

Hope Family Services Inc. is a long-standing nonprofit organization serving Manatee County that supports individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. Founded in 1979, the agency is state-certified and provides free, confidential services focused on safety, healing, and long-term stability. Its programs include emergency shelter for survivors and their children, counseling and support groups, legal and court advocacy, safety planning, and specialized services for children affected by domestic violence. Hope Family Services also offers prevention education and community outreach aimed at breaking cycles of abuse and promoting healthy, non-violent relationships. Through these comprehensive efforts, the organization helps thousands of local survivors each year rebuild their lives with dignity, strength, and hope.



**Guest Speaker
Dawn Bryant**

Dawn Bryant is a domestic violence advocate and has appeared in a domestic violence documentary entitled "*A Way Out*," which premiered in October 2015 in conjunction with the Sarasota Film Festival. Dawn has worked at Hope Family Services in Bradenton, FL, for almost twenty-six years in various capacities, including frontline advocate, outreach advocacy director, shelter director, and, currently, chief operating officer. In 2012, Dawn was the recipient of the Sylvia Tucker Award. This award honors a Woman of Color who strives for the highest levels of dedication to the many facets of the battered women's movement.

Dawn will be speaking on the services Hope Family Services provides to our local community and how we as individuals can help make a difference.