



HOPE'S DOOR

*Embracing Life Free
From Domestic Abuse*



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Ingrid Connolly

We are proud to celebrate our 35th year of service. Our Friends Committee is hosting our 35th Annual Spring Gala on Friday, April 24, 2015.

We are honoring Ingrid Connolly who has been personally committed to empowering survivors for over twenty years. Her dedication to our mission is outstanding. When Ingrid described the reason for her steadfast support, she said, "The work of Hope's Door has been very important in our community for so many years, and has helped so many families in crisis. We provide them with comfort, necessities, and support. We help them rebuild their lives so that they can move on."

Friends Committee Members (Left to Right) Front Row: Debbie Lionetti, Ingrid Connolly, Lindsay Amoroso, Barbara Stewart, Nancy K. Simpkins, JD Burke, Laurie Sturz. Back Row: Jennifer Ryan Safsel, Ken Marsolais, Karen Burchetta, Debra Kousouros, Amy Grogan, and Caroline Shepherd. Not Pictured: Sarah Barish, Susan Bauman, Pamela Blake, Liz Bruschi, April Foley, Eliana Miranda, Diane Rooney, Michele Schimmel, Susan Stillman, and Colleen Torpie (committee still in formation)

We want to thank our current sponsors who are supporting this anniversary event:

Platinum: John K. Castle, The Westchester Bank; **Gold:** Combe Incorporated, Ingrid and John Connolly, Nancy K. Simpkins; **Silver:** Martha and Jeff Kohn, Laurie and Paul Sturz, Warshaw Burstein, LLP; **Friends:** BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Carlson & Carlson, Inc., Wendy and Tom Gardner, Debra and James Kousouros, Lee Manning-Vogelstein, Jane Silverman, Esq.; **Benefactor:** Ambassador April H. Foley, The New York Football Giants, Inc.

To be a sponsor, contact Jennifer Ryan Safsel at 914-747-0828 ext. 1005. To purchase tickets, visit HopesDoorNY.org/Events/35th-Annual-Spring-Gala/



HOPE'S DOOR WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jill Deitch

JILL DEITCH is a Licensed Property/Casualty/Life Health Insurance Broker at Carlson & Carlson, Inc., where she has worked for over thirty years. She has served as Board of Directors President for the Northern Westchester Center for the Arts and President of the Bedford Village Parent Association. She is involved in the Bridgeport Rescue Mission organizing an annual Thanksgiving drive, and created and chaired a Literature Festival which brought authors, illustrators, and storytellers to over two thousand school children. Deitch is a member of Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of New York, Trusted Choice Agents, Professional Insurance Agents, and the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce.



Lucy Hoffman, LMSW

LUCY HOFFMAN is an adjunct professor at Concordia College's undergraduate Bachelors of Social Work program, and a counselor in their counseling center. She previously served as a social worker for: the Visiting Nurse Service of Hudson Valley, Hospice and Palliative Care of Westchester, and Sound Shore Medical Center, among others. She was also an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Human Services at The College of New Rochelle. Hoffman served on the Board of Directors for 16 years for The Danny Fund, an organization that provides emotional and financial support to children and their families with catastrophic diseases. Hoffman graduated from Fordham University with a Masters of Social work.

FEMME FABULOUS: A HOLIDAY CHARITY MUSIC FEST

Photo by: Alethea Hohenberger



(Left to Right): Victoria, Daisy Jopling, Joni Blondell, Jessica Lynn, Gabrielle Sansone, and Aurora Straus. Other performers not pictured: Carol Arrucci, Christine Bokhour, Alexis Cole, Kazzrie Jaxen, and Stephanie Purcell



Louie Lanza



John Ford

Thank you to Louie Lanza for hosting this event at The Hudson Room in Peekskill on December 13th. This event was a tribute to his mother, Pat Lanza, and her life's work on behalf of women and children. John Ford of Ford Pianos handcrafted the shining tomato-red baby grand piano that shines onstage in the spotlight for live entertainment. A special thank you to John Ford for his part in this event.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY THANKS

We would like to thank all of the individuals, corporations, and organizations that donated gifts for our families during the holidays through our "Adopt a Family" and Holiday Drive programs. We appreciate the generosity of those who purchased gifts; collected items for us at their businesses; or organized a collective donation with colleagues. You truly made the holidays brighter for the families in our programs.

