

James House sponsors Denim Day

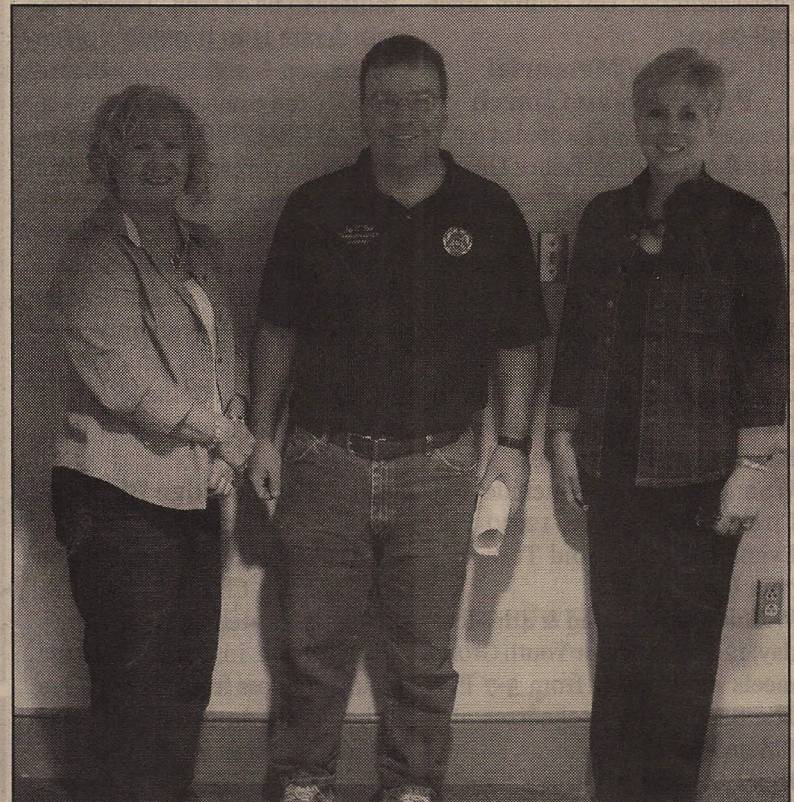
On Thursday, April 28, The James House Intervention/Prevention Services sponsored Denim Day 2011, an event designed to raise awareness about sexual assault as well as donations for The James House. Denim Day began in Italy over 15 years ago when a judge on the Italian Supreme Court overturned a 45-year-old man's rape conviction using the reasoning that the teen girl he attacked had on tight jeans, jeans are by nature tight-fitting, she must have helped her attacker remove the jeans, and therefore, the sex was consensual. The women in the Italian Parliament were so outraged by this decision that let a rapist walk free, they showed up to work the next day wearing blue jeans. Their willingness to stand united in protest brought attention to the issues surrounding sexual assault and the idea behind Denim Day was born.

"The James House has been raising awareness through our Denim Day event for several years now and the number of people participating continues to grow each year," stated

Jane Clayborne, Community Services Director at The James House. "It's a fun, easy way for individuals to really make a difference and to support those in our communities who are affected by sexual violence."

Employees from Prince George County participated in the event, wearing jeans to work on Denim Day in exchange for a monetary donation to The James House. Those who took part learned about sexual violence, how it affects individuals and communities, and how they can support the work done at The James House. Leslie Allin, South Elementary School librarian stated, "County employees support this event because they see it as a way to make a difference in the lives of those who are affected by sexual violence." Some of the county agencies whose employees participated include the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, County Administration, Walton Elementary School, and South Elementary School.

All proceeds from Denim Day will be used to provide cost-free, confidential services for Prince George



Above, Prince George employees Cheryl Rose, Jay Paul and Laura Smith participate in Denim day. Below, Percy Ashcraft, Prince George County Administrator; Teresa Knott, County Clerk; Pamela Thompson, Deputy County Administrator lend support to the James House cause.

County residents affected by sexual violence, domestic violence or stalking to empower them to become healthy, safe, and self-sufficient. The James House is accredited by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance to provide these services which include a 24-hour crisis line (458-2840), safety planning, emergency safe shelter, individual counseling, support groups, case management,

community referrals and more. To learn more about The James House or to make a donation, visit www.thejameshouse.org or call 458-2704.

To learn more about Denim Day and how your organization can take part in Denim Day 2012, contact Jane Clayborne at 458-2704 or jane@thejameshouse.org.

