




TAKING A STAND

against domestic violence

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR CODA

Kristin Dubrowski assumed the role of CODA's executive director in October 2007, replacing Bonnie Lawrance who retired in June. Dubrowski became the successful candidate for the position after an extensive search by CODA's board of directors.

After ten years of service during which the first counselors and case managers were hired and the size of the shelter was more than doubled, Lawrance chose to leave CODA to spend more time with family and pursue her many interests. Her knowledge, tenacity and hutzpah took CODA from an entity struggling financially and organizationally to the respected community resource it is today.

Dubrowski has held two positions at CODA prior to being named executive director - domestic violence counselor and coordinator of victim services. Before moving to the lowcountry with her husband, she was shelter director of a domestic violence agency in Denver. Her graduate degree in non-profit management was conferred by Regis University in Denver. 



Bonnie Lawrance (left) and Kristin Dubrowski at Lawrance's farewell reception - June 2007




14th Circuit Solicitor, Duffie Stone, assures attendees at CODA's October vigil that his office is committed to vigorously prosecuting domestic violence offenders.

Ellen McCormick's Murderer Convicted

In 2007, three deaths in Beaufort County were attributed to domestic violence. On January 30, 2008, thanks to the professional work of the Bluffton police and fire departments, the offices of Beaufort County's sheriff and coroner and the staff of the 14th Judicial Circuit Solicitor, Duffie Stone, Charles McCormick, 51, was convicted of the New Year's Day 2007 murder of his estranged wife Ellen, 50. McCormick faces a sentence of life plus 30 years with no chance of parole.

As statistics sadly reveal, the most dangerous time for a woman in an abusive relationship is when she decides to leave. The abuser, whose carefully created world of control begins to disintegrate, is more likely to employ lethal means to gain ultimate power over his victim.

Such appears to be the situation Ellen McCormick faced. At trial, Solicitor Stone portrayed a classic pattern of manipulation and abuse thus conveying how this tragedy stands apart from other murders.

The accused killers of Rodney "Buck" Wilson and Catherine Aust have yet to stand trial. 

BLUFFTON WOMEN TAKE BACK THEIR POWER!

“You can be a survivor too,” was the message modeled by members of CODA’s Bluffton outreach group. Thanks to group support the women have been re-discovering self-esteem, strength and power over their own lives. Thus, as October’s “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” approached, they asked to plan CODA’s Bluffton-Hilton Head vigil themselves.

The evening of the vigil, riveting stories were shared in the misty air of Hilton Head’s tree-draped Jarvis Creek Park. Especially poignant was the presence of the family of Catherine Aust, the Okatie Elementary School behavioral specialist murdered in September 2007. Catherine’s sister urged attendees to speak out if they believe someone is in danger so they will never experience the grief and regrets with which Catherine’s family and friends are so agonizingly familiar. The vigil concluded at sunset as a candle-lit wreath honoring Catherine’s life floated serenely in Jarvis Lake. 🌳

TOUCHDOWN JASPER COUNTY!

Jasper County’s Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, led by Ericka Gordon, creatively commemorated DV Awareness Month. A Jasper Jaguars home football game was the cleverly-chosen venue. At half-time, speakers wearing purple tee shirts emblazoned with, “there’s no excuse for domestic abuse,” addressed the crowd.

repeating the “no excuse” message were rocketed into the stands to the delight of the crowd.

There IS no excuse for domestic abuse, and Jasper County gets it! 🌳



Vigils were also held in Beaufort and Hampton. To see photos from those evenings log on to www.codalow-country.org/CODA/CODAEvents.

Not to be outdone, the Jaguar cheerleaders incorporated a domestic violence theme into a cheer after which purple mini-footballs



TAKING A STAND

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Assistant Director: Mary Fairbanks

Newsletter: Martha Lawrence, Communications Coordinator

“Taking a Stand” is published by CODA to address the issues and consequences of domestic violence. CODA serves Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties in South Carolina. CODA offers shelter for families escaping domestic violence, a 24-hour crisis line, counseling for women and children, court advocacy, case management and community education. CODA provides equal opportunity in employment and client services and does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, religion, national origin or veteran status.

