

## Inner Garden Counseling Mission Statement

Deborah Winchock-Ebert. MS, QS, LMHC



We offer compassionate and professional counseling for individuals and families located in Volusia County, including Port Orange, Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, Holly Hill, New Smyrna Beach, Deland, and surrounding areas. As counselors, we know that reaching out for help and support in times of stress can be difficult. We respect your courage and trust in our ability to provide you with individualized care while maintaining respect for your particular values and beliefs.

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To whom it may concern / Re: VOCA Grant 2016:

I have been offering Therapeutic services for Straight Up SolGier Foundation since 2012. I have helped a plethora of sexual abuse victims that have been tremendously impacted by this terrifying, intensely traumatizing event. Sexual abuse can affect your thoughts, feelings, behaviors, attitudes, dreams, relationships, and hopes for the future. There are physical, behavioral, emotional, and cognitive reactions that victims go through during and after the abuse. It is very difficult to move on with your life without proper counseling and a support system. I believe only victims can truly understand the depth and complexity of the feelings they are experiencing.

Since the closing of the Children's Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Response Team victims have when unsure where to receive services and it has put our County in a crisis mode. I believe Straight Up SolGier Foundation is the only organization in our County that is giving **free unlimited counseling sessions**. This is very important to the victims. It often takes weeks for a victim to be comfortable enough with the therapist to be able to speak about what happened to them and process the abuse. I have been working with victims for 19 years and have witnessed clients not opening up at times for months.

We this said, I strongly urge you to give some of the funding to a much needed service in our two county area (Volusia & Flagler). Straight Up SolGier Foundation wants to help as many victims as possible to begin their road to recovery and to live a successful, fulfilling life. We want victims to become survivors and not suffer years of trauma and anguish.

Sincerely,



Deborah Winchock-Ebert, MS, QS, LMHC