

**Eastern Shore Coalition
Against Domestic Violence
(ESCADV)**

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We're on the web!

www.escadv.org



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This newsletter was printed with support from a contract from the Domestic Violence Prevention & Services Grant #CVS-15-073-11 awarded by the Virginia Dept. of Social Services.



We're Going Digital!
You'll love our new e-newsletter!

Here's how to sign up to receive it:

We will publish a written newsletter twice a year, quarterly e-newsletters, and occasional e-mail notices about important events and happenings. This helps us save paper *and* keeps you up-to-date with what is happening at ESCADV.

Don't miss out on the latest — Be sure to send your e-mail address to:
SocialESCADV@gmail.com. Include your first and last name, type the word “Subscribe” in the message line, and we'll sign you up!

Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ESCADV)

THE ADVOCATE

Shining the light against domestic & sexual violence

From the Director's Desk: What's love got to do with it?

Volume 34, Issue 11

Winter 2015/
Spring 2016



Chances are you recently exchanged cards, chocolates, or other signs of appreciation with people you cared about during the holiday in February devoted to love: Valentine's Day. Love can be a loaded topic on a lot of levels, so we weren't sure at first if it would be a good newsletter theme. In our line of work, we help many people who have experienced tragedy in their closest relationships. A lot of the ideals associated with love can seem lacking, or flawed, or terribly twisted when we consider domestic and sexual violence.

At its best, love's central tenets — caring and support — are what we all need to survive, to grow, to heal, and to thrive.

Caring and support are what ESCADV provides to every person in need who calls our hotline or walks through our doors. It seems simple, but when someone experiences what might be the hardest time of their life, having others who care and provide support is profound — and can make all the difference in the world.

***“When action
meets compassion,
lives change.”***

Love is in the air everywhere at ESCADV. That our organization even exists to help others is testament to the fact that the community cares about survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Every donation, whatever or however much, shows concern for those in need.

Our tireless volunteers come in every week to devote their time, energy, and efforts to ESCADV's cause. That's love

in action. While our Advocates' primary concern with survivors of domestic violence is often physical safety and crisis intervention, their compassion and trauma-informed approach make our clients feel they are getting the kind of encompassing support they urgently need.

It is a privilege to work in a place where you find love expressed every single day and in so many different ways. So, what's love got to do with it? My answer: **Everything.**

Please know how much we appreciate and celebrate the healing power that *your* love provides — not just on Valentine's Day, but every day, all year long. When action meets compassion, lives change. Thanks to your action and compassion — because you care — the lives of so many who come to ESCADV for help really do change for the better.

In love and partnership,

Cristi



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DONORS!

Your support helps to heal broken hearts.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to our donors from Sept. to Dec. of 2015:

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ESCADV Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Re-Opening



Top: Local dignitaries cut the ribbon to ESCADV's newly repaired office. Left to right: Onancock Town Manager, G. Cabell Lawton, IV; Contractor, Ed Weber; Onancock Mayor, Russell Jones; ESCADV Board President, Peaches Dodge; VA State Senator, Lynwood Lewis; Local artist, Mama Girl; Accomack County District 7 Supervisor, Laura Belle Gordy; Tyson Foods Representative.

Middle: ESCADV representatives receive a check from Tyson Foods for the office's new storage shed.

Bottom: ESCADV representatives with Rev. Don Broad, an original founding Board Member and past Board President.

ESCADV DONORS

In the spotlight



AVON



**AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

Avon Foundation's Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Grant Program awarded ESCADV with \$20,000. Avon's Funds support our emergency shelter and our critical work with children and teens. We extend a HUGE thank you to Ms. Barbara Gray, our local Avon Representative, who helped us with the grant.



Isn't this a great picture?! We want to thank Chris' Bait and Tackle for choosing ESCADV as the recipient of their annual Rockfish Riot Fishing Tournament this year. Several of our Board Members attended the barbeque celebration.

SAVE THE DATE!!!



We are encouraging all of our supporters to mark May 3 on their calendars this year. This day is a 24-hour fundraising event for 200 local nonprofits, including us! This is the first year ESCADV is participating and we are counting on all of our supporters to make this debut successful. For more information on Give Local 757, please email socialescadv@gmail.com. We want to keep you in the loop about contest prizes we will be aiming for on May 3. Contests are chances for us to win more money. We can only win prizes if donations are made online at givelocal757.org. To learn more about Give Local 757, visit our Facebook page. We want to give a big thanks to all of our past donors and we hope you will join us in this new online fundraising movement!