Staff Matters

Denise Collins, who formerly served as CODA’s attorney, has returned and assumed the position of coordinator of victim services formerly held by Kristin Dubrowski. As well as overseeing the services accessed by clients, Collins tracks the plethora of information required by CODA grantors.

Tiffany Holland is the new community educator/volunteer coordinator. She replaces Von Gaskin who has joined her husband who was transferred to Orangeburg.

Holland received her masters degree from the University of Maryland in counseling psychology.

She is busy taking CODA’s message to the public and signing up new volunteers to help with everything from transportation to translation.

Call her for a presentation or to volunteer: 770-1074x224. 🌳



Carolina Spring Fling -2008

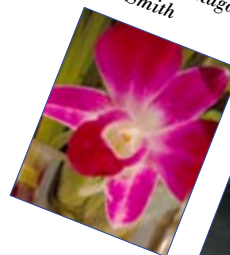
Thanks to an enthusiastic and hard-working committee led by board member, Richard Wilson, Carolina Spring Fling was a wonderful event. Celebrating Carolina beach music, the inaugural fund-raiser, held on March 30 at Hilton Head's Crowne Plaza Resort, was an evening of non-stop music and fabulous food. Details such as message-in-a-bottle table settings, tropical palms and a classic Chevy convertible donated by Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop set the casual beach theme which defined the evening. The event was a dual effort by both CODA and CAPA and represented one of the only local fund-raisers benefitting two organizations. After such a successful beginning, everyone is looking forward to Carolina Spring Fling 2009! (More photos at codalowcountry.org/CODA/CODAEvents)



Committee chair, Richard Wilson, and wife, Peggy



Board president, Gene Rugala, and wife, Edie Smith



Publicity chair, Pamela Owens

CODA GOES TO SCHOOL

"Someone who beats up on you and is mean to you..."
"Someone who is jealous of you and wants to make you cry..."
"Someone who calls you names to get attention..."



So went the answers to Mary Beth Cannady's question, "What is a bully?" put to third graders at Beaufort's Mossy Oaks Elementary in January. The children eagerly interacted with CODA's child advocate as she presented a program introduced by CODA's children's counselor, Larkin Fultz, addressing the dynamics of bullying. Thanks to the enthusiasm of guidance counselor Carol Brediger, Mossy Oaks was the first school to take advantage of CODA's new community outreach program.

After learning that a surprising 160,000 U.S. children are afraid to go to school because of bullying, Mossy Oaks students were encouraged to figure out why people bully and how the bullying can be deflected. Cannady posed hypothetical scenarios and encouraged the students to brainstorm how they could be handled.

Everyone agreed that the old adage "sticks and stones..." should be amended to read, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will break my heart." The class consensus was that words can hurt forever, especially if heard every day. "Think carefully before you speak," cautioned Cannady, "words are very powerful." Good advice for all ages. 🌸



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CODA has a new web address:
www.codalowcountry.org



Please send us your e-mail address so we may deliver your copy of this newsletter to you on-line. Thank you for your help. Please e-mail info to: communications@codabft.com


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Successful Second Annual Carolina Wine Auction!

Restaurant Bateaux sponsored the second annual Carolina Wine Auction for the benefit of CODA in November. An impressive variety of rare wines for tasting were offered to the over one hundred guests filling the dining room of the Callawassie Island Club. A lively auction followed. Thank you Restaurant Bateaux! 



Spring comes to CODA!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As our population continues to multiply almost exponentially, CODA experiences pressure for expanded services. Your generosity over the past 20 years has enabled many lowcountry families to build new, violence-free lives. Please ensure the continuation of CODA's work supporting and protecting victims of domestic violence in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties by contributing in the following ways:

DONATE

I enclose my donation of \$_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

VOLUNTEER

Please call Tiffany Holland at 843-770-1074 x 224

TAKE A STAND

Speak out against domestic violence in your neighborhood, church or workplace. If you suspect a friend or co-worker is in an abusive situation, encourage her to seek help or call CODA .