

HOPE'S DOOR

Embracing Life Free
From Domestic Abuse



HOPE'S DOOR 2017 ANNUAL SPRING GALA BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Our Annual Spring Gala honoring Jean Marie Connolly and highlighting the children's program at Hope's Door garnered a record 355 attendees and raised over a record-breaking \$250,000. "I'm so proud to have been able to shine a light on the 15.5 million children impacted by domestic violence every year and to highlight the work Hope's Door does every day to help children living in violent homes," said Jean Marie Connolly, Senior Director, Client Relations & Development, Altium Wealth Management, LLC and 2017 Honoree. "Jean has been a devoted advocate on behalf of Hope's Door and those we serve. In her former position on our Board of Directors and now as a member of our Advisory Board, she works tirelessly to lessen the impact that domestic violence has on the entire family,"



Jean Marie Connolly in front of the sign at the Westchester County Center

stated Carlla Horton, Executive Director. "We appreciate all Jean, Gala Co-Chairs Laurie Sturz and Kate Kerpchar, the Friends Committee, and our Board did to put together this extraordinary event."

A highlight of the evening was a video narrated by a young man whose family lived in our shelter when he was just nine years old. He told the gala attendees how much Hope's Door did for his family then and how what he learned at the shelter has guided his life moving forward. You can see the video at www.hopesdoorny.org.

Among the many proclamations that Jean accepted was one presented by Westchester County Board of Legislators Chair Michael Kaplowitz and Legislator Catherine Borgia proclaiming Sunday, April 30, 2017 as Jean Marie Connolly Day in Westchester County.



Gala Auctioneer and Advisory Board member Michael Stillman



Mark Iannucci and Jean Marie Connolly



Gala Emcee and News 12 Westchester Anchor Tara Rosenblum



NYS Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, Westchester County Board of Legislators Chair Michael Kaplowitz, Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia, Westchester County Director of Economic Development and Special Adviser to the County Executive George Oros, Director of Westchester County Office for Women Robi Schlaff, former Westchester County Legislator Ursula LaMotte, NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Honoree Jean Marie Connolly, NYS Senator Terrence Murphy, Westchester Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, Hope's Door Executive Director Carlla Horton, and Ambassador April H. Foley.



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www.HopesDoorNY.org

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CARLLA HORTON

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has been an exciting and challenging period for Hope's Door. We recently celebrated our annual gala and raised over a record-breaking \$250,000 from our generous donors. I am so grateful to our guests, the Friends Committee led by Laurie Sturz and Kate Kerpchar, and Honoree Jean Marie Connolly for this outstanding effort.

As you may know, Hope's Door spent 15 years at our main office in Pleasantville before we unavoidably lost our lease. Pleasantville was home to the Love Shouldn't Hurt program, STAR, the Next Step Economic Empowerment program, Counseling and Support Group services, and our senior management team.

Our time in Pleasantville ended on March 31, 2017. Over the preceding three months, we purged what we could, archived years of records, and moved over 150 boxes and the best of our hand-me-down furniture into storage. Our new home in Hawthorne requires extensive renovations, including installation of an accessible bathroom and a secondary exit for fire safety purposes. We picked out new carpeting,

selected our paint color scheme, and began to shop for new furniture.

Meanwhile, we deployed the 17 staff members who had worked in Pleasantville to seven temporary locations, including six staffers who are sharing one room over the garage at our shelter. While this may sound less than optimal, it has been heartwarming to be on site at the residence and to see the moms and their children thrive on a daily basis.

We project that our move will add \$222,108 in one-time costs and increased rent over the five years of the lease. Many of you have already sent in donations and pledges for our On the Move appeal totaling \$123,100, and we thank you. Please know that we could not be more grateful for your support.

If you would like to contribute to On the Move, it is not too late! Please contact Director of Development Jennifer Ryan Safsel or Executive Director Carlla Horton at 914-747-0828. You'll find us working temporarily in the room over the garage at the shelter.



