



HOPE'S DOOR

Embracing Life Free
From Domestic Abuse

V-DAY SUPPORT FOR HOPE'S DOOR THROUGHOUT WESTCHESTER



Eve Ensler

V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls, which affects one in three women on the planet. V-Day activists, both men and women, work to end domestic violence, dating abuse, sexual assault, incest, female genital mutilation, and sex trafficking. V-Day events are celebrated around Valentine's Day and include performances of Eve Ensler's award-winning play, *The*

Vagina Monologues. These celebrations have raised awareness and millions of dollars for organizations like Hope's Door.



The Cast of Manhattanville's V-Day Performances

Manhattanville College also selected Hope's Door as the beneficiary of their V-Day performances of *The Vagina Monologues* on February 19-21. Manhattanville College has been performing to raise money for Hope's Door for many years, with a great cast and wonderful turnout each year. For more information on these performances, visit our website at HopesDoorNY.org/events.



The Cast of South Presbyterian Church of Dobbs Ferry's V-Day Performance

The South Presbyterian Church of Dobbs Ferry celebrated V-Day on February 6 and again selected Hope's Door as their beneficiary.

"Hope's Door is honored to be the beneficiary of these V-Day performances. The show sheds light on gender-based violence and raises vital funds to help those wounded by abuse," stated Hope's Door Executive Director CarlLa Horton.

"By the end of the show, the audience has moved from slightly embarrassed to highly engaged, sometimes enraged, and ultimately enlarged. They leave understanding that a woman is more than the sum of her parts, but if some of her parts are unmentionable, she is diminished."

—*O Magazine*

"Spellbinding, funny, and almost unbearably moving . . .

it is both a work of art and an incisive piece of cultural history, a poem and a polemic, a performance, and a balm, and a benediction."

—*Variety*

2016 ANNUAL SPRING GALA

70'S THEME

Friday, May 6, 2016 • Surf Club on the Sound • 6:30 pm–11:00 pm

HopesDoorNY.org/events/2016-annual-spring-gala/



HOPE'S DOOR

www.HopesDoorNY.org

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CARLA HORTON

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2015 marked the 35th anniversary of Hope's Door and my 17th year with the agency. Since the day I started, I have been enormously impressed with the generosity of those who share in our mission. This was particularly apparent during the recent holiday season when so many of you donated Holiday gifts to children you never even met or responded to our Annual Appeal for funds or both. Please know that we could not be more grateful.

When I started at Hope's Door in 1997, we were in the midst of moving from a run-down, emergency shelter to our new beautiful shelter home. We had two counselors in our community-based program and served about 250 victims that year, compared to 689 this year. So much else has changed since I started.

Since then, we've added Hope's Door Ossining, established the Love Shouldn't Hurt teen program, launched the Next Step Economic Empowerment Program, collaborated on establishing the Family Justice Center and secured passage of legislative and policy initiatives to foster safety, independence, and healing from the trauma of abuse, among other achievements.

Our success could not happen without the survivors whose courage inspires us each and every day in combination with our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Board, donors and volunteers. Thank you and Happy New Year to all.

SURVIVOR STORY

I was the one who used to say, "why don't they just leave?" Until the day I was the one in that position. I was ashamed; the fear paralyzed me and I was convinced that no one would believe me. How could a strong, well-educated woman be in an abusive relationship, and stay in it? But it happened. And I was alone, in a new country. No family, no friends. Nothing.

Finally, I left. There was no other choice. I hid my fear and uncertainty and just tried to move on. I focused on what I was good at: working. I worked in different jobs, always busy but still in crisis. Money was always tight. I was keeping my mind occupied on other things. For a long time I thought that not thinking about what happened was going to make it go away. I was wrong. Talking about it was going to free me from my thoughts that I was that woman I used to judge as weak.