To learn more about donating to Hope's Door, or if you are interested in participating in next year's Holiday Drive, please contact Tami Shimkin, Office Manager, at 914-747-0828 ext. 1000 or TShimkin@HopesDoorNY.org.



XAND Operations LLC donated presents for many families. Pictured (Left to Right): Cedric Whitehurst, Tami Shimkin, Office Manager, and Nikki Vassallo



The Alcott School's Mitten Tree. Donors chose a mitten off the tree and purchased the gift written on the mitten to be donated to our families in need.



The staff and families of Oak Lane Child Care Center, a not-for-profit educational setting in Chappaqua, sponsored a Thanksgiving food drive and a holiday giving tree for the residents of Hope's Door this year.

Top Left: Administrative Staff — Bob Iovino, Grounds Manager; Therese Dwyer, Administrative Assistant; Frank Milanesi, Chef; Ronnie Weinberger, Executive Director
Top Right: Young 3's class — Brianna Sheridan, Assistant Teacher; Kate Focarile, Head Teacher; Lauren Wiecek, Assistant Teacher
Middle Right: 3's class — Rosa Pineda, Head Teacher; Lady Lopez, Assistant Teacher; Loren Palombo, Assistant Teacher
Bottom Right: Toddler Class — Betty Spano, Head Teacher; Nikkia Dunlap, Assistant Teacher; Melissa Berman, Assistant Teacher; Nancy Ballen, Assistant Teacher
Bottom Left: 4's Class — Alyssa Marcone, Assistant Teacher; Maura Gannon, Head Teacher; Margot Bermel, Assistant Teacher



(Left to Right): Elyssa Feldman Most and Tami Shimkin, Office Manager, with donations from Banana Republic/ Gap Inc.



HOPE'S DOOR

www.HopesDoorNY.org

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CARLLA HORTON

In April 2015, Hope's Door will celebrate our 35th year of service to survivors of domestic violence. I've been with the organization for seventeen of those years, and I have seen countless examples of the extraordinary strength, courage and resiliency of those we serve. I have also witnessed the extraordinary generosity of those who share in our mission and support our work in countless ways.

We recently received memorial donations from a family whose mother was served by us 30 years ago – back when we were named the Northern Westchester Shelter. Her son told us his mother and her children had nowhere else to go. Thirty years ago, a caring group of individuals helped that family. In the years to come – and until we end domestic violence – we will need your help to keep our doors and hearts open to those who yearn for safety, independence, and healing from the trauma of abuse. Please stay the course with us – there is still so much to do.

EARLY LEADERS



(Left to Right): Jean Burke, Pat Singleton, Elizabeth Carlton, Suzy Beatty, Jon Fossel, Kirk Ferguson, Georgia Hennig, Peggy Muncie, Jill Shore, Kathy Sherwood

ONE OF HOPE'S DOOR'S FIRST SURVIVOR'S STORY

Looking back now, over 30 years later, it almost seems like it happened to someone else. We were only at the Northern Westchester Shelter less than a week, but, it came at a point in my life when I needed to get out of my situation. Back then, there were no computers or internet. There wasn't even much about domestic violence in the papers; it wasn't an issue people talked about. In fact, at one point, another hotline I called suggested I move back home with my mother. I knew that was not an option for me, but, I was not sure what to do.

I had been working small jobs while my children were in school, from catering, to cleaning homes, to helping with small business projects. It gave me a different perspective. I was able to see how other husbands spoke to their wives. I was not safe at home, I knew it, so I sewed one hundred dollar bills into the lining of my coat so that at any moment I could throw my coat on; gather up my children; and escape. I opened up to someone I worked for about what I was dealing with, and she suggested I call the shelter. My children were 5 and 8. I remember putting

their clothes and baby pictures in the car because I wasn't sure if I was ever going back.

I remember getting to the shelter and lying on the bed thinking, "This is the worst of the worst. I'm at the worst point of my life here without a home." Then I heard the staff telling me you've got to pitch in and that we all have to help. I couldn't believe it. I could hardly believe I was there, never mind function! But it kept me moving. I did not have time to feel sorry for myself; I did not have time to be depressed...I just kept moving.

