



HOPE HARBOR

Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s Monthly Newsletter



WELCOME TO HOPE HARBOR

Retrospect: A Look Back at September 2024

By Kayla Gray- Fund Development Coordinator

Hello Friends,

It has been an exciting and energizing month here at ESCADV. We have hit the ground running on our 2024 Oyster Roast and Silent Auction. It is shaping up to be a good time with great food, drinks, music, and community. Our advocates have been especially busy this month with their appearances at several community health care events and currently our shelter is almost at capacity. Our advocates are working hard to make sure that each of our clients feel safe as they navigate this difficult time in their lives, without their dedication and perseverance our mission and vision would not be possible. Please be on the lookout for future events and volunteer opportunities as we will be ramping up our presence in the community over the next several months. I leave you today with these wise words from Hellen Keller “*Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.*”

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PRESS RELEASE



Events to look forward to: Hope Harbor Oyster Roast

The Hope Harbor Oyster Roast will be held at Vaux Hall in Melfa Va on November 16th 2024 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Tickets, at only \$65 each, will get you access to all-you-can-eat oysters, clams, clam chowder, BBQ, domestic and craft beer, wine, and Pepsi products while being serenaded by the special performance by Audio Tribe. Don't forget in between the plates of delicious food, to take your time and bid on choice selections on our bountiful silent auction tables filled with unique items only found here on The Shore. purchase tickets by going to this link :<http://bit.ly/3TjxCu2>

Kayla Gray

Fund Development Coordinator

Our "New Kid on the Block." Kayla started August 5th and has not stopped since. We welcome her to our team and our very excited to work with her! Please get to know our newest team member and read her introduction below.

Kayla Gray is from Oriental, North Carolina, a small waterman community in Eastern North Carolina. Before ESCADV, she was a stay-at-home mom to two girls Emma and Morigan. Kayla has spent much of her time volunteering with the Knights of Columbus Council of the Catholic Church and with the Catholic school. Kayla has also worked as a paralegal for eight years in the areas of Wills, Trust, Estates, as well as Family Law and Domestic Violence Protective Orders. She is accompanied to The Shore with her Husband Chris, two girls, and Dog Bailey.



Man threatens former girlfriend with death and more

by Linda Cicora-Shore Daily News-August 23, 2024

A 40-year-old Nassawadox man was convicted Thursday in Accomack Circuit Court of threatening his former girlfriend with a text message in January that stated he would kill her, have sex with her dead body, and set it on fire.

William Marcel Custis, formerly of Parksley, also sent a picture of a gun to the victim.

During a bond hearing earlier this year, Judge Lynwood W. Lewis Jr. said the information presented struck him "as a volatile situation." He added that Custis was on probation, was a multi-state offender, and a protective order was filed against him last September. "It was a violent threat," said Lewis. "I just don't think he is a candidate for bond."

Retired Judge W. Revell Lewis III heard the case and found the defendant guilty. The defendant maintained his innocence.

The victim said the two were discussing through text messages their relationship and both accused the other of cheating. After he made the threat, she said she stopped communicating with him. She was going to the Hampton Roads area that day, Jan. 27, when the text was sent to her.

The next day, the woman went to the sheriff's office and showed the text and picture to a deputy who obtained a warrant. She later got threats from others through Facebook telling her to drop the charge.

"When I go to work at night, I have flashbacks," she testified saying she feels that she always has to watch her back. "I really take it to the heart. I believe he will kill me ... I don't even sleep at night."

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney William Fox said Custis denied contacting her following his arrest but jail phone logs showed he dialed her number.

The defendant testified that he had only texted, "Ya'll enjoy yourselves."

Defense lawyer Carl Bundick argued that although the victim said the text was received in Accomack County, there was no proof since she was traveling and didn't know when it arrived. Bundick complained the alleged victim's phone was no longer available and a printout of the text was not dated.

"He sent the (threatening) message to her," Judge Revell Lewis said at the end of the hearing. "No question in my mind."

The judge ordered a presentence report and remanded Custis to Accomack Jail to await sentencing on Dec. 5.

Fox said Custis had gang affiliations. Bundick said Custis has no obligation to a gang.



Kasey Walter named Executive Director of Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ESCADV)

ONANCOCK, VIRGINIA – Kasey Walter has been named the Executive Director of ESCADV located at Hope Harbor in Onancock, Virginia.

“I am truly excited to join the ESCADV team as the new Executive Director. I am eager to serve the Shore residents, especially those in need of our services. I would like to give a special thanks to the members of the Board of Directors for selecting me as I will continue the critical work of this incredible organization.”

Walter comes to ESCADV having served in various positions for organizations throughout the United States. Her most recent position was with the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce located on Virginia’s Eastern Shore.

ESCADV’s President of the Board of Directors, Kathy Michaelian said, “We are fortunate to have someone with Ms. Walter’s attitude and experience. There are so many great things in progress at ESCADV. I am excited to bring Ms. Walter onboard to help us continue our incredibly important work. I know that she will hit the ground running!”

Ms. Walter’s new duties include managing the entire funding and administrative functions of the organization, as well as managing advocacy for victims and the housing facilities at ESCADV’s Hope Harbor campus in Onancock.