Taking the first step was hard. By calling Hope's Door, I finally found the support I was seeking. I felt understood from the beginning, even when it was so hard for me to talk about it. From the person who answered the phone, to the woman who answered the door at the front desk, to my amazing counselor, everyone was so welcoming, friendly, and supportive. They showed me that I was not weak, that I was worthy. With the help and support I received at Hope's Door, I got many aspects of my life back on track. I started to teach again, and went back to college for a Masters Degree.

Most importantly, with their help, I am learning to value myself for who I am. I do not let the past define me, but I see all the potential that I have to create the life that I deserve. The life that we all deserve.

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT TEEN PROGRAM EVENTS

Dating violence in teens is more common than many people think. In fact, one in three teens in this country will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse in a dating relationship. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen relationships and to promote programs aimed at prevention. Hope's Door's *Love Shouldn't Hurt* program is joining this effort by hosting multiple awareness events at different high schools across Westchester County. Here are a few of the events:

THE URSULINE SCHOOL

- February 1st—Students Terminating Abusive Relationships (STAR members) informed students about dating abuse awareness and prevention month and shared information about upcoming awareness events.
- February 2nd—STAR members wore purple shirts and encouraged other students and faculty to wear purple – the color of domestic violence awareness.
- February 3rd—STAR members sold purple flowers with positive messages attached to them to promote the healthy relationships in their lives.



Purple flower sale at The Ursuline School

SCARSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Dating Abuse Assembly

- February 8th—The drama club, together with STAR members, performed a skit about dating abuse for the entire freshman class. At the end of the skit, STAR members spoke about the importance of joining STAR and encouraged other students to get involved.

Walking in Their Shoes

- February 9th—Purple footprints were scattered across the bottom of the school walls with statistics about dating violence, leading to a memorial of teen victims and a mirror that read “this could be you.” Students followed the footprints and learned facts about abuse as if they were walking in a victim’s shoes. They learned abuse does not discriminate, and can happen to anyone.

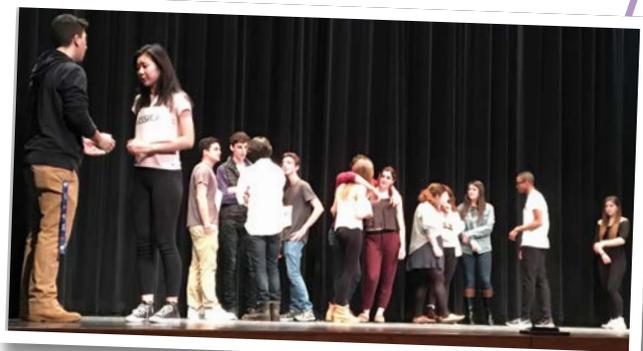


Walking in Their Shoes exhibit at Scarsdale High School

NEW ROCHELLE HIGH SCHOOL

“Beading” the Odds

- February 24th—One out of four students will be given a purple bead necklace to represent the number of teens affected by dating abuse. STAR students will make announcements throughout the day giving more information about dating violence and the meaning of the purple beads.



Scarsdale High School students performing at their dating abuse assembly

ALYSSA DILEO JOINS HOPE'S DOOR



Teen Educator Alyssa DiLeo

Alyssa DiLeo joined Hope's Door in October of 2015 as a youth educator in our *Love Shouldn't Hurt* teen program. This position was generously funded by Westchester County and individuals that support our preventative approach to dating abuse. Since joining the staff, she has taken the lead on developing and implementing an exciting new middle school curriculum for classroom workshops focusing on healthy relationships. The addition of DiLeo has also provided the opportunity to expand and create a new STAR chapter at New Rochelle High School. Her primary goal in working with teens is to get students to pledge to speak out against interpersonal and societal violence and to promote relationships based on equality, respect, and trust. Prior to Hope's Door, DiLeo worked as a social worker in a residential foster care setting, as well as at an out-patient substance abuse treatment center, where she provided both individual and group therapy. DiLeo received her BA in Social Work from Marist College and MSW in Social Work from Fordham University. DiLeo attained her LMSW shortly thereafter. DiLeo is in the process of becoming certified in Body Language Training so she may assist individuals increase both their presence and confidence while helping them to achieve their goals.

