



# HOPE'S DOOR

*Embracing Life Free  
From Domestic Abuse*

## HOPE'S DOOR ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON



Executive Director CarlLa Horton

"This year's Hope's Door luncheon focuses on leadership, and we honor our executive director of twenty years, CarlLa Horton. We are pleased to host a panel of four passionate leaders from within our local communities, who exemplify the vision and commitment it takes to make positive changes, promote growth, and empower others. Our event promises to be truly inspiring," said Co-Chair Caroline Shepherd.

The luncheon will be on Friday, October 27, 2017 at the Scarsdale Golf Club. Hope's Door Executive Director CarlLa Horton will be receiving a lifetime achievement award for her 20 years of leadership, advocacy, and unwavering dedication to

our mission and the victims we serve.

Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson is a partner of Thompson & Bender, a public relations firm. She will elevate the conversation as she emcees and facilitates this year's event. Ms. Bracken-Thompson handles a variety of clients representing a broad spectrum of business sectors in Westchester County including Fortune 500 firms, banks, not-for-profits, and hospitals. Our panel of accomplished leaders will discuss how to have a positive impact on others, and empower victims and survivors of domestic violence.



Luncheon Co-Chairs Caroline Shepherd and Karen Burchetta

(Continued inside)

## ON THE MOVE UPDATE

On August 11th, we began the move into our new office in Hawthorne, the result of an unexpected and unavoidable loss of our lease at Hope's Door Pleasantville.

We thank the Office for Women and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin for temporary space.

We thank Rick Rakow, who worked tirelessly to find our new home; Kate Kerpchar for design assistance; and Director of Administration Dianne DeFilippis for the logistical coordination that moved 17 employees to seven temporary locations and then into Hawthorne. We thank all of the staff for their patience and understanding, the shelter staff for relinquishing



Enjoying our new office at 50 Broadway in Hawthorne, NY

space for the administrative team for four months, and the community services staff for maintaining our service delivery program.

We thank all of you who contributed to our On the Move appeal to help offset the projected \$222,108 in one-time costs and increased rent. To date, you have sent in

pledges totaling \$124,100.

Hawthorne starts a new chapter for Hope's Door, but our mission remains the same. We are here to end domestic violence and to empower survivors to achieve safety, independence, and healing from the trauma of abuse. Thank you for sharing in that mission.

## ON THE MOVE APPEAL

If you would like to contribute to our On the Move appeal, it is not too late! Please contact Executive Director CarlLa Horton or Director of Development Jennifer Ryan Safsel at 914-747-0828. You'll find us in our new home at 50 Broadway in Hawthorne, NY.



# HOPE'S Door

[www.HopesDoorNY.org](http://www.HopesDoorNY.org)

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**Carlla Horton, MPA**

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CARLLA HORTON

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are in the middle of a very exciting and challenging time at Hope's Door.

We just moved into our new office in Hawthorne. At the same time, we are embarking on a pilot program funded by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence with the goal to reduce high-risk domestic violence in the northeast corner of the county. We are particularly grateful to the Office for Women for spearheading the proposal, the Northeast Westchester Domestic Abuse Alliance (NEWDAA) for their steadfast advocacy, and the towns that have committed to the project.

Our teen dating abuse prevention program, now called the Prevention Program, is undergoing changes. Kristen Orlando is the new coordinator of the program, which includes Youth Educators Shannon Sullivan and our newest employee, Emily Benvenga. They are fast at work preparing for our 19th Annual Teen Symposium on October 17th.

Thanks to state funding, the shelter will undergo needed renovations, including roofing and accessibility improvements, while the community services program has plans to develop a parenting program for those in the aftermath of abuse.

This year marks my 20th anniversary with Hope's Door, and I simply cannot imagine a more fulfilling job than the one I have held since 1997. The Hope's Door Board of Directors will be recognizing my 20 years of service at our annual luncheon on October 27th. I hope you can join us so that I might in turn recognize you for sharing in our mission for so many years.

