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## ***FACT SHEET – THE COLLINS CENTER***

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- The rape and death of Shirley Collins, which inspired the creation of Citizens Against Sexual Assault (CASA), took place on October 18, 1987.
- CASA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in October, 1988, and began providing services in October, 1989.
- In January, 2007, nearly 20 years after the death of Shirley Collins, CASA expanded the organization to better serve the community and also took on a new name, the Collins Center, to continue honoring the memory of Ms. Collins.
- The organization began in the basement of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Harrisonburg with only two part-time staff and few volunteers. It now includes nine full-time staff members and a volunteer staff of over 35 individuals.
- The services that the Collins Center provides include: professional therapeutic treatment for all mental health issues; crisis counseling and support groups for victims of sexual assault; hospital accompaniment and court advocacy for sexual violence victims; a 24-hour crisis hotline (540-434-2272) for sexual assault victims; and prevention education and outreach to schools, universities, allied professionals, and community groups.
- As an organization, the Collins Center provides direct services to nearly 600 victims of sexual assault each year, reaches nearly 4,000 people through its prevention outreach, and aims to serve 60 people a week through its therapy program.
- CASA, the sexual assault victims and survivors service arm of the Collins Center, is guided by the following mission: “For too long sexual violence was a taboo in our community – unspoken, guarded, hidden, and unrecognized. However, through increased understanding, information, courage, and solidarity, concerned citizens no longer have to remain in silence. CASA is here to give a voice to the victims who face that silence and to continually work to prevent sexual assault.”
- The Collins Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization funded through generous community donations and state, federal, and private grants.