Hope's Door 2017 Annual Spring Gala

To view more gala photos, visit HopesDoorNY.org/news/



Gala Co-Chair Kate Kerpchar



Jen McCarthy, Jeanette Connolly, Robert Connolly, Barbara Connolly, Ellen Vitolo, Jean Marie Connolly



Joni Lanza



Rachel and Paul Marino, Suzanne and Michael Corbo, Renee and Peter Marengo



TOP: Stacy Daly, Advisory Board and Friends Committee member Nancy K. Simpkins, Andrea De George, Advisory Board member Patricia Carrera
BOTTOM: Eugene Crew, John and Patricia Klingenstein, Friends Committee member Barbara Stewart



TOP: Andrea Campbell, Maria Bronzi, Rob Beard, Jim Giangrande, Brendan Galvin, Art Doerner
BOTTOM: Maura McIntyre, Lynn Galvin, Ann Marie Falcone



TOP: Paul Sturz, Friends Committee member April H. Foley, Robert W. Reeder III, Peter and Lindsay Keller, Gala Co-Chair Laurie Sturz
BOTTOM: Thomas and Ursula LaMotte, Lorraine Reeder



TOP: Jessica Pieczyk, David Zimmerman, Liz Zimmerman, Daniella Mayer, Board of Directors member Blakely Brodbeck, Julie Suchman
BOTTOM: Walt Pieczyk, Martin LaGuerre, Martin Brodbeck, Paul Suchman



Jennifer and Harry Bonhomme



Rich Klein, Carey Vames, Mary McBride, Dean Philippo



Beatrix and Kristen Garland. Beatrix drew the artwork used on our invitation and journal.

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LEGISLATIVE DAY AND ISSUES



Patty Peloso-Barnes, Board of Directors Treasurer Julia Peloso-Barnes, Legislative Director for NYS Senator George Latimer Peter Loughran, Domestic Violence Counselor & Advocate Katie M.

On May 8, 2017 Hope's Door joined hundreds of advocates across the state at the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) Day of Action in Albany to speak to legislators on key issues impacting victims of domestic violence and their children. Key legislation we support includes:

■ The Rights of Victims to Call Police and Emergency Assistance – A.2919 (Lavine) and S.405 (Robach)

This legislation clarifies that the victim of domestic violence or any person who believes they need the police or emergency assistance has the right to call for assistance without the risk of eviction. It also gives the victim of domestic violence the right to have her/his abuser removed.

■ Ending Child Marriage – A.5524-A (Paulin) and S. 4407 (Lanza)

Many were surprised to learn that the legal age a person can be married in New York is only 14 years old. Child marriage

disproportionately affects girls, it undermines their health, education, and economic opportunities and it increases the likelihood of experiencing violence and abuse. This bill would increase the age. Since lobby day, this bill passed both chambers of the Assembly and Senate and is waiting for the Governor to sign the bill into law.

■ Child Victim Act – S.809 (Hoylman) No Assembly Bill

Child sexual abuse is a severely underreported crime. People who sexually abuse children are trusted not only by the children they harm, but they are often trusted and respected in the community. 93 percent of the victims under 18 know their abuser. This bill would remove the current statute of limitations and open a period during which previous victims could file charges.

■ Domestic Violence Survivor Justice Act – A.3110 (Aubry) and S. 5116 (Persaud)

Survivors who were coerced into crimes by their abuser, or who acted to protect themselves against their abuser, are being given harsh prison sentences, when what they need is assistance. This bill would grant judges discretion in sentencing domestic violence victims who defend themselves against abusers.



Director of Development & Community Relations Jennifer Ryan Safsel and NYS Senator Terrence Murphy

We urge you to call your Assemblyperson and State Senator at 518-455-2800 and urge them to support this legislation. For more information on this and other important legislation, contact Jennifer Ryan Safsel or CarlLa Horton at 914-747-0828.