2016 ANNUAL SPRING GALA

Friday, May 6, 2016 • Surf Club on the Sound
6:30 pm–11:00 pm



Co-Chairs Karen Burchetta and Caroline Shepherd

Bedford for their years of commitment to our mission,” said Gala Co-Chair Karen Burchetta.

“Our family has been involved with Hope’s Door since 1990. As a member of the Junior League’s Domestic Violence Teen Education Committee, I made presentations at high schools and middle schools and was a facilitator in “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” teen dating symposiums in an effort to prevent



Honorees Penney and Gerry Klingman

dating violence. In 1997, when our children, Tom and Jen, were 6 and 9 years old, the four of us traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the National Silent Witness March. We also helped furnish the new residential shelter that opened that year,” recalls Penney. Gerry added, “Our family has seen firsthand the need for Hope’s Door. We urged two close friends who were in abusive relationships to contact Hope’s

Door. Because of the counseling and support they received, they were able to move forward with their lives.”
Pull out your platform shoes and dust off your powder blue tux for our 70s theme Spring Gala on Friday, May 6, 2016 at the Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle. “We are pleased to honor Penney & Gerry Klingman of

Door. Because of the counseling and support they received, they were able to move forward with their lives.”

The evening will feature DJ Chris Vernia of Double Image Event Productions, Inc. to have us dancing all night long, a survivor story, as well as a live and silent auction. This year’s Fund-a-Need will raise money for a new roof and renovation for the Children’s Cottage at the shelter as well as our Students Terminating Abusive Relationships (STAR) teen program and its annual symposium.

Special thanks to Jane & Jeffrey Post of Gem Platinum (gemplatinum.com) for their generous raffle contribution of this beautiful amethyst and diamond necklace designed by Jeffrey Daniels for Gem Platinum and hand crafted in New York City, valued at \$4,500!



We want to thank our early sponsors of the event: **Platinum-Album:** Penney and Gerry Klingman; **Gold-Album:** Martha and Jeff Kohn, Lee Manning-Vogelstein, The Westchester Bank; **8-Track Cassette:** Debra and Jim Kousouros, Laurie and Paul Sturz; **45 Single:** Carlson & Carlson, Inc., Lucy Hoffman and Michael Guido, Houlihan Lawrence; **Patrons:** Wendy and Tom Gardner, CarLa Horton, Westchester County Legislator Jim Maisano, NYS Assemblywoman Amy R. Paulin, and Dan Schorr.

Join the fun, send in a photo of yourself from the 70s for our “Throwback to the 70s” Facebook album. Please email photos to Development Associate Lindsay Amoroso at LAmoroso@HopesDoorNY.org with the names of all people in the photo and a statement of consent to use it on our Facebook page.



For more information or to purchase event or raffle tickets, visit:

[HopesDoorNY.org/events/2016-annual-spring-gala/.](http://HopesDoorNY.org/events/2016-annual-spring-gala/)

OUTSTANDING STAR STUDENT



Teen Program Coordinator Gina Donahue, STAR Member Laura Charney, and Teen Educator Kristen Orlando

LAURA CHARNEY, age 17, has volunteered for Hope's Door since 2013. Laura is a member of the Pleasantville chapter of our Students Terminating Abusive Relationships (STAR) peer leadership program; helps with childcare; and has volunteered at events such as the Day of Beauty, the Halloween party, and the Walgreen's Point of Purchase collection of summer toys and school supplies.

As a result of her involvement with Hope's Door, Laura has decided to major in Human Services and Social Justice at George Washington University this fall. She looks forward to gaining the education and skills needed to identify and implement solutions to social issues.

"I first heard about STAR from my teacher Mrs. Karla Constantinou at Briarcliff High School. She knew how involved I was with injustice issues and thought I would enjoy becoming involved with Hope's Door," recalled Laura.