## SURVIVOR'S STORY

I met my husband in my home country. I was impressed by how nice, educated, and respectful he was. I fell in love with him because I thought he was a very good person. However, over time, I began to feel unsafe. He began treating me differently and losing control of his emotions. He would act jealous, then he would start arguments. Eventually, these arguments turned physical.

Looking back, the moment I decided to leave was the day he got physical with one of my sons. In that moment, I gained the strength to get up, grab my children, and run. After I left the house, I was alone with my three children, and didn't know how I would take care of them. I did not know what our lives would become. I started searching and calling places. I had no way of providing food or paying any rent. My husband was still contacting me and threatening me, but I knew I could not return.

One of the numbers I eventually called was Hope's Door, who opened their doors to me and my children. That is where I found a safe shelter filled with good people that opened their arms to me and my family. We finally felt safe. They offered all of the help I needed in those moments of sadness I was living in. I give thanks for everything they did for me.

Today, I am a valued person who has overcome not only for me, but also my children. I am able to advise my children and even other people. I let them know not to let themselves be mistreated by their partners. I tell them do not keep quiet. Do not allow yourself to be mistreated. It is better to leave that type of relationship, and to value yourself. Most of all, it is possible.



## NEW AND EXCITING CHANGES TO HOPE'S DOOR'S LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT PREVENTION PROGRAM

Kristen Orlando, has been promoted to Prevention Program Coordinator. Orlando started at Hope's Door as a Youth Educator in 2013 and is thrilled to now lead the Prevention Program. "We are confident Kristen will continue to provide our schools and communities with the outstanding level of dedication and commitment that has always been a standard for our prevention programs in the past," said Director of Community Services Debbie Lauro-Conn. Orlando will continue her role as a domestic violence counselor as well.



Pictured (Left to Right):  
Youth Educator Shannon Sullivan,  
Prevention Program Coordinator Kristen Orlando,  
Youth Educator Emily Benvenga

To learn more, contact  
[TeenSymposium@HopesDoorNY.org](mailto:TeenSymposium@HopesDoorNY.org)

In addition, we recently welcomed our second Youth Educator, Emily Benvenga, the newest member of the Prevention Program. She will join Shannon Sullivan in facilitating middle school and high school workshops, as well as multiple Students Talking About Relationships (STAR) chapters throughout Westchester County. All of our Prevention Program staff are working hard on our upcoming 19th Annual Teen Symposium planned for Tuesday, October 17th at Sarah Lawrence College. This is an exciting and educational day where over 300 students, teachers, and volunteers come together to speak and be heard about relationships.

### HELPING HANDS



Every August, the Prevention Program staff along with Students Talking About Relationships (STAR) members and volunteers attend the "Helping Hands" backpack stuffing event at the Resurrection Church in Rye, NY. At the end of this event, over 2,050 backpacks are filled with school supplies for both young children and teens in need, 40 of which are taken back to the Hope's Door Administrative office and residential location for our clients' children.

Pictured (Left to Right): Hope's Door Development Intern Leana Rutt, Youth Educator Emily Benvenga, Youth Educator Shannon Sullivan, Prevention Program Coordinator Kristen Orlando, and graduated Ursuline STAR member Alison Ronan.

## OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NEW PROJECT BEGINS

The Westchester County Office for Women has secured pilot project funding of \$200,000 from the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. These funds will support Hope's Door and other partners' work to reduce the risk of intimate partner violence and homicides in northeast Westchester.

According to Office for Women Director Robi Schlaff, "Our collaboration will develop and implement strategies to address the dangers facing high-risk victims in the northeast corner of the county, an area that is remote and isolated from services. With the help of our partners, including Hope's Door and five local police departments, we will be able to offer locally based services to victims from Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, North Salem, Bedford, and Somers."

Our shelter has received a beautiful refrigerator thanks to the generosity of the Junior League of Bronxville. They provided funding for the purchase of this new Whirlpool stainless steel refrigerator for our shelter kitchen, along with a three-year warranty.