SURVIVOR STORY

I'm twenty-five years old, but I still remember the first time I entered the shelter. I was nine years old. It was quiet... almost too quiet compared to where I came from, and that took some getting used to. However, I felt safe, something I was not used to feeling. I didn't bring much; a small school backpack filled with some clothing was about it. The staff at the shelter has had a big impact on our lives. The children's counselor that worked with us became like another mother to my brothers and me. She helped me enroll in my new school. There I had a teacher who took a special interest in us and helped us. She has been involved in my life as a mentor ever since. This experience has helped me realize what I don't want to be when it comes to engaging in a relationship. If I could share something with those who feel they are being abused but don't know if they should, or are strong enough, to leave and seek help, it would be this: It is absolutely scary to leave behind a home we are used to. We work our entire lives to build this concept of a home, so to have to pick up

and go is simply not the first option we wish to take. But I can tell you, deciding to let go of the situation that brought constant trauma to our lives was the best decision my mother could have made for us, her children, and of course, herself. At the time, I didn't fully understand her decision, but looking back, it was vital for our growth and development to detach from the hostile environment that our home had become. As scary as it may seem at first to take this plunge into the unknown, victims must be brave and go where they won't feel alone and there are experts that truly have their best interests in mind.

Hope's Door helped stabilize our broken family and allowed me to formulate a sense of ease and peace, and know that I am worthy of it. Counseling helped me realize that I don't have to always be a victim; I can gain control of my life. I'm college educated and hold a full time job. I am who I am as a result of decisions I made; how I interacted with individuals that offered help and advice; and how I acted upon it.

Dear Hope,

My husband has been secretly very controlling and aggressive towards me for several years. My daughter took after him. I told her not to do what her father does, but she ended up doing the same thing to me. Her older brother was a good student and left home with a scholarship. When I decided she and her father beat me for the last time, I separated from my husband and sent my daughter to a therapeutic school. My husband takes no responsibility for any of his or his daughter's behavior. He continues to blame me and says I am a bad mother. I am about to ask for a divorce, but I worry about my daughter. Will she become an abuser like her father? Could I have done something different? Maybe I am a bad mother? I will never abandon my daughter even though she has abandoned me.

Signed,
Feeling Guilty



Dear Feeling Guilty,

You describe yourself as a victim of intimate partner abuse. The guilt comes from a belief in your husband's words. Your husband has unfairly blamed you as the sole source of your daughter's behavior, taking no responsibility for his part. Your husband's abuse of you created an environment that is counterproductive for co-parenting. He undermined your authority in front of your child. He has taught your child that you are not to be respected and that you are weak, and his ridiculing, verbal and physical aggressiveness is the way to treat you when one disagrees with you. He has taught your daughter that a person has a right to intimidate. So yes, she could become an abuser... or a victim. But not necessarily. Lundy Bancroft, an expert in the field, states that both boys and girls have been observed to accept various aspects of the abuser's belief system, including the view that victims of violence are to blame, that males are superior to females, and that the use of violence against women by men is justifiable.

Let her know she did not cause the abuse by her father and that you are sorry that she had to experience it. But you also did what a good mother does, you got your daughter help. She is safe. Now you must become a mentor. You in particular could benefit from positive support of a Domestic Violence counselor and support group to make sure you are safe. Breaking down the isolation you feel is the first step towards having an abuse-free life. Asking the questions you are asking indicates that you no longer want to abandon your own emotional needs for the sake of the family. Your daughter can benefit from seeing her mother become her own person again. She can still learn from you by example. However, please be patient, it may take time for her to learn to respect you again (and herself). Many children turn around when they are older. Staying bogged down in the guilt and shame of the past gets you nothing. Moving forward and creating a good life that both your children can choose to share or not, is the best thing you can do.

All the best,
Hope

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



Thank You!

Thank you to John Iodice for donating this custom Yankees pinstripe child's motorized car signed by the 2014 Yankee team for our gala raffle. Pictured are Development Associate Lindsay Amoroso, raffle winner Mairead O'Sullivan, and Director of Development & Community Relations Jennifer Ryan Safsel.



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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 2017
ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

Friday, October 27, 2017 • Scarsdale Golf Club

Co-Chairs: Karen Burchetta and Caroline Shepherd



We will be honoring CarlLa Horton's 20 years
of leadership as Executive Director
of Hope's Door, and we hope you will join us.

To join our luncheon committee, contact Jennifer Ryan Safsel at 914-747-0828 x1005
or JRyanSafsel@HopesDoorNY.org. To take out a journal ad, contact Lindsay Amoroso at
914-747-0828 x1009 or LAmoroso@HopesDoorNY.org.