being a member of ICAC, Rick worked with local, state and federal agencies to investigate criminal solicitation/enticement cases involving underage children over the internet. The online investigations frequently resulted in arrest and court proceedings, where Rick was responsible for collection/preservation of evidence, comprehensive reports and court testimony.

After retiring from the Greenville City Police Department, Rick began working for the Greenville County School District in Education Technology Services Information Security (GCSIS) where he is responsible for protecting information stored on the school district network, the safe use of the school district computers, ensuring safe access to the district network, and preventing unauthorized access to the school district network, both internally and externally.

Seeing the need for Internet Safety presentations for school children, staff, parents, and community groups, Rick formulated a training program where he began a proactive education program with the Greenville County School District presenting age-appropriate presentations that cover dangers of the internet, cyberbullying and the dangers and possible repercussions of sending inappropriate images over a computer or cell phone.



Shauna Galloway-Williams, M.Ed., LPC
CEO, Julie Valentine Center

Shauna Galloway-Williams is the CEO of the Julie Valentine Center. Shauna has more than 26 years of experience in the field of mental health, specializing in child abuse and sexual assault. As a licensed professional counselor, she conducts forensic interviews, provides expert witness testimony, and conducts local, statewide, and national training in the field of child abuse and sexual assault. Shauna received her BA in Psychology at Winthrop University and her M.Ed. In Counseling at Clemson University. Shauna has served on the Board of Directors for SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, South Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (SCPSAC), and South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA). As an adjunct faculty member of the University of SC Upstate CAST program and a member of Silent Tears, Shauna is passionately committed to educating and advocating for effective child maltreatment services to support children and families and to see an end to these crimes in our community.



Alexa Harper
Education Coordinator,
Julie Valentine Center

Alexa Harper serves as the Education Coordinator at the Julie Valentine Center. In that role, Alexa provides prevention education programming to Greenville County Schools, local universities, and other community organizations as well as local restaurants and bars. Alexa earned a BS in Family and Consumer Sciences from Meredith College and will complete a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) in February 2024. Prior to working at Julie Valentine Center, Alexa worked in various roles at Generations Group Homes. Outside of her professional life, Alexa enjoys quilting, gardening, and reading as well as traveling to new destinations with her spouse, David.

SPEAKER BIOS



Ellen Kennedy has served as the SANE Coordinator for Prisma Health Upstate since April 2018. Since that time, she has helped guide the creation of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program that offers 24/7/365 coverage for 4 counties in Upstate South Carolina. She also is the recipient of a \$1 million dollar HRSA grant to recruit and train SANE staff in rural areas. In 2022, this grant was renewed for another 2 years. Ellen was also awarded the Palmetto Gold Award in September 2022, a South Carolina state-wide nursing award.

Ellen Kennedy, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P
SANE Coordinator, Prisma Health Upstate



The Reverend Dr. Jay Kieve serves as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Director of Ministerial Transitions and their Abuse Prevention and Response Advocate. He leverages technology and the CBF network of churches and clergy to support congregations and ministers as they connect for vocational opportunities. He is also passionate about helping churches become places free from abuse where everyone can thrive. Jay is a safeguarding specialist for GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) and a facilitator for Darkness to Light's "Stewards of Children." He maintains a professional trauma certification and is trained as a victim's advocate. Jay volunteers with local rape crisis / child advocacy centers and supports churches as they develop great policies and procedures for preventing abuse. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, a Master of Theology and a Master of Divinity degrees from the Divinity School at Duke University, and Bachelor of Arts from Mercer University. He parents two adult children with Melanie, his wife of 31 years.

Rev. Dr. Jay Kieve, M.Div., Th.M., D.Min,
Director of Ministerial Transitions & Abuse
Prevention and Response Advocate,
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



Brenda Mancilla, Bilingual Advocate at the Julie Valentine Center. Graduated from Winthrop University with a Bachelor's in Social Work, and a Master Social Work (MSW) from Limestone University. She was born in Washington State but has lived in South Carolina for over fifteen years. In her free time, she likes to go hiking and try new restaurants.

Brenda Mancilla, BSW, MSW
Bilingual Advocate, Julie Valentine Center



Mary McGee has been a registered nurse since 1985, with a varied career at the bedside including critical care, home health, and emergency department. She has also worked in education both for staff and in the community college setting. She attended Northeastern Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia, graduating in 1985, then obtained a BA in History from Villanova University in 2007 and a BSN from Western Governors University in 2015. In 2015 she received a Nursing Excellence Award from Greenville Health System, and in 2019 she received the Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence. She is a certified SANE-A and has been working for Prisma Health SANE program since 2019.

Mary McGee, RN, SANE-A
Prisma Medical

SPEAKER BIOS



Nina Mitchell, BA

Human Resources, Brookwood Church

Nina Mitchell has more than 20 years of experience in human resources. As a certified professional in human resources she manages employee relations and diversity, talent acquisition, organizational development, change management, HR policy/procedure & system design, and safety/security. She has been serving at Brookwood Church in a human resources capacity since 2006. Nina received her BA in Business from the University of Maryland. Nina is committed to ensuring that Brookwood provides a safe environment for employees and guest/members and strongly desires to help all churches be proactive in their prevention of abuse of any kind.



