

THE ADVOCATE

Shining the light for the fight against Domestic Violence

After an extensive search over the summer, The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce and welcome Cristi Lawton as our new Executive Director. Cristi

has extensive government and nonprofit experience and will help address our needs for community outreach and partnership, fundraising, and over-

all management. Formerly of Richmond, Cristi has recently settled in Onancock with her husband and children. Read on for her first impressions...

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Cristi Lawton, Executive Director
Eleanor Drewniak, Client Services
Maria Ennis, Shelter Coordinator
Evelyn Ray, Office Manager

An inside peak of my first week as the new Executive Director

I have to admit, I was a bit nervous to be the new Executive Director of ESCADV. When I would tell people about my new job, I would receive sympathetic looks and comments like "Oh, I bet that will be very hard and depressing..." Well, I am happy to report five "takeaways" I discovered my first week:

1. We have an incredible staff. I was immediately impressed with the compassion and caring way our staff treat everyone who calls or walks through our door. They go above and beyond every single day. Our three dedicated staff have a combined 35 years of working at ESCADV to help survivors of domestic violence!

2. Our volunteers are priceless. From a very active and engaged Board of Directors, to the office volunteers who give so generously of their time, and to our two new interns who are excited to work with clients and

develop new programs, it's awesome to have such a high level of volunteer engagement. Because our staff size is so small, our volunteers are especially critical and appreciated.

3. The community actively supports our mission. In just a few short days, I've seen generous financial contributions as well as all sorts of useful in-kind donations come in from individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups. It is a blessing and honor to have so many people show how much they care about our mission.

4. Our clients are so grateful for our services. My second day was truly inspiring because a former client stopped by to make a donation and to let our staff know once again how very thankful she was for the shelter and services we provided to her over four years ago. She and her young daughter are doing well, and their lives have been transformed from

fear and abuse to safety and security. I think this was the moment I realized that my job will be inspiring, motivating and rewarding beyond all my expectations.

5. We are well positioned to grow. After some very rocky times, the community and our Board stepped up to stabilize our finances and to keep our organization up and running. I look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that we have a stable foundation and can grow in ways that best serve our community.

On behalf our Board, staff, volunteers, and clients, thank you for being on this journey with us. Together, I know we'll continue to transform lives, one survivor at a time, and make the Eastern Shore a better place to live, work, play, and thrive.

In partnership and service,

Cristi

Thank You

We are so grateful to organizations who donated from July - September:

3 "C" Club
Belle Haven Presbyterian Church
Bethel United Methodist Women
Central Shore Lion's Club
Christian Temple
Christ United Methodist Women
Club Car Café
Dennis/Ayers United Methodist Women's Circle

Downings United Methodist Church
Franktown Community Health Center
Franktown United Methodist Church
Greenbush Veterinary Clinic
Hallwood Baptist Church
Holmes Presbyterian Church Women

Janet's Café
Kiwanis Club
Ocean View United Methodist Church
Share Farmers Market
Smith Chapel United Methodist Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
St. Peter's Catholic Church

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We provide the following services to Accomack and Northampton Counties:

- 24-Hour Hotline and Emergency Shelter
- Individual DV counseling
- Crisis Intervention
- Support Groups
- Legal Advocacy and Referrals
- Prevention, Education, and Community Outreach Services

Make a difference!

Donate in honor of or in memory of someone special as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month! Complete the enclosed tear off section and return it with your donation. We will mail a special card to let them know that you donated in their honor!

LEARN MORE!

ESCADV will be doing community outreach and education at the following events in October:

- 10/2 Harvest Festival
- 10/3 Hispanic Heritage Night
- 10/17 Agape In Home Counseling
- 10/19 Ride the Tide & Godspeed
- 10/21 ESCC Alcohol Awareness Week

Plus, listen for our Public Service Announcements and upcoming interview on "Shore Life" radio.

Our staff is available to present information about domestic violence at your school, church, workplace or civic group during Domestic Violence Awareness Month or anytime. Please call or email us to discuss how we can work together.

ESCADV wish list

- We need more storage space for all the in-kind donations we receive! If you are interested in donating, building or helping us purchase a shed, we'd love to hear from you.
- The items we currently need most in the shelter are: area rugs, twin size mattress covers, king size bedspreads and/or couch covers, and two twin size mattresses

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Although we are thankful that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, for us, every day is domestic violence awareness day.

However, rather than being treated as the public health crisis that it is, the media often presents domestic violence in a narrow and inaccurate way: focusing on isolated incidents and themes that tend to blame the victim. The result is opportunities missed to increase awareness about domestic violence and the services availa-

ble to assist survivors.

Since 25% of women have suffered physical or emotional abuse by a partner at some point during their lives, chances are someone you know has experienced domestic violence. Victims are often silent and may be ashamed to tell anyone. In addition, it is not easy for women to leave their home and the stability it affords. It may take up to seven attempts before a woman can successfully leave an abusive relationship.

In light of these issues, what can all of us do to reduce domestic violence? At ESCADV, we are committed to prevention and education strategies to break the cycle, as well providing survivors with the tools they need to lead lives that are safe and productive.

We invite you to join us, this month and every month, to treat domestic violence as the public health problem that it is. Lives depend on it.

**"Sweet" Ways to support ESCADV during Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Enjoy purple cupcakes and donuts at the Corner Bakery in Onancock from 10/21—10/26 AND enjoy heart cookies with purple icing at the Yellow Duck Bakery & Café in Exmore from

_____ All proceeds benefit ESCADV.

**Help create a nurturing environment: Sponsor a room at our shelter!**

If you would like to make a clear statement to the community and our guests that you are personally committed to providing for women and children experiencing domestic violence, we invite you to sponsor the renovation of a room at our shelter.

