

**Eastern Shore
Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
(ESCADV)**
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www.escadv.org



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This newsletter was printed with support from a contract from the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program Grant #17-A3415SA15 awarded by the Department of Criminal Justice.

We provide the following services to Accomack and Northampton Counties:

- 24-Hour Hotline
- Emergency Shelter
- Individual Counseling
- Safety Planning
- Crisis Intervention
- Support Groups
- Legal Advocacy
- Referrals
- Case Management
- Children's Advocacy
- Community Outreach

We serve men, women and children.

Our services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

Shelter stay is not required to access ESCADV

Christmas Cheer for ESCADV Shelter!!!!

Thank you to everyone who made 2017 Christmas Cheer a success!!!!



Our Christmas Angels worked hard to make this holiday a positive one for our survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Thank you to Melanie Parker, Mandi Mears, Leesa Kelly and Owen. This is along with the many others who supported the mission of the Christmas Cheer for ESCADV.



A Big "Thank You" to Onley Walmart who chipped in a \$100 gift card and opened up a lane just for our Christmas Angels!

Left to Right: Veronica Walker, Melanie Parker, Cathleen Rasmussen, and Leesa Kelly.

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Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ESCADV)

THE ADVOCATE

Winter 2018

Shining the light against Domestic & Sexual Violence

From the Director's Desk:

With the New Year coming and going, I have had the opportunity to take a look back at the previous year. During the past year, ESCADV provided advocacy services to 171 individuals and shelter services to 129 individuals throughout the year. I am thankful every day for the community support that allows ESCADV to assist these individuals.

2017 was the first full year of having a sexual assault advocate and we saw a 33% increase of hotline calls involving sexual assault. While I am saddened to see so many instances of sexual assault, I am glad individuals are reaching out for help. This is due largely to the work of our staff and volunteers promoting ESCADV's sexual assault services.

I also want to give special appreciation to everyone who participated in and donated to the Christmas Cheer Drive. This special project provided Christmas to all the families served by ESCADV during the holidays. ESCADV is blessed to have Christmas Angels (Melanie

Parker, Leesa Kelly, and Mandi Mears) who make this project happen. Thank you! You are the reason I believe in Santa Claus.

Moving forward, ESCADV is seeking to continue to expand our volunteer program. We have a variety of positions available including donation management, administration assistance, community outreach and client assistance. We specifically need individuals with access to a truck and possibly trailer to assist in moving furniture. If you are interested in volunteering please contact our administration office and ask for Kentoya.

Last but not least, I want to thank everyone who donated to our annual appeal. The Gift of Hope Annual Appeal is our largest campaign of the year.

Your donations during the annual appeal and throughout the year, allow us to continue provide services beyond what our grants fund. Additionally, local support such as your donations are leveraged for additional funds with several grants. Thank you again! ~Shelley



We missed you in our previous newsletter and we're sorry!!!!

Dawn – A Unique Shop for Women and Home, thank you for your support for the 2017 Annual Ladies' Invitational Golf Tournament! Your Support helps to heal and create positive change for families!



Our Staff

Shelley Strain
Executive Director

Jeanette Searle
Director of Operations

Maria Alfonso
Shelter Coordinator
Hispanic Services Advocate

Felicia Trower
Accomack County
Client Services Advocate

Jacqueline Elmandorf
Northampton County
Client Services Advocate

Fatima Peart
Sexual Assault
Client Services Advocate

Kathy Custis
Children's Services Advocate

Kentoya Garcia
Community Outreach
Volunteer Coordinator

Dottie Swisher
Administrative Assistant

John Hargrave
ESAA Employee

Board of Directors

Kent Sudman
President

Arventa Smith
Vice President

Mozella Frances
Secretary

Sharon Parker
Treasurer

Alice Brown

Peaches Dodge

Cynthia Eddy

Carol Rush

Dave Vaughn

Upcoming: Volunteer Trainings



Level I - Beginner Training

Date: Friday, March 16, 2018

Time: 1pm to 5pm

This class is designed for those interested in volunteering with and/or learning more about ESCADV.

Level II - Intermediate Training

Dates: Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Time: 5pm to 9pm

This training is the follow up to ESCADV's Level I training. It is designed to further your knowledge on ESCADV, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Individuals who have been through ESCADV's Level II training can have interactions with clients, which expands the volunteer opportunities.

Your greatness is not what you have:

It is what you give!

How could **you** help ESCADV and survivors of domestic and sexual violence on the Eastern Shore?

Give your time and talents —

Volunteer with us! We offer a wide variety of short and long-term opportunities to get involved. We have a fun, flexible, and rewarding work environment where you can put your energy and interests to work helping others. Contact Kentoya Garcia at kgarcia@escadv.org to learn more.

