



Community Crisis Center, Inc.

Serving the Community since 1975

We provide Safety, Hope, Advocacy, Respite and Education for those impacted by crisis and violence in the Fox Valley Region and Illinois.

Domestic Violence: It's Everyone's Business

Rally Features Teri Jendusa Nicolai



"I'm just your neighbor....I'm from your neighborhood. I was educated. I went to college. I had a very good family yet I fell into this."

These are words from Teri Jendusa Nicolai in a Fox TV interview last January,

ten years after her harrowing experience of Domestic Violence from her abusive ex-husband (see story below). For a number of years Teri has been traveling the country speaking out against Domestic Violence and trying to help as many as she can.

Teri Jendusa Nicolai will be the featured speaker at Community Crisis Center's Domestic Violence Rally at 7:00 pm in Spartan Auditorium on the Campus of Elgin Community College.

The Rally is the culmination of a number of Domestic Violence Awareness Events which will take place throughout the

month of October.

October Awareness activities (details on page 2) will include educational lectures and discussions, an experiential exercise that will help the participant understand the ups and downs a battered woman lives over the course of many years, and information tables at local colleges and libraries

Another highlight of the month is the annual Partners In Peace Breakfast October 10 at 7:30 am in the Elgin Country Club, when Community Crisis Center honors those who have in their professional capacity have provided outstanding services to victims of Domestic Violence.

[Click here to view the video referenced in the article to the left.](#)

Inside this issue:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month	2
Gretchen Vapnar to Receive Award	3
Rummage Sale September 11-13	3
Summer Recap	3
Needs List	4
Coming Events	4

Teri's story

Teri Jendusa Nicolai is a true survivor. On January 31 of 2004, Teri's ex-husband tried to murder her.

She had gone to her ex-husband's home to pick up her two girls when he lured her into the house, then attacked.

He hit her in the head 10 times with a baseball bat, bound her

hands and feet with duct tape and stuffed her in a garbage can.

Using her wits, Teri played dead, but managed to call 911 alerting the police that she was in trouble.

The police, unfortunately, arrived at the home after the truck carrying the garbage can was gone. This did, however spark a

two state hunt for the missing woman.

Her ex then took her to an unheated storage locker where she was found 26 hours later. The doctors said she was less than an hour from death.

The ordeal resulted in the loss of her toes to frostbite, and other injuries.

Remember: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities



**Thursday
October 23, 2014
7-9 pm**

**“Domestic
Violence: It’s
Everyone’s
Business”**

**Elgin Community
College**

Featured Speaker:

**Teri Jendusa Nicolai: Sur-
vivor of Domestic Violence
(see pg 1)**

**October Information
Activities**

Judson College 11 am– 1 pm

October 2 — Outside Cafeteria

October 27— Outside Cafeteria

Poplar Creek Library– Streamwood

October 4 — 9 am—4 pm

October 28 — 9 am—6 pm

Algonquin Library

October 6 — 10 am—7 pm

October 11 — 10 am—6 pm

October 14 — 10 am --5 pm

October 17 — 10 am—5 pm

Bartlett Library

October 10 — 10 am—7 pm

October 18 — 9 am — 5 pm

Gail Borden Library

October 25 — 9 am—6 pm

Community Education Events

Presented by Community Crisis Center Staff

Why Do They Stay? October 8, 10 am and 7 pm

Elgin community College Room B 182 (Alumni Room)

An introduction to and discussion about the factors that keep a victim from leaving an abusive relationship. You will learn what you can do to help a victim of domestic violence leave the violence in their life.

In Her Shoes Interactive Exercise October 9, 10 am to 7 pm

Elgin Community College, Room B 182 (Alumni Room)

Through scenarios based on true stories, experience the abuse as told by the women who have lived it with the specific barriers which must be faced when the victims are poor or become poor as a result of the violence. You need not be present the whole time. The activity itself should last about half and hour to forty-five minutes.

In Her Shoes Interactive Exercise October 13, 10 am to 7 pm

Gail Borden Public Library South Elgin Room

(see above description)

**What About the Batterers ? October 14, 10 am
October 15, 7 pm**

Elgin Community College, Room B 182 (Alumni Room)

Examine what makes a batter a batterer. Learn to identify abusive behaviors, characteristics of batterers, what to do if you know someone who is abusive. Know the difference between anger management and Partner Abuser Intervention Programs. Presented by Community Crisis Center Abuse Intervention Program.