Pictured (Left to Right): Junior League of Bronxville members Janice Duarte and Nicole Benjamin, Hope's Door Director of Residential Services May Krukiel, and Hope's Door Assistant to the Director of Residential Services Natalie Etienne.



(Continued from front page)

## ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

This year's panel includes: Leslie Lampert, Lauren Leader-Chivée, Joel Seligman, and New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

Leslie Lampert is the Executive Chef & Proprietor of Love Hospitality in Mt. Kisco, New York. Lampert's business of award-winning, locally sourced cafes is thriving, and Lampert supports local charities and community efforts regularly.

Lauren Leader-Chivée is the Co-Founder & CEO of the non-profit All In Together, which strives to encourage working women to participate more fully in our democracy. She is the author of *Crossing the Thinnest Line*, which discusses diversity and women's issues in the workplace, politics, and beyond.

Joel Seligman is the President & CEO of Northern Westchester Hospital. In his long-standing tenure, Seligman has implemented significant advancements focusing on clinical excellence, improving quality, and expanding community outreach. He also is a member of the Hope's Door Advisory Board.

Andrea Stewart-Cousins is currently a New York State Senator and was elected as the first female to be elected as the State Senate Minority Leader. Stewart-Cousins is a strong advocate for human rights, quality education, affordable healthcare, among other important issues. Prior to her work in the Senate, Stewart served on the Westchester County Board of Legislators and is a longtime community activist and Hope's Door supporter.

"A person who has lived through an experience, learned and grown from it, and is willing to help others through something similar, is a leader. We look forward to hearing about how each of us can be a leader in our own communities," said Co-Chair Karen Burchetta.



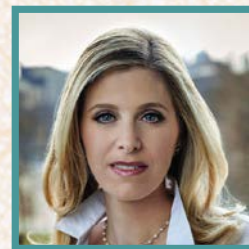
*Emcee*

ELIZABETH BRACKEN-THOMPSON  
Partner, Thompson & Bender

### Leadership Panel



LESLIE LAMPERT  
Proprietor, Love Hospitality:  
Cafe of Love, Ladle of Love,  
Love On The Run Catering,  
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LAUREN LEADER-CHIVÉE  
Co-Founder & CEO All In Together;  
Author: *Crossing the Thinnest Line*



JOEL SELIGMAN  
President & CEO,  
Northern Westchester Hospital



ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS  
New York State Senator

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP TO THE ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON](#)

## HOPE'S DOOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



Advisory Board members in attendance (Left to Right): Co-Chair Sheryl Dale, Board of Directors member and Co-Chair Martha Obler Kohn, Helen Williams, Penney J. Klingman, Diane Rooney, Gina R. Jackson, Tom Gardner, Irina Zhabinskaya, Patricia Carrera, and Joel Seligman. Members not pictured: Jean Marie Connolly, Alyssa Dweck, Gerard A. Klingman, Jeffrey Kohn, David M. Ryan, Ira M. Schulman, Nancy K. Simpkins, Michael A. Stillman, and Eric I. Wrubel.

We held our second Annual Advisory Board meeting in June at the home of Debra Kousouros, President of the Board of Directors. It was a great opportunity for our staff, Board of Directors members, and Advisory Board members to learn more about each other's involvement with Hope's Door. Staff presented information about recent changes at Hope's Door, such as the creation of the Risk Reduction program, and gave insight into their daily work. We are appreciative of all that our Advisory Board members do for us throughout the year. Thank you to Sheryl and Martha for their leadership.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HOPESDOORNYINC](https://www.facebook.com/HOPESDOORNYINC) – AND "LIKE" US TOO!