Our shelter is the only domestic

violence shelter that serves all of Accomack and Northampton Counties, providing emergency accommodation and other services for adults and children escaping danger from family violence situations.

Your in-kind donations and/or financial support will help us make much-needed repairs and provide an up-to-date facility that is comforting to survivors as

they face their most critical time of need and work to build better lives.

Your involvement through Room Sponsorship sends a powerful daily reminder that you care to those in crisis. For a packet of room sponsorship opportunities, please call 787-1329 or email escadv@verizon.net.

ESCADV welcomes two new interns

We are excited to welcome Dawn White and Nicole Ayres to our ESCADV family!

Dawn is completing a Masters Degree in Social Work and will be working with us through the spring, focusing on providing additional services and resources to clients.

Nicole is completing her Bachelors Degree in Human Services and is volunteering through November, with a focus on client services and community outreach, including activities

planned as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

When asked about her internship, Dawn says, "I am incredibly grateful to have this unique opportunity to improve my own skills in the field of social work, observe and learn from such a giving, supportive and compassionate team, and serve a critical social problem here in my own community." Nicole adds, "This work can be emotionally tough, but it is also really rewarding to help."

Volunteer with us!

We are recruiting for:

A Volunteer Coordinator**Office Assistants****A Social Media Intern**

We offer flexible hours, training, a friendly office environment, and the opportunity to learn new skills and make a positive difference. Call 787-1329 or email escadv@verizon.net to learn more!



Safety and hope for a brighter future: A summary of our work during Fiscal Year 2013

From July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, ESCADV provided 3,733 nights of shelter to 37 adults and 34 children who needed safety from domestic violence. We provided domestic violence resources and referrals to 268 people who called our hotline. In addition, we provided almost 4,000 hours of advocacy services to adults and 864 hours of advocacy services to children. Our staff and Board also engaged in 127 community outreach activities throughout the year to help educate our community and break the cycle of domestic violence.

While we track and report on our “numbers”, it is also important to reflect on the individuals and stories behind the statistics. Towards this end, we would like to share a few of our clients’ insights, as recorded in

confidential surveys over the course of the year, in response to the question **“What do you think you would have done if the Shelter did not exist?”** Here is a sampling of what they said:

“Slept in the Wal-Mart parking lot.”

“I truly believe that I would have stayed in the abusive relationship and might have died because I feared being homeless more than the abuse.”

“My family and I would have had to stay in that environment. We had no family or friends to go to.”

“I would have ended up living in my car.”

Although these quotes are sobering, we are thrilled that every client who completed a survey

also indicated that they would recommend our shelter to those in need. Quotes included:

“I was able to feel safe, regroup, and focus.”

“Warm welcome, felt comfortable, learned a lot.”

“...a feeling of safety, protection, and you are not going through this alone.”

100% of the survey respondents also said that, as a result of our services, they know more ways to plan for their safety and are more hopeful about their lives. Most importantly, all but 2 of the 37 clients we sheltered last year were able to successfully transition to housing free from violence and abuse. We are delighted by these “success stories”, and with your support, will continue to serve survivors and work toward a safer community.

Give a little change and support a big change!

Your change can help change lives! It’s simple and easy for you to help survivors of domestic violence by joining our **Change for Change Campaign**.

It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Stop by our office at 155 Market Street in Onancock to pick up your “Change for Change” Jar.
2. Collect your spare change in the jar.
3. Return your jar and change back to us.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!



YES! I want to support ESCADV’s work to end domestic violence in our community.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

This gift is made in honor/memory of: _____

Please send an “In Honor” card to (name and address):

Please contact me, I am interested in learning more and being involved.

ESCADV DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

In the Spotlight



The Exmore Rotary Club completed extensive improvements to the interior and exterior of our shelter, including installing a wonderful new backyard playground!



The United Way of Virginia’s Eastern Shore has generously donated funds for a new air conditioning system for our office, and for educational materials, client needs, and administrative expenses.



St. Michael’s Episcopal Church painted and renovated our office this summer. Pictured above (left to right) are Eleanor Drewniak (ESCADV staff), Juenee Godsey (St. Michael’s priest), Ann Cronan (church volunteer) and Peaches Dodge (ESCADV Board President)

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

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We're on the web!

www.escadv.com

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Onancock, VA

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SAVE THE DATE: JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT ESCADV!



TWO PERFORMANCES

Saturday, October 19
10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
at
Cokesbury Methodist Church
13 Market St., Onancock, VA



YourFamilyEntertainer.com
presents
Capt. Capitano's Pirate Comedy Show

All donations benefit
The E. S. Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Tickets not required. Donations greatly appreciated.
For further information, visit www.shorehistory.org/ridethetide or call 787-1114 or 787-1431



"Timeless"
*Luncheon, Fashion Show, & Silent Auction
To benefit ESCADV*

Saturday, November 16, 2013
11:30 a.m. or 1:15 a.m.
Historic Kerr Place



Sponsored by the Town & Country Garden Group
of the Woman's Club of Accomack County.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at
the Book Bin, Rayfields, or any Woman's
Club Member. Contact Linda Nordstrom
at 442-7670 for more information.



*Onancock
Christmas
Homes Tour*
**Saturday,
December 14, 2013**
2 p.m.—6 p.m.

Sponsored by the Onancock Business and
Civic Association (OBCA), and a portion of
the proceeds will benefit ESCADV.

Please call the OBCA at 757-387-2268 or
ESCADV at 757-787-1329 for more
information about purchasing tickets or
being an event sponsor.

<http://www.onancock.org/christmas/>