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NEWS FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

BARRAGA: VIBS-FAMILY VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER IS A THRIVING AND RESOURCEFUL ORGANIZATION TO OUR COMMUNITIES IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

Established in 1976, VIBS Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center has pioneered services and innovative programs for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Their mission is to assist survivors, to prevent these crimes through education and services, and to raise community awareness of the need for justice and compassion for victims.

VIBS works toward creating communities of safe and loving homes; healthy abuse-free relationships; and social climate that discourages abuse and restores dignity to survivors.

The agency is committed to assisting the diverse population of Suffolk County. Free and confidential counseling and advocacy are available in English and Spanish. The hotline is equipped with TDD to serve the deaf community, and ASL interpreters are available. The office is wheelchair accessible.

The 24 hour hotline at VIBS is (641) 360-3606. If you or your family are in need of these services please contact this number immediately.

Volunteers also play a vital role in the work of VIBS. There are many volunteer opportunities with training to fit the jobs. Volunteers serve as Emergency Room Companions, in the speakers' bureau, in the office, in child care, and at special events. Call the office (631)-360-3730 or visit the website www.vibs.org for more information.

As the Executive Director, Pamela Johnston, and the many members of VIBS have grown and seen an expansion and acquisition of a new facility; the organization relies on a combination of government and private sources. The monies have allowed VIBS to add additional services such as an art therapy program for children that have experienced a traumatic event, an elderly abuse program, and many others. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. If you have any interest in donating to this organization please contact VIBS at (631)-360-3730 or visit the website www.vibs.org for more information.