I'm glad there are places, like Hope's Door, where people can go for help. For me, it was just a short time and for others it may be longer. It's important to become independent. Some see my success as going back to school and getting my degree, as well as my catering company I had or other businesses. I see my biggest success as raising two wonderful sons who are kind to their wives; are great fathers; and know they are the most important thing in my life. Ultimately, I was able to break the cycle of abuse.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH



Kristen Orlando, Teen Educator, facilitating the Dating Game at Save A Life Day



Gina Curcuru Donahue, Teen Program Coordinator, and the Scarsdale Teen Dating Abuse Assembly participants

February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Organizations and individuals nationwide came together to highlight the need to educate young people about dating violence; promote healthy relationships; and prevent the devastating cycle of abuse. Our Love Shouldn't Hurt teen program joined this effort by hosting and participating in awareness events throughout Westchester County. Some of this year's events included:

2/8/15 Save A Life Day:

The annual Save A Life workshop series included approximately 150 high school students and 100 adult leaders in the community. The purpose of the workshop series was to provide awareness and resources to those community members who want to be first responders with enough training to notice when something is wrong and offer resources/support. The workshops separated the teens from the adults and covered areas of youth mental health, substance abuse, dating violence, and driving safety.

The entire community supports this annual event sponsored by both the Yorktown and Lakeland school districts, sports clubs, faith based leaders, businesses, and the town governments.



Save A Life Day (Left to Right): Gina Curcuru Donahue, Teen Program Coordinator; Gabriella Rufa, Yorktown HS STAR President and member of the Yorktown Leo's Club; and Kristen Orlando, Teen Educator

2/9/15 Scarsdale High School Teen Dating Abuse Assembly:

Scarsdale HS Drama Club students, which included some of our own STAR students, hosted an annual assembly for freshman students to raise awareness about teen dating abuse. STAR facilitators and our STAR advisor spoke about the mission and how students can get involved, and an information table was set up so interested students could stop by and sign up. Current STAR students also went into freshmen homeroom classes to promote our teen program and highlight the importance of our mission.



Kristen Orlando, Teen Educator, and White Plains High School STAR members at our "Cookies for a Cause" table at the White Plains High School Valentine's Day Bazaar

2/13/15 White Plains High School "Cookies for a Cause" Event:

STAR was involved with the annual Valentine's Day Bazaar at White Plains HS.

STAR members hosted a "Cookies for a Cause" table where students were invited up to decorate star shaped cookies and learn more about our program and Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

2/24/15 Ursuline Purple Day:

Ursuline STAR members hosted a "Purple Day" at their school. Students and faculty were encouraged to wear purple in honor of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. STAR students made announcements on the loudspeaker during the week and highlighted our STAR "Movie Night."

2/27/15 Ursuline Movie Night:

Ursuline STAR members hosted "Movie Night," which was open to all students. Students had pizza, soda, and snacks while watching a film about dating relationships. Afterwards, STAR facilitators led a discussion about the importance of this topic.



THE HISTORY OF HOPE'S DOOR: ITS FOUNDING YEARS

In 1979, the members of the Junior League of Northern Westchester (JLNW) conducted a needs assessment and identified domestic violence as a compelling issue of deep concern. The League was looking for projects to work on. Elizabeth Carlton, chair of the shelter project committee said, "It was just the beginning of domestic violence being publicly considered a serious issue." She continued, "The League was very concerned about child abuse at the time. There was not much available to help abused children then. When we researched it, we realized it was not only a problem for children, but, for mothers too."

At the time, Suzy Beatty was JLNW President. During her administration, two projects were established and worked on by the JLNW: (1) the shelter project named the Northern Westchester Shelter (later renamed Hope's Door), and (2) *The Everyday Gourmet*, a JLNW cookbook which was published and sold to provide the original funding for the shelter office space, furniture, staff, and other startup expenses. Suzy Beatty said "Both projects received enthusiastic support from the league membership and provided many active volunteers."

The shelter project committee, chaired by Elizabeth Carlton, focused on researching, organizing, and grant writing. The committee worked at getting the 501(c)(3) and the initial grant from the New York Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish the Northern Westchester Shelter. This provided the legal funding stream needed for the shelter.