Donate items —

We always need paper products, cleaning supplies, and nonperishable food items. Contact Maria Alfonso at malfonso@escadv.org to learn more.

The Importance of Raising Awareness for Domestic Violence on the ESVA!

Raising awareness for Intimate Partner (IPV) and Family Violence can help victims find professional counseling and prevent more people from getting hurt.

Why It Matters?

Statistics show that:

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience physical violence by an intimate partner.
- Children exposed to Domestic Violence are more likely to be abusers or victims as adults.
- 1 in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys experience sexual abuse or sexual assault before they turn 18.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 33 men have been a victim of an attempted or completed rape.

Statistically, those numbers are terrifying and should be unacceptable. More disturbing is the fact that no one likes to talk about it. The fact that it is swept under the rug and undermined is even more disturbing. So many people hide behind closed minds and closed doors when it comes time to talk about domestic violence. It is such a touchy subject that many people are unprepared for the questions and emotions that arise with it.

STOP
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

So bringing light to this really dark, touchy subject is something that is necessary, especially in today's day and age with the growing culture we live in. As our mission is "to provide support and empowerment to the victims of domestic and sexual violence." We are here to say that it's not worth sweeping under the rug. It is not something worth ignoring. It is a serious issue that is becoming extremely prevalent in today's society.

Our Work for 2017

24-Hour Hotline



In 2017, there were 194 hotline calls answered. 20 of those calls were from victims of sexual assault.

Emergency Shelter

ESCADV provided 6483 nights of shelter. 50% of our sheltered clients were children. Exiting ESCADV, 92% of families went to a location without abuse present. Out of adult clients, 8% were male. We provide the only domestic violence shelter for the Eastern Shore of Virginia.



Counseling and Referrals



A total of 2227 hours of advocacy were provided to adults. A total of 640 hours of advocacy were provided to children.

Community Outreach and Education

A total of 72 Outreach Events were provided to our community.

Why support Matters?

From Christmas Drives to hearing the stories of actual survivors, supporting Domestic Violence Awareness is something that has gradually become more and more meaningful. Taking time to understand what you are supporting and what your funds and resources are going to is crucial. It is one thing to know what your philanthropy is and it is another thing to take part and participate in it in every possible aspect. Take time to love it and live it! Become passionate about it and realize that you are making a difference.

Stalking Awareness

Stalking is a crime that affects an estimated 7.5 million people each year. The Department of Justice defines stalking as "a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. "Similar to crimes of sexual violence, stalking is a dangerous crime about power and control.

The following are stalking response tips provided by the stalking Resource Center and Office on Violence Against Women, the U.S. Department of Justice:

- Trust your instincts. Victims of

stalking often feel pressured by friends or family to downplay the stalker's behavior, but stalking poses a real threat of harm. Your safety is paramount.

- Call the police if you feel you are in any immediate danger.
- Keep a record or log of each contact with the stalker. Be sure to also document any police reports.
- Stalkers often use technology to contact their victims. Save all emails, text messages, photos and postings on social networking site as evidence of stalking behavior.
- Get connected with a local victim advocate to talk through your options and discuss safety planning.

**INDIVIDUALS
AGE 18-24
EXPERIENCE THE
HIGHEST
RATE OF STALKING**

Teen Dating Violence Awareness

There is a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen and 20-something relationships and promote programs to prevent it. It is an issue that affects people from all backgrounds, and identities.

Dating violence is more common than people think. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with

before they become adults. Nearly half (43%) of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors. The goal is to help spread awareness and stop dating abuse before it starts!

Let's empower young people to build healthy relationships from the ground up. Our hands were made for helping—not hurting the ones we love!



KNOW THE FACTS TEEN DATING ABUSE

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

1 in 3

adolescents in the U.S. are a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner.



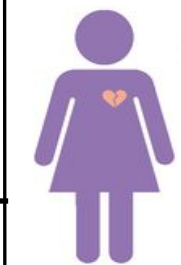
1 in 10

high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.



80%

of girls who have been physically abused in their relationship continue to date their abuser.



Girls

and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence—almost triple the national average.

1 in 3

teens who were in an abusive relationship never told anyone about the abuse.



PARENTS DON'T RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

2 out of 3

parents whose children have been in a dating relationship say dating violence and abuse has not been a problem for their teens.



82%

of parents feel confident that they could recognize if their teen was experiencing dating violence, but more than half of these parents could not correctly identify the warning signs of abuse.



(LevelsRespect.org, Dating Abuse Statistics)