Laura singled out the Day of Beauty as her favorite STAR event. "I found it a unique and awesome opportunity for clients of Hope's Door to come and get their hair, nails, and makeup done and to make them feel the best they can." She believes teens can learn important information through STAR and how best to share information with friends and other teens. "The most important message STAR can share with teens (and I will always remember) is abuse can happen to anyone. It doesn't matter your religion, your race, your gender or your socio-economic situation, anyone can be a victim of domestic violence and abuse."

For those schools or students interested in learning more about the STAR program and how they can get involved, contact Gina Donahue at 914-747-0828 ext. 1015 or email GDonahue@HopesDoorNY.org.

Dear Hope,

I've been in a bad marriage for many years, but I'm not sure I'm an abused woman. I don't feel I am because all couples argue and he's never hit me. But he scares me and he says things that are so mean and degrading and threatening. This really hurts and makes me afraid even though I keep telling myself that I don't believe he would ever actually physically hurt me - I'm not a "battered wife" type. In fact, sometimes I yell back at him. He says I'm abusing him. Am I? I feel like I'm standing up for myself. Am I just supposed to take it when he threatens me or says really nasty things? I've asked him to stop but he doesn't listen. I've thought about divorce, but he controls all of our money. I'm just so tired of feeling hurt, angry, humiliated and scared all the time. At this point in my life, all I really want is to live in peace.

Signed,

Ready

Dear Ready,

There can be abuse even without physical violence, although abuse does tend to escalate and get more violent as time goes by. What you describe sounds like domestic violence to me, even though there is no physical abuse - yet. Emotional, psychological and economic abuse can be just as damaging, or more so, than physical violence. Threats and humiliation are powerful tactics of control. If you're fearful of your husband and feel that you are being controlled by him, as you do when it comes to your money, I suggest you see a counselor at Hope's Door for an expert assessment of your situation. The fear you feel should not be ignored. Sometimes people who have been living with abuse for a long time learn to minimize it, deny it, or blame themselves. Coming to a place like Hope's Door can help you determine for yourself if, indeed, you are a victim of domestic violence or not. If you are, we can help you move forward. We will assess your situation for danger, help you explore your options, create a safety plan, and connect you to an attorney for consultation. Please don't wait any longer to learn the truth for yourself. You deserve to live in peace.

Yours,

Hope

E-MAIL DEAR HOPE AT: DEARHOPE@HOPESDOORNY.ORG





HOPE'S DOOR

Embracing Life Free From Domestic Abuse

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www.HopesDoorNY.org Hope's Door Offices: 914.747.0828

Home. It's where you should feel safe and protected. Hope's Door. It's who you call if you're not.
El Hogar. Es donde debes sentirse seguro y protegido. Hope's Door. Somos a quien llamar si no lo estas.

Residential Assistant to the Director Natalie Etienne, Maintenance Worker Gil Espinoza, and Residential Counselor and Advocate Ashley C. are pictured here using the shelter's new snow blower during our first winter storm. The snow blower was purchased as a result of our giving tree at our 2015 Annual Fall Luncheon. A special thank you to Diane Rooney, Partner at Heckler & O'Keefe, CPAs P.C., for purchasing the item off the tree so we could safely and easily remove the snow from our shelter's driveway and walking paths.



Bookkeeper Ethan Kravitz and Comptroller Phil Morton

ETHAN KRAVITZ joined Hope's Door in November of 2015 as the bookkeeper in the Finance Department. Since then, he has assisted Phil Morton, Hope's Door Comptroller and CFO, in preparations of various budgets, ongoing projects, and other fiscally relevant responsibilities. Kravitz received his AS in Accounting from SUNY Westchester Community College and is currently attending Pace University studying to earn a BA in public accounting.



Special Holiday Thanks!

Thank you to all who donated to our holiday drive through our "Adopt a Family" program, by having a gift collection, or simply by donating items our families would enjoy for the holiday season. Your support brightened the lives of so many of our survivors.