## HIP KID SUPPORTS HOPE'S DOOR



Trish Kallman and Board of Directors member Martha Obler Kohn

Thank you to hip-kid owner Trish Kallman for her ongoing support of Hope's Door. Every week, hip-kid has a child-run lemonade stand at the store, and Trish donates 100% of the proceeds of the lemonade sold to a local charity. In July, Hope's Door was lucky enough to be chosen. You can visit the hip-kid store located in Chappaqua, NY, or go to the store's website: [hipkid.vendecommerce.com](http://hipkid.vendecommerce.com)



Volunteers Allison and Michael selling lemonade for Hope's Door

*Dear Hope,*

I went to a domestic violence support group to get help with a guy who lives around the corner. I wanted him out of my life. I went out with him a couple of times and he hurt me so I stopped but he keeps showing up on my street or on my cell phone. I am afraid to block him and sometimes I also don't want him to stop calling me. Last week the group convinced me to block him so I did right there. Four days later I unblocked him because I didn't know how he would react. I felt peer pressured to do it, and didn't choose to on my own. When I went back to group and told them, everyone seemed mad at me and didn't really listen to me. I felt overwhelmed and felt they were saying I was a bad person for not keeping him blocked. I felt bad to block him. Should I quit the group?

Signed,  
Overwhelmed

*Dear Overwhelmed,*

Changing your life by yourself can be overwhelming. That's why a support group of women who have been through situations like yours can be so helpful. A support group is meant to do that...support you in the goal you tell them. If you told them you "wanted him out of your life," it sounds like they were trying to help you do just that. But sometimes, after listening to an abuser tell you what to do constantly, anyone else who tells you what to do may remind you of your fears of what happens if you don't do it, even if they have your best interests at heart. Perhaps the other group members were frustrated because they were trying to support you and they didn't think you could hear what they were saying because your fears were so loud. That happens. You know, when you are new in group, sometimes choosing a more doable goal can help. An abuser doesn't typically allow you to have personal goals, so you may be out of practice setting them. Maybe you don't feel ready for group, but would like to return when you do feel ready. My suggestion is while you are deciding, please revisit your safety plan for your current situation. Speak to the group leader about what you can do to change your experience in your support group. Ask what your options are...you will be speaking up for your needs, and that is an important skill to practice in itself. And you already practiced it in writing to me!

Here's to feeling less "overwhelmed" soon.

Warmly,  
Hope

E-MAIL DEAR HOPE AT: [DEARHOPE@HOPESDOORNY.ORG](mailto:DEARHOPE@HOPESDOORNY.ORG)



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*Embracing Life Free  
From Domestic Abuse*

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[www.HopesDoorNY.org](http://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.



## Purple Purse Challenge Allstate Foundation Division I

Financial abuse is when an abuser takes control of shared or individual money and limits the ability of the victim to be economically independent from the abuser. It is considered the "invisible" side of domestic abuse because it doesn't leave bruises or marks, but its damage is immeasurable. It is one way an abuser maintains control and it contributes to why the average domestic violence victim attempts to leave their abuser seven to eleven times before they achieve independence.

Without the means to support themselves or their families, victims become trapped in abusive relationships. "As Hope's Door's Economic Empowerment Specialist for the Next Step Program, I've met many domestic violence survivors who have worked hard to begin their journey to economic security. Through the Next Step program, victims have seen new possibilities life has to offer after experiencing struggles and challenges in their relationships," said Brenda Rodriguez.

"Given the need to increase awareness of financial abuse and assist victims throughout Westchester County obtain the help they need, Hope's Door is participating in The Allstate Foundation's national 2017 Purple Purse Challenge. The Allstate Foundation aims to empower survivors of domestic and economic abuse to break free and seek financial independence. We look forward to joining in that effort again this year," says Jennifer Ryan Safsel, Director of Development and Community Relations.

This year's Purple Purse Challenge runs from Monday, October 2nd through Tuesday, October 31st. Tennis champion Serena Williams will be teaming up with The Allstate Foundation as this year's program ambassador, and will design a limited-edition purple purse to help bring to light the fact that between 94-99% of domestic violence survivors report economic abuse.

We hope you join our challenge!



Purple Purse program ambassador,  
Serena Williams

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Visit Hope's Door's Purple Purse Challenge page at <https://www.crowdrise.com/hopes-door-purplepurse2017> to join our team by becoming a fundraiser yourself, or donate directly after October 2nd.