October 21 7 pm Domestic Violence 101

Bartlett Public Library 800 S. Bartlett Rd., Bartlett, IL

Learn the basics about Domestic Violence. What it is, forms it takes, how it affects children, causes, the cycle of violence. You will also learn what are red flags for abusive behavior and what to do if you or a loved one is a victim of Domestic Violence.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Partners In Peace Breakfast October 10, 7:30 am

Elgin Country Club — Call 847-742-4088 for more information

Clothesline Project Display — October 21-22 9 am to 7 pm

Elgin Community College — Building F

Domestic Violence: It’s Everyone’s Business October 23, 7 pm

Elgin Community College — Spartan Auditorium



Gretchen Vapnar, Executive Director
Community Crisis Center

Gretchen Vapnar, Executive Director, to Receive Wendell Jones Award

for her years of leadership in the cause of Domestic Violence. State Senator Matt Murphy will present the Wendell Jones Award to Gretchen at the Northwest Alliance's Wendell Jones Award Annual Breakfast. The breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. on October 17 in the Wojic Center at Harper College.

The Northwest Suburban Alliance on Domestic Violence was founded in 2002 by the late Senator Wendell

Jones of Palatine. He was instrumental in securing funding for a Palatine-based Domestic Violence safe house for the WINGS Program and establishing the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council for the 3rd Municipal Court District of Cook County in Rolling Meadows.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$20. For online reservations, click [here](#). Or call (847) 818-2258.

Gretchen Vapnar, Executive Director of Community Crisis Center, will be honored by the Northwest Alliance on Domestic Violence

Crisis Center Plans Rummage Sale

Many interesting items are being brought in and collected on the third floor of the Community Crisis Center for our Rummage Sale scheduled for September 11, 12, and 13 at Epworth Methodist Church located on the corner of Highland and Randall Roads in Elgin.

All proceeds will go to Community Crisis Center.

For more information call Kari Albert-Sheppard at 847-742-4088 or email her at ksheppard@crisiscenter.org.



And, it was a busy summer. . .

From fundraisers to building repairs, it has been a busy summer at the Crisis Center. With your help, we ate heartily at a "Sweet Tomatoes" Fundraiser, sang along with "Musicians on a Mission," and marched in the Elgin 4th of July Parade (did you see us? were you with us?)

And did you attend a block party, or other "National Night

Out" evening event? Volunteers and staff attended to provide community Crisis Center information to persons in Campton Hills, Bartlett, Carpentersville, and South Elgin, and provided information for the Block Parties and for the Festival Park Party in Elgin.

In addition you may have spotted volunteers at the Elgin Har-

vest Market or eaten a treat supplied by us at a Festival Park movie night.

Project Backpack, which serves children in Community College District 509, collected more than 2,800 backpacks filled with school supplies thanks to the generosity of many persons in the community. Now on to fall.....



Terry's flowers.

Did you plant your seeds? Wonder what kind of flower garden we would have if you all sent copies of your pictures. You can send them by clicking here.

[Send Pictures](#)

Last week I ran into Terry Gray, one of our volunteers. She showed me pictures of the flowers that bloomed in her garden from the seeds which were used as party favors for the spring auction. What beautiful flowers sprouted from those small seeds.

I was reminded of the work that goes on here on a daily basis. We are in the business of planting seeds of hope, and like Terry's flowers, often those seeds grow into beautiful flowers of success, healing, and health.

We could not do it without you!
Thanks for all you do to create a community where hope is possible!

Calendar

Ongoing:

Drop-In Domestic Violence Support Groups

- Tues. 6:30-8:00 pm—English
- Wed. 9:30-11:00 am —Spanish
- *Thurs. 6:00-7:30 pm—Spanish
- *Fri. 9:00-10:30 am—
Expressive Art—English
- *Sat. 9:00-10:30 am —English
- *Childcare Provided

Parenting with Love and Logic:

- Session 7 (09/16/14-10/21/14)**
- Session 8 (10/28/14-12/02/14)**

Check These Out:

- October 2014— Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
- January-2015 -Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Training**
- February 2015 —Dating Violence Awareness Month**

Current Needs

- *Diapers—we are still in need of size large (4-6).*
- Non Perishable food for emergency pantry shelves. (Remember, we cannot accept food which is past its expiration date).
- Toiletries
- Household supplies (Dishwasher pods/pacs especially appreciated)
- Laundry Supplies (HE detergent only — pods/pacs especially appreciated)
- Paper goods
- Snack size treats for children in shelter
- Home baked goods are always appreciated. We give them to walk in clients.

Community Crisis Center Board of Directors

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Executive Director
Gretchen S. Vapnar