ESCADV community highlights during Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

In addition to attending 5 local high school football games in October, check out some of the other places we visited in October to talk with people in the community about domestic violence awareness and prevention:



We gave the 3C's Club in Chincoteague an update about our work. The 3C's provide shelter support every single month! Pictured above is our Shelter Services Advocate, Maria Alfonso, with Club Member, Mary Audet.



ESCADV partnered with the Wallops Flight Facility to present information to their employees.



We had a great time with the Accawmacke Elementary School's Beta Club. We talked about healthy relationships, and students participated in our "Pillow Talk" campaign. The Beta Club also held a donation drive for our shelter!

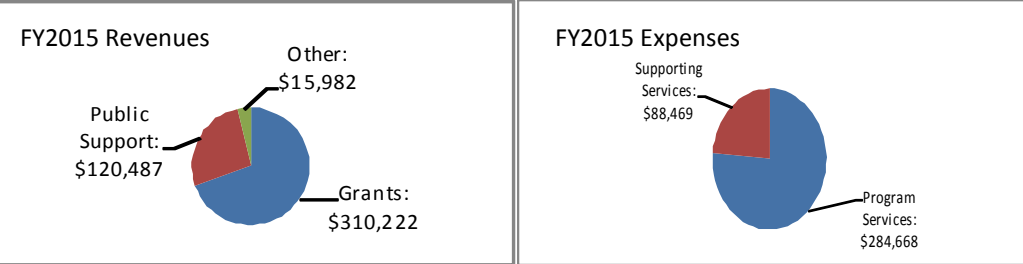


We love this pillowcase that students at Kiptopeke Elementary School decorated as part of a presentation we did to the PTA during Back to School Night.



Effective Financial Stewardship: What's not to love?

While the ins and outs of effective financial accountability might not make everyone's heart go pitter-patter, it is near and dear to our hearts here at ESCADV. Our financial management committee meets monthly, and in the past year updated our financial policies and procedures, developed new gift acceptance policies, streamlined accounts payable and receivable to be more efficient, updated our fundraising and accounting software systems and associated reports, and oversaw important checks and balances. We're happy to report our Fiscal Year 2015 audit was recently completed with no negative findings and high praises from our independent auditor, Leatherbury-Broache. In just four years, we have doubled our revenues from \$198,290 (FY2011) to \$446,691 (FY2015) Below is a summary:



Local high schools "Rock Their Purple" to show support for healthy relationships

ESCADV's first ever *Rock Your Purple* public awareness event was a rousing success! Five local high schools participated in activities in October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At homecoming games, football players wore purple socks, the national color for domestic violence awareness; cheerleaders wore purple ribbons; and spectators sported "Rock the Purple" to show their support. Students learned about healthy relationships, and ESCADV provided announcements during the week before the game.



ESCADV advocates and volunteers staffed tables at each game, providing helpful information and awarding raffle prizes to participants. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of our local sponsors, Walmart and Rotary Clubs, and to leadership at Arcadia, Northampton, Broadwater Academy, Nandua, and Chincoteague High Schools, students learned more facts about the issue of domestic violence, how to lead safer lives, and find help for those that need it. **Rock the Purple!!**



Left to Right/Top to Bottom: Arcadia High School cheerleaders wear purple ribbons; Broadwater Academy football team members wear purple socks at Homecoming; Nandua High School players wear purple socks; Arcadia High School players show their purple socks support; ESCADV staff and volunteers at an information table during a football game.



Our donors were **so sweet** to our shelter residents over the holidays:

Melanie Parker—organized an amazing Christmas toy and donation drive. She and everyone who donated helped make it a very Merry Christmas for our residents!
Mary Kay—Mary Reina and her associates donated cosmetics, toys and presents for lots of holiday cheer.
Montaigne Cree—gave the gift of new sheets and comforter sets for our shelter.

There just isn't enough space to thank everyone who made the holidays brighter for our shelter residents, but please know how much we appreciate all you do!