Rev. Carrie Nettles, MDiv
Chaplain, Julie Valentine Center

Carrie Walker Nettles earned a BA in Sociology from Clemson University and an MDiv from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Carrie has worked with the children's ministries of five churches and as a child advocate with the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center in Charleston, SC. Carrie has traveled to General Theological Seminary to study with Jerome Berryman, developer of Godly Play, specifically working on a theology of the child and the spirituality of the child. Carrie completed a residency with the Spiritual Care department at Greenville Memorial Hospital where she worked across all units encountering various stages of trauma and recovery, specifically assigned to the pediatric psychiatric facility and children's hospital. Carrie is endorsed to chaplaincy by the Alliance of Baptists, and has entered the board certification process. She is a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains and the Pediatric Chaplains Network. In January of 2017, Carrie became the first staff chaplain serving a Child Advocacy Center.



Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, LPC Chief
Programs Officer, Julie Valentine Center

Kim Ponce has been privileged to work with courageous children and families facing abuse since 2006. She also coordinates the multi-disciplinary team of child abuse professionals which meets weekly to discuss open cases of physical and sexual abuse. She is committed to educating others about child abuse and building a trauma-informed community in Greenville, South Carolina. Kim earned a B.S. in Experimental Psychology at the University of South Carolina, Upstate.



Dr. Lyle Pritchard, MD
Prisma Health

Lyle grew up in Spartanburg, SC and graduated from The College of William and Mary. She received her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed Pediatrics training at The University of Alabama in Birmingham. She became board certified in Pediatrics in 1991. After an experience in private practice, she joined the faculty of the Greenwood, SC Family Medicine Residency Training program as a Pediatrics attending. There, she began providing medical care for children with concerns of abuse or neglect. She helped develop the Children's Advocacy Center in Greenwood, and through the South Carolina Child Abuse Medical Response System became qualified as a Child Abuse Medical Specialist in the state of SC. In 2017, she joined the Greenville Children's Hospital faculty as a Child Abuse Pediatrician. She sees children in the upstate of SC with concerns for abuse or neglect, both at Greenville Memorial Hospital and at the upstate children's advocacy centers.

Lyle has also been able to fulfill a personal goal of working with Pediatricians in the international community. She has traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Delhi, India to work with local physicians and give lectures on child abuse. Outdoor play, including hiking, biking, tennis and water sports, along with good food and wine with family and friends, are her favorite forms of self care!

SPEAKER BIOS



Rev. Adam C. Schultz, M.Div.
Good Shepherd

The Rev. Adam C. Schultz is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, proudly serving at Good Shepherd in Lexington, VA. Pastor Adam holds a bachelors degree in religious studies from Furman University (Greenville, SC), a masters degree in nonprofit management from Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH), and a masters of divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, SC). He is a proud member of Proclaim (a program of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, www.elm.org), a professional association of LGBTQIA+ Lutheran pastors, deacons, and seminarians.

Adam is the Spiritual Counselor at Project Horizon, a nonprofit human service organization dedicated to reducing domestic, dating, and sexual violence, situated in Lexington, VA. Adam is one of six spiritual counselors / chaplains across the nation working child advocacy centers addressing the spiritual trauma accompanies sexual abuse for a more wholistic approach to healing. Before ministry, he worked for ten years in nonprofit capacity-building consulting focusing on strategic planning, board development, fund development, succession planning, and partnership/collaboration development. In his spare time, Adam relishes running, cooking, reading, bingeing television, spending copious amounts of time outdoors, and sipping a well-steeped cup of tea.



Anna Spatafora, BHuServ
Director of Prevention and Outreach,
Safe Harbor

Anna Spatafora began her work at Safe Harbor nearly 10 years ago after graduating from Southern Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. She has worked in direct service, and prevention, and is now the Director of Prevention and Outreach. Over the last ten years, she has developed a deep passion for educating communities on the impacts of domestic violence and helping others understand how they can help prevent it. Anna lives in Anderson, SC with her husband Anthony, and 2 children, Maddox, and Avery.



Laura Thien, LISW-CP
Adult Therapist, Julie Valentine Center

Laura Thien is an adult therapist with the Julie Valentine Center. She has been working with survivors of child abuse, sexual assault, and other trauma for over 16 years in a variety of capacities, including adoptions, foster care, and clinical practice. Much of that time has coincided with advocacy work in the faith community for better prevention, education, congregational care, and collaboration with the child protection community. Laura has a Master's of Social Work from the University of South Carolina and is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of South Carolina. She has previously served on the board of directors for the Julie Valentine Center and the South Carolina Network of Child Advocacy Centers. She currently serves on the board for GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment).