Hope's Door

Embracing Life Free From Domestic Abuse

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

Hope's Door seeks to end domestic violence and to empower victims to achieve safety, independence and healing from the trauma of abuse.

PO Box 203, 39 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

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www.HopesDoorNY.org

www.facebook.com/hopesdoornyinc

www.youtube.com/user/hopesdoorny

HOME: IT'S WHERE YOU SHOULD FEEL SAFE AND PROTECTED. HOPE'S DOOR: IT'S WHO YOU CALL IF YOU'RE NOT.

Hope's Door

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CARLLA HORTON

Last year, 722 victims found the courage to knock on Hope's Door and ask for help. These survivors of abuse ranged from a girl of 14 struggling to comprehend what was happening in her first relationship, to a man of 43 who didn't think abuse happened to men, to a 72-year-old whose entire married life was dominated by her husband's abuse of power and control.

Our counselors helped each of these survivors to assess their level of danger and the steps they could take to overcome their barriers to safety and independence. We accompanied 358 survivors to court for orders of protection, provided 5,889 nights of safety in our shelter for women and children fleeing abuse, encouraged 570 women and 22 men to break the silence in our counseling and support group sessions, helped 130 children heal from the trauma of abuse, and empowered 7,748 teens in our Love Shouldn't Hurt dating abuse program.

All of this happened because our supporters contributed their time, talent and treasure. One anonymous donor's support over the last three years was a key factor in our ability to weather the economic storm that challenged our ability to serve. This year, a physician donated professional office space, which allowed us to open Hope's Door Ossining.

We are awed by the courage and strength demonstrated by those we serve and so grateful for the extraordinary generosity of those who share in our mission of hope. Your support makes words like these possible:

"Hope's Door has given me the courage and hope I never had before and has helped me become the woman I was meant to be — strong, courageous and most of all, free."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Hope's Door Ossining

In September, we cut the ribbon at Hope's Door Ossining. We gratefully acknowledge these donors: Dr. Arthur Turken who donatedthe space, the Avon Foundation, First Niagara, Mary Kay Foundation, Sexauer Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, Wells Fargo and the Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation. Avon Foundation President Carol Kurzig stated, "It is through initiatives like Hope's Door Ossining that we can work to break the cycle of violence once and for all." We served 78 victims from Ossining during the year, up 66% from 2012.

Shining Star Scholarship

Alejandra Andrade, Jeaney Paez, County Executive Rob Astorino, Teen Program Director Dianne DeFilippis, Teen Educator Gina Curcuru

STAR leader Jeaney Paez received $2,000 for speaking out against violence and promoting healthy relationships based on equality, respect and trust. Jeaney told us, "STAR taught me skills that will help me make smart and healthy decisions and become the successful, young woman that I know I can be." Funds for the scholarship were provided by the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Hope's Door joined with the 29th Annual Women's Hall of Fame sponsored by the Women's Research and Education Fund to honor former New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer. Suzi was an early supporter of our Love Shouldn't Hurt program and a steadfast advocate for women and girls, including victims of dating abuse and domestic violence.

Violence Against Women Act

Karen Carroll, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Executive Director CarlLa Horton and Director of Development and Community Relations Jennifer Ryan Safsel

Hope's Door joined with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in a successful effort to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act Executive Director CarlLa Horton stated, " We applaud those who championed the bill and fought for expanded provisions for LGBTQ, immigrant, and Native American victims of abuse."

Teen Dating Violence Awareness

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and County Executive Rob Astorino joined with Hope's Door staff to raise awareness during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. A press conference was held at White Plains High School where we co-sponsor a STAR chapter with Margaret's Place, a program of the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation.

Women's Hall of Fame

Top: Judith Werbitt, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Jennifer Ryan Safsel, Jean Marie Connolly, Suzi Oppenheimer, District Attorney Janet DiFiore, CarlLa Horton, Judith Huntington. Bottom: Pat Lanza, Jeaney Paez, Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

One Billion Rising – Hudson River Rising

One Billion Rising, with associated Hudson River Rising, was a call to action to end the physical and sexual violence that victimizes one in three women and girls on the planet. We gratefully acknowledge the hundreds of supporters who came out to demand an end to the violence and to support Hope's Door at three events organized by Jane Dubin, Elyssa Feldman Most, and Margaret Liston.

Women's Equality Act

Director of Development Jennifer Ryan Safsel, NYS Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, and Executive Director CarlLa Horton.

During the year, Hope's Door advocated with a coalition of over 850 legal, advocacy, religious and business groups to urge passage of the Women's Equality Agenda put forth by Governor Cuomo. The 10-point package included essential protections to break down barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender. Work on the legislative package will continue.

LUNCHEON

Our annual luncheon at Crabtree's Kittle House raised much-needed funds for our programs.

Top: Luncheon Co-Chairs Jean Marie Connolly and Anne Ring. Bottom: Executive Director CarlLa Horton, Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett and Christine Sculti.

Horace Greeley High School Principal Robert Rhodes, Board Vice President Martha Kohn, Executive Director CarlLa Horton, Board Member Elizabeth Cronin, and Board President Eric Wrubel at Hope's Door Luncheon.

Assemblyman David Buchwald, District Attorney Janet DiFiore, Executive Director CarlLa Horton, and Family Justice Center Director Robi Schlaff at Hope's Door Luncheon.

GALA

Honorary Co-Chair
Alyssa Dweck, MD

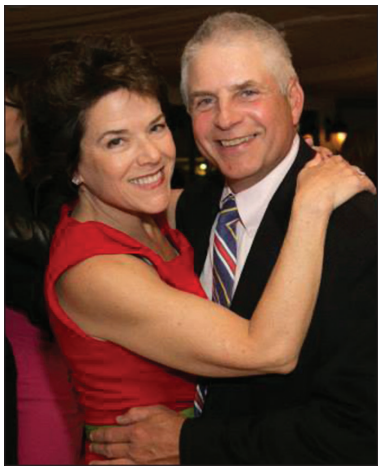
Honorary Co-Chair
Joel Seligman

Our Annual Spring Gala hosted by the Friends Committee was a wonderful evening celebrating our mission of ending domestic violence and breaking the cycle of abuse. Woodlands Community Temple was honored for its support of our mission.

Gala Committee: Top: Barbara Stewart-Schloat, Ingrid Connolly, Nancy Simpkins, Sue Bauman, Jane Silverman, Laurie Sturz. Bottom: Jennifer Ryan Safsel, Susan Stillman, Karen Burchetta, April Foley, CarlLa Horton, Caroline Shepherd, Ali Flynn, Ursula LaMotte, Ken Marsolais, Dina Gammer.

Board members Debra Kousouros, Elizabeth Cronin, and Board President Eric Wrubel.

Penney Klingman and Dr. Lynn McDonald.



Nancy K. Simpkins and Thomas Vitti.

Hope's Door Friends Committee Members Debbie Lionetti, Laurie Sturz, Michele Schimmel, and Caroline Shepherd.

Hope's Door Staff—Top: Elsa Arce, Stephanie Avila, Amanda Ready, Gay French-Ottaviani, Jennifer Ryan Safsel, Phillip G. Morton, Dina Gammer, Amy Grogan, Kathleen McCoy-Psychoyos, Bottom: Joanna Gutierrez, Dianne DeFilippis, Gina Curcuru, Penny Pepe and Crystal Giuriceo.

SAFETY: THE CORNERSTONE OF ALL SERVICES

SAFETY PLANNING AND DANGER ASSESSMENTS

Safety planning and danger assessments are the most important services we provide. We help victims assess their level of danger and empower themselves with safety strategies — whether the victim decides to leave or to stay in the relationship.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

It takes tremendous courage for a battered woman to walk away from her home and into our shelter. Often she leaves behind not only her abuser but also her family, friends, neighbors, job, and other sources of love and support. Imagine just for a moment your life without these or similar comforts. It's almost unimaginable — perhaps equally as painful as the abuse and violence left behind. During the year,we provided 5,889 days of safety to 81 women and children.

COUNSELING, SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

Our counseling, support group and advocacy program is a safe place for victims to break the silence about the violence, to learn safety strategies and to prudently plan for their future. In our sessions, abuse victims learn the difference between a relationship dominated by power and control and one based on equality, respect and trust. 722 victims were served during the year.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Children who witness or endure family violence suffer from trauma and manifest behaviors that thwart their ability to thrive. Given this reality and its daunting implications, we employ an array of strategies to help children break the cycle of violence, learn safety strategies, and heal from the trauma of abuse. There were 924 children in the families we served during the year.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our community education and outreach campaign reached almost 10,000 persons during the year. We worked with communities of faith, police departments, human service agencies, civic organizations, schools, colleges, youth-serving organizations, court personnel, elected officials, medical providers and corporate employers, among others.

During the year, our hotline workers and volunteers responded to 702 callers in crisis.

24-HOUR HOTLINE 888.438.8700

“I lived with abuse for seven years before I found the courage to call the hotline at Hope's Door. I finally realized that we just couldn't live like that any longer.”

VOICES OF SURVIVORS

NATALIA

When I first went to Hope's Door, I was destitute, alone, depressed and without a job, money, family or friends. At Hope's Door, I found hope. I had support and someone to help me navigate the legal and social policy quagmire. They pushed me to think, to stand on my own two feet, to seek help, and to learn to help myself. Today I am smiling as I write this, on my couch, in my scrubs, in my own apartment. Five years ago, as I sat in my counselor's office crying my heart out, I could never have imagined that today I would be who I am – where I am. If I had three entities to thank for today, for my life, Hope's Door would be one of them.

LISA

The last time my husband attacked me, I knew I had to leave. I didn't want our daughter witnessing my abuse. I left my home, financial security, and marriage. The Hope's Door shelter provided a safe place to begin my new life. I got an order of protection and custody of our daughter. After securing housing and a job, I thought it would be rainbows and unicorns. It wasn't. Freedom is an ongoing process of navigating through the new ways he tries to control me. Freedom is a slog again and again through my fear of him, then accepting the fear, making friends with the fear, then moving on to a higher level of freedom. My freedom has been hard won, but it is freedom and is worth everything to me.

"Even after my ex-boyfriend choked me, I didn't tell anyone. I didn't know where to turn. I felt stuck. Then I heard about the teen program at Hope's Door. I not only learned how to protect myself but now I can help others facing the same problem."

You are not alone.

"My freedom has been hard won, but it is freedom and is worth everything to me."

MIRANDA

When I left court, I had more than my order of protection. I went home with my dignity and my confidence restored. Hope's Door had built a protective fence around me and my family. It was the first time in months that I felt I could breathe.

CHERYL

When we first arrived at the shelter, I looked around and was stunned. I don't know what I was expecting — maybe a gymnasium with cots all around and me staying awake all night to protect the kids. What I found was a home where everybody did everything they could to make us feel safe and comfortable.

MARIE-CLAIRE

My counselor was wonderful in helping me deal with the domestic abuse that I went through. From the first moment we spoke, and every step of the way, she was there for me, giving me excellent advice, positive words and answering all of my questions. She was always one step ahead of me in anticipating just what information I might need and answers to questions that I would have.

CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS

100% of those we served stated in anonymous surveys that they were more empowered than when they first came to Hope's Door and that they would recommend Hope's Door to a friend or family member.

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT AND STAR PEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Teen Dating Abuse Awareness, Intervention and Prevention

Love Shouldn't Hurt empowers young people with the skills to distinguish between abusive relationships and those based on equality, respect and trust. The cornerstone of our program is the knowledge that young victims are reluctant to reveal abuse to adults but will reach out to friends. Our program empowers young people with the knowledge they need to help themselves, to give each other good advice and, ultimately, to break the silence that allows abuse to continue.

Workshops — Awareness Events —Teen Symposium

During the year, staff and peer leaders presented 252 classroom workshops, sponsored 55 awareness events, and facilitated a teen symposium for 239 young people. An estimated 7,748 teens empowered themselves with potentially life-saving information about abuse.

Danielle, a teen survivor of abuse, shared these cautionary notes with teens at our annual dating abuse symposium:

Please know that the first time will never be the last, it will only be the least painful, its bruise the faintest.

Disregard his promises and tears: they are empty.

And as badly as you want to change him, you cannot and it isn't your job.

Your job is to hold on to what you believe in, to never lose sight of who you really are.

You did not deserve anything that happened to you. You didn't love the wrong way, just the wrong person.

Wait for the one who surprises you at home just because they missed your smile, not because they didn't trust where you said you were.

Wait for the one who catches your eye across the room because they can't take their eyes off of you, not because they want to make sure you're not talking to anyone else.

Wait for the one who wants to make decisions with you, not for you.

Wait for the one who genuinely wants to be in your life, not the one who wants to be your life.

Wait for the best, because you don't deserve any less.

STAR students terminating abusive relationships

Results of Our Work — Breaking the Silence

- Teen victims who would tell no one about the abuse dropped from 25% to 16%
- Teen victims who would tell a parent grew from 26% to 41%.
- Teens who would tell a friend grew from 66% to 84%.

"Batter for a Cause"

Purple Ribbons to Raise Awareness

STAR CHAPTERS

ALEXANDER HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL (ELMSFORD)
ALEXANDER HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL (ELMSFORD)
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE (DOBBS FERRY)
HENDRICK HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL (MONTROSE)
HOPE'S DOOR (PLEASANTVILLE)
MARIA REGINA HIGH SCHOOL (HARTSDALE)
RYE HIGH SCHOOL (RYE)
SCARSDALE HIGH SCHOOL (SCARSDALE)
WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL (MOUNT PLEASANT)
WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL (WHITE PLAINS)
YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL (YORKTOWN HEIGHTS)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

DEBBIE

For years I thought I was hiding the abuse, until the day I got a call from my daughter's school asking if everything was okay at home. I couldn't hide from the truth any longer. It's been a hard road, but we're on the right path. Thanks to Hope's Door, we've gone from hopeless to hopeful.

Many of the mothers who come to us tell us that they hide the abuse from their children. As the letter below, written by a ten year-old, so clearly illustrates — children know and are deeply affected by what they see in their homes and feel in their hearts.

Dear Dad: Why are you so abusive? I can see the abusive part of you in all my brothers. You not only upset my family but ruined it. How could you hurt mom? You beat her and set bad examples for us. Jason is only four, and even he understands that you were abusive. When mom left you that day, it was the best and worst day of my life.

Your daughter (unfortunately),
Melissa

Sadly, Melissa is not alone. There were 924 children in the homes of those we served last year. We worked to reverse the children's trauma with safety planning, counseling, support groups, creative arts and play therapy.

"Thanks to Hope's Door, we've gone from hopeless to hopeful."

CINDY

When she fled with her mother to the safety of our shelter, three-year-old Cindy left behind her home, her room and her toys. The only thing familiar and safe to her was her mommy, but mommy couldn't always be by her side. There were appointments with the police, courts and social services and that meant leaving the traumatized child in our care. Through re-direction and intensive play therapy, we worked to gain Cindy's trust. One morning, to the amazement of all, Cindy kissed her mother good-bye and skipped off to the children's center, where a play session was beginning — a true turning point for mother and child.

VALERIE

I tried so hard to protect my children, but in the end, the only way I could protect them was by leaving, and the only way I could leave was with the support of Hope's Door.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Condensed Statement of Support, Revenue, and Expenses
For the Years Ended June 2009, June 2010, June 2011, June 2012, and June 2013

Public Support and Revenue	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Public Support					
Contributions and Special Events	$226,160	$282,989	$275,969	$521,717	$441,940
Bequests	$45,581	$42,100	$64,190	$53,445	$62,816
United Way	$1,623	$926	$0	$188	$112
Other Public Support	$195,611	$113,250	$78,195	$85,353	$121,318
Total Public Support	**$468,975**	**$439,265**	**$418,354**	**$660,703**	**$626,186**
Government Support					
DSS Shelter Fees	$587,193	$585,810	$526,419	$546,924	$574,741
NYS Crime Victims Board	$226,175	$261,470	$310,387	$335,255	$333,989
Westchester County Office for Women	$233,168	$240,982	$200,840	$189,292	$185,081
Division of Criminal Justice Services	$29,969	$30,347	$32,337	$33,984	$33,242
Other Government Grants	$83,041	$72,763	$79,126	$81,585	$155,963
Total Government Support	**$1,159,546**	**$1,191,372**	**$1,149,109**	**$1,187,040**	**$1,283,016**
Revenue					
Interest Income	$12,728	$5,413	$3,470	$3,913	$7,286
Other Revenue	$530	$803	$436	$699	$254
Total Revenue	**$13,258**	**$6,216**	**$3,906**	**$4,612**	$7,540
Total Support and Revenue	**$1,641,779**	**$1,636,853**	**$1,571,369**	**$1,852,355**	**$1,916,742**
Expenses					
Program Services					
Shelter Program	$656,414	$679,439	$616,955	$665,839	$722,086
Nonresidential Program	$475,940	$453,606	$419,907	$534,825	$640,647
Legal Program	$114,971	$106,514	$115,676	$5,368	$0
Total Program Services	**$1,247,325**	**$1,239,559**	**$1,152,538**	**$1,206,032**	**$1,362,733**
Support Services					
Management and General	$291,400	$286,437	$271,404	$263,241	$192,845
Fund Raising	$77,982	$106,398	$109,833	$133,708	$204,348
Total Support Services	**$369,382**	**$392,835**	**$381,237**	**$396,949**	**$397,193**
Total Expenses	**$1,616,707**	**$1,632,394**	**$1,533,775**	**$1,602,981**	**$1,759,926**
Excess of Support and Revenue	**$25,072**	**$4,459**	**$37,594**	**$249,374**	**$156,816**
Percentage for Programs	77%	76%	75%	75%	77%
Percentage Administration and Overhead	23%	24%	25%	25%	23%
Ending Net Assets	**$1,069,682**	**$1,074,141**	**$1,111,735**	**$1,361,111**	**$1,517,928**

WITH THANKS

To Our Many Donors, Volunteers, and These Recent Organizational Supporters

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Child and Adult Care Food Program
County Department of Social Services
County of Westchester
County Office for Women
Emergency Food and Shelter Program
Homeless Housing Assistance Program
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
NYS Office of Children & Family Services
NYS Office of Victim Services
U. S. Department of Justice, OVW

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Stafford Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
TJX Foundation
Verizon Foundation
Westchester Community Foundation
Westchester Women's Bar Association

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Signature Bank
SKCG Group
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TD Bank
Tiffany Bauman Real Estate
Verizon
W. R. Berkley Corporation
Webster Bank
Wells Fargo
Westchester Bank

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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American Legion Post 136
American Muslim Women's Association
Atria Woodlands
Bedford Village Lions Club
Berkeley College
Catholic Institute of Food Industry
Contemporary Club of Pleasantville
Dominican Sisters Family Health Services
Food Bank for Westchester
Girl Scouts Troop 2746, 2747, 3011
Hispanic Resource Center
Hudson River Rising
Lions Club of Yorktown
Manhattanville College
Masters School
Music In Chappaqua
Northern Westchester Hospital
Open Door Family Medical Centers
Pace University
Pace Women's Justice Center
Pleasantville Lion's Club
Rotary Club of Chappaqua
Rotary Club of Ossining
Scarsdale Elks
The Volunteer Center
United Way of Westchester & Putnam
Westchester Women's Agenda
Woman's Club of Pleasantville

INTERFAITH SUPPORT

Bedford Presbyterian Church
Briarcliff Congregational Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Church of St. John and St. Mary
Church of St. Mary the Virgin
Community Memorial Baptist Church
Dominican Sisters of Hope
First Congregational Church of Chappaqua
First Presbyterian Church of Katonah
First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown
Holy Innocents Church
Hudson Valley Fellowship
Interfaith Caring Community
Irvington Presbyterian Church
Jewish Communal Fund
Pound Ridge Community Church
Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco
Presbyterian Church of Pleasantville
Scarsdale Congregational Church
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Stevens Memorial United Methodist Church
Temple Bet Torah
Temple Beth El
Temple Shaaray Tefila
Union Baptist Church
United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco
Woodlands Community Temple

Please accept our apology for any inadvertent omissions. Please know that we do not list individual donors.

STATEMENT OF CHARITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Hope's Door wants the public to have complete confidence in our charitable work. We are recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charity. Our tax ID number is 13-3023259. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Contact us or refer to our website to review the following:

- IRS Letter of Determination
- Annual Reports
- Audited Financial Statements
- IRS Form 990s

HOPE'S DOOR

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www.HopesDoorNY.org