



TAKING A STAND

against domestic violence

A LIVELY FALL AT CODA



A march down Bay Street concludes 2006 Beaufort Candlelight Vigil.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October began a whirlwind of fall activities for CODA staff and board members. As in years past, CODA joined other citizens across the nation by commemorating October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Well-attended candlelight vigils were held in Beaufort, Bluffton and Ridgeland. CODA staff publicized the agency's services at a Walterboro women's health fair.

Additionally, "The Clothesline Project" was featured in six locations throughout CODA's four-county service area. The project displays tee shirts on which adult and child survivors of domestic violence have expressed their emotions artistically.

As in prior years, Beaufort's candlelight vigil was co-sponsored by the Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS). "Taking a Stand" had been adopted by MCCS as the 2006 slogan to emphasize their no-tolerance policy toward domestic violence.

SEE "LIVELY FALL" PAGE 3

CODA MOURNS DOUG LANDON

Victims of domestic violence, as well as CODA's board of directors and staff, lost a great friend December 29, 2006. Robert "Doug" Landon had served as a committed CODA board member until ill health forced his resignation last fall.

Doug had a tremendous concern and compassion for the families served by CODA. He worked indefatigably raising awareness, organizing activities, and gathering funds for the success of the mission.

His loving service included doing odd-jobs for neighbors who were then asked to donate his "earnings" to CODA.

Well into his illness, he selflessly continued to contribute his time and diminishing energies. Even death has not quelled his impact as he requested memorial gifts be donated to CODA.

We will greatly miss this kind and gentle man as well as the enthusiasm optimism and generosity he exuded.

Our sympathies go to Doug's beloved wife, Marilyn, and their family.

SHELTER, STRENGTH AND OPPORTUNITY

CODA staff and board members have chosen the live oak - ubiquitous symbol of the lowcountry - to represent the agency in its logo. CODA's own version of the venerable species was designed by Communications Coordinator Martha Lawrence who sees the embracing branches as representing CODA's work in sheltering families fleeing from domestic violence.

The strength and breadth of the tree symbolize the strength women rediscover within once they have had time and peace to learn and heal from their traumas.

The reaching branches illustrate the new opportunities women can explore when freed from a life of chaotic violence.

To complete the logo, the tag-line, "Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence," has been added to indicate the many services CODA provides in addition to shelter. (The new logo can be seen on page 4.)



Doug Landon at 2005 Beaufort Candlelight Vigil

SAVE THE DATES!

The tenth annual Cabaret, CODA's major fund-raising event, is set for March 31. Fabulous food and the mellow strains of the Stardust Orchestra will make the evening a memorable one.

This year's auction items are more exciting than ever and include four passes to Disney theme parks, airline tickets and other getaways.

Be sure to call CODA early to get your tickets - the 2006 gala was sold-out.



Spring promises an unusual treat when CODA hosts a literary tea. Poet Karen Herseth Wee will read from her compellingly beautiful works of haiku which include *The Book of Hearts*.

The garden of The Rhett House Inn will provide a serene setting for the April 18 afternoon event. Tea sandwiches will be accompanied by tea and wine.

For either event call 770-1070.

WOMEN WITH WHEELS



Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Inc., CODA was able to purchase a 2006 Toyota Sienna in January.

Many miles are traveled by CODA vehicles as the legal staff heads to court, counselors visit schools or case managers transport clients to required appointments.

The beautiful new vehicle promises a safe and comfortable ride for staff and clients.

CODA HELPS LOCAL BUSINESSES CONFRONT WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

George Meyers, a happily married father of three owned his own business. The term "domestic violence" was not even a blip on his radar screen until the day Tom Jansen burst into George's small manufacturing firm and sprayed the work area with bullets, killing one and wounding three employees.

By the time emergency workers and sheriffs had completed their work, George

had learned the sad lesson that domestic violence can wreak havoc well outside the walls of the home in which it was spawned.

Investigations revealed that for several weeks Jansen had been stalking his estranged wife, an employee of George's firm. To escape Jansen, the wife was hiding with friends. However, she remained employed at George's business – thus the setting for Jansen's assault.

Community Educator Shavonne Gaskin and board member Gene Rugala of Beaufort-based Eugene A. Rugala & Associates want to ensure the preceding fictional scenario never unfolds in the lowcountry.

The two are teaming up to offer "Violence in the Workplace" seminars to local businesses to raise awareness of the potential for violence.

In the presentations, Shavonne and Gene, a retired FBI "profiler" who currently provides forensic training in workplace violence, offer an in-depth look at violence; analyze actual acts of workplace violence and ways they could have been prevented; and outline measures to establish a zero-tolerance policy toward violence in a business.

To request "Violence in the Workplace," contact Shavonne Gaskin at 770-1074 x224. The seminar is free of charge – as are all CODA educational programs.

TAKING A STAND

CODA Board of Directors

Bob Cullen, President
Eugene Rugala, Vice President

Louise Blanchard	Marcia Seymour
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Executive Director: Bonnie Lawrence, ACSW

Assistant Director: Mary Fairbanks

Newsletter: Martha Lawrence, Communications Coordinator

Taking a Stand is published by CODA as a public service to address the issues and consequences of domestic violence. CODA serves four SC counties - Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper. CODA operates a shelter for families escaping domestic violence and a 24-hour crisis line. CODA offers counseling for women and children, legal support and accompaniment, and case management both in the shelter and on an outreach basis.

WORKING WOMEN



Are they delighted with their new jobs or laughing at the photographer?