In 1980, the Northern Westchester Shelter was formally established. Georgia Hennig was elected the first Board President. Other board members included: Suzy Beatty, Elizabeth Carlton, Lloyd Bedford Cox Jr., Kirk Ferguson, Jon Fossil, Rev. Margaret Ann Muncie, Kathy Sherwood, Jill Shore, Patricia Singleton, and Adrienne Rudge. The late New York State Senator Mary Goodhue helped procure state funding. Judge Jeanine Pirro, the Westchester Assistant District Attorney at the time, was establishing the first domestic violence unit in the DA's office and gave legal support and assistance to the committee members' project. Elizabeth Carlton and Kathy Sherwood continued to work on writing grants. They secured a grant from the St. Faith's House Foundation, which still donates to Hope's Door today. In addition, there was private funding to assist in creating important programs like the children's program. Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bedford and others throughout the faith-based community joined in over time.

On March 2, 1981, the Northern Westchester Shelter opened its doors at the Peekskill YWCA. Jean Burke was hired as the first Executive Director and it was staffed by full-time and part-time professional staff providing 24-hour crisis coverage.

Dear Hope,

My seventeen year old daughter has been dating her boyfriend for the past six months. From what I see, their relationship is unhealthy. She is constantly checking in with him and he seems to be controlling her behavior. She has always been a great student but recently her grades have been suffering. She hasn't been participating in her extracurricular activities. I know her friends don't get along with him and they tell me he is very jealous and possessive. I'm afraid that she could actually be in danger. How can I talk to my daughter about this without her totally shutting me out?

Thank you,
Concerned Mom

Dear Concerned Mom,

Thank you for asking this very important question. Being a parent of a teenager comes with many challenges, but, being a parent of a teenager who might be getting hurt by their partner can be scary and overwhelming. Since one warning sign of dating abuse is friends not liking the intimate partner, your concerns may be justified.

Typically parents are not the first person a teenager reaches out to when they are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship. There are many reasons for this such as fear, embarrassment, and shame. Therefore, if your daughter's friends are willing to talk to you, we suggest you provide information like our website and warning signs to empower them to help educate her.

At Hope's Door, we believe parents should speak with their children about relationships from an early age. It is very important not to go on the offensive. Your daughter clearly likes things about her boyfriend and will get defensive if you appear to attack his character. Instead, try to listen openly and without judgment of your daughter. Keeping the lines of communication open by letting her know you are there for her no matter what she decides about the relationship is vital. Let her know there are expert teen counselors at Hope's Door who offer support and alternatives. If she is not ready to make a change, you can speak with a counselor to get advice on safety planning.

I hope that this has been helpful. We are here for you.

Warm Regards,
Hope

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

HOPE'S DOOR SEEKS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO EMPOWER VICTIMS TO ACHIEVE SAFETY, INDEPENDENCE, AND HEALING FROM THE TRAUMA OF ABUSE.



HOPE'S DOOR

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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.

SAVE THE DATE

Hope's Door 35th Annual Spring Gala • Friday, April 24, 2015 • The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY • 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

“CALL ME DAVE”



(Left to Right): Gay French-Ottaviani, Senior Counselor of Community Services and Co-Chair of NEWDAA; Chief David Ryan; Nicole Malgarinos, Co-Chair of NEWDAA

When Chief David Ryan, the Chief of Police of the Town of Pound Ridge, was introduced to the members of the North East Westchester Domestic Abuse Alliance (NEWDAA), they were impressed. He serves as the Westchester County Police Chief's Association Appointed Representative to the Westchester County Domestic Violence Council and Co-Founder of the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. Despite his many important leadership roles, Chief Ryan is warm, approachable, and prefers just to be called “Dave.”

Dave shared his thoughts on what all law enforcement should know about domestic violence. “There are three main things law enforcement needs: (1) good training to be better victim advocates by using trauma informed care; (2) to adhere to good report writing, with attention to details that could later support the victim's credibility; and (3) to collaborate better with service providers.” He continued to stress, “There should be more contact between police and service providers as we have done at NEWDAA. Getting to know each other as people is a tremendous benefit to the victim...from Hope's Door, to the clergy, to the survivors that help us to be better at what we do.”

In highlighting what motivates him to advocate on behalf of domestic violence victims he stated, “I want to make a difference in someone's life, have a greater impact. Being a policeman can't just be a job. With domestic violence, you gotta play your A-game. When it involves kids, it's even worse.”

As a father, Dave appreciates the ups and downs of parenting. “My relationship with my daughters is key. I learned through them that it was okay to include my feelings as part of who I am. I didn't do that as a younger man, and we didn't get along as well. Even when you argue, you need to stop yelling; hug and say I love you; agree to disagree; and take a break. Three minutes later life can be completely different. I have learned to cherish every moment, and have no regrets.”