Hired since the publication of the last newsletter are:

Bottom from left: Shavonne Gaskin, Community Educator/Volunteer Coordinator (and new bride!) and Susie Kearney, Domestic Violence Counselor.

Top from left: Larkin Fultz, Children's Counselor; Betsy Price, Case Manager and Mary Beth Cannady, Children's Activities Coordinator.

The five bring a diversity of experience and backgrounds to CODA.

"LIVELY FALL" FROM PAGE 1

CODA's event organizers admired the slogan's strong message and tagged it to all October activities. Reluctant to see the message end with the month, the newsletter staff have incorporated it as well. Many thanks to the Marines!

VOICES CONFERENCE

The University of SC Beaufort was the setting for the October 20, 2006 conference sponsored by Voices for a Violence-Free Community, a local human services coalition of which CODA is a member. This year's topic was "The Intersection of Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse and Mental Health".

The conference was attended by over 70 human service professionals from across the state.

After morning breakout sessions, keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Leech explored the psychosocial stresses that sustain cycles of violence across generations with a riveting personal story of a former student, murdered by her partner despite warning signs that, in retrospect, could have alerted friends and family to her situation.

Two original theatrical case studies written by Suzanne Larson and Campbell Roark showcased two couples from vastly different backgrounds and illustrated the reality that domestic violence knows no socio-economic boundaries. The harsh spotlight and raw, compelling dialogue dramatically presented the manipulative personality of the batterer as well as the

seemingly illogical responses of his traumatized victim.

A closing panel which included the day's presenters as well as 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone and Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner, called for greater awareness of potential problems, intervention and prosecution.

AN ELEGANT EVENING

November 12, 2006, The Inn at Palmetto Bluff sponsored a splendid event for the inauguration of CODA's Twentieth Anniversary Endowment Fund.

Friends of CODA were treated to an extraordinary selection of rare wines. Accompanying the wines were choice hors



Richard Wilson auctions Jerobaum.



Raymond Schilcher and Melanie Haddock of the Bistro at Habersham support CODA with cut-throat bidding on wine!

d'oeuvres created by the Inn's chefs.

A lively auction of additional wines concluded the evening. To contribute to the endowment fund, see the form on page 4 or call CODA.

CODA GETS DESIGNER TOUCH

Thanks to the Junior Service League of Beaufort, CODA and CAPA are the fortunate beneficiaries of tour proceeds from "Coastal Living" magazine's Holiday Idea Cottage, located in Beaufort's Old Shell Point.

To receive the funds, the agencies were required to assist the Junior Service League in staffing the designer show house so it could remain open six days a week during October, November and December.

As usual, CODA volunteers, board members and staff responded unselfishly to the call for help - not only donating their time but doing so during the busiest months of the year.

CODA REACHES OUT TO TEENS

Dating violence among teenagers is a seldom-addressed but very real component of domestic or "intimate partner," violence. A recent blurb in a Walterboro paper's "crime" section reported the assault of a college-bound high school student by her boyfriend. He wanted her to give up college and remain in Walterboro. Such incidents are sufficiently egregious in themselves, but they also set the stage for later acceptance of controlling behavior disguised as love.

To address this problem, CODA's Children's Counselor Larkin Fultz and Children's Activities Coordinator Mary Beth Cannady are presenting an interactive program entitled "Megan's Project" to students at local high schools.

The program was conceived by a Greenville, SC father whose daughter was murdered by her boyfriend. In the hopes of saving other young women from his daughter's fate, the father embarked on a mission to show teens that dating violence is not

only unacceptable but possibly deadly.

In late January, Larkin and Mary Beth gave their first presentation at Jasper County High school. The two encouraged the students to describe the characteristics of a healthy relationship and contrasted it with the controlling and manipulative behavior found in abusive ones. They pointed out that patterns of an overly controlling partner include attempts to isolate the person from friends and families, following the person, checking e-mails/phone calls and getting angry under the pretense of "I love you and know what's best for you." Abusers are experts at presenting jealousy as love.

Larkin and Mary Beth urged the students to take abuse seriously and tell a trusted adult if they believe a friend is in a dangerous situation. The two will be visiting other schools in the four counties served by CODA. To request a presentation at your school, call 770-1074 x234 or x235.



CODA
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SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



November 11, 2006, Bob Cullen, president of CODA's board of directors, and Executive Director Bonnie Lawrance accepted a "check" representing a generous Micro Community Grant from Carolinas Credit Union Foundation of which MCAS Beaufort Federal Credit Union is a supporter.

Flanking Cullen and Lawrance are John Slack, Executive Director of Carolinas Credit Union Foundation (left) and Jimmy Boozer, President/CEO of MCAS Beaufort Federal Credit Union.

Above are Linda Kreiser and Roberta Williams, Marketing Director and Director of Operations for the credit union.

Grant proceeds are earmarked for the installation of a centralized computer network which will enable staff to better access client files and track client progress.

Giving Opportunities

As the lowcountry population continues to multiply almost exponentially, CODA anticipates pressure for more facilities and/or expanded services. To prepare for these eventualities, CODA has established the Twentieth Anniversary Endowment Fund which will ensure the continuance of CODA services and their expansion, if necessary.

Thus there are now two ways you can direct your donations to CODA. You may continue to contribute to the General Fund for current operating expenses or donate to the Endowment Fund:

Please apply my donation of \$_____ to the Twentieth Anniversary Endowment Fund to ensure CODA's services and future growth.

I prefer to contribute \$_____ to the General Fund to assure that current needs are met.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please return this form to CODA at the address at the top of this page.

Many thanks for your continued generosity.