



# Community Crisis Center, Inc.

*Serving the Community since 1975*

September/October 2015

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

## Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence

**Elgin Police Chief Swoboda and Cheryl Stella featured speakers at Rally**

For Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year we are encouraging everyone to "Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence".



Rally Speakers Elgin Police Chief Swoboda and Cheryl Stella

On the following page are places to go to get more information, some educational opportunities, and an invitation to join with others to "Stand Against Domestic Violence."

The rally, October 29, in Spartan Auditorium, Building G, at Elgin Community College at

7:00pm will feature Cheryl Stella a Domestic Violence Survivor, and Elgin Police Chief Jeffrey Swoboda. Cheryl will share her story of shattered marriage expectations, and the impact of hiding abuse when it happened. Chief Swoboda will address how men,

the police, and the community can take a stand against domestic violence. The rally is free and open to all.

Other events include a walk-in educational program at ECC, a domestic violence dynamics presentation at Randall Oaks Library, the Clothesline Project at ECC, and information tables at area libraries.

Come to the education programs, make a visit to us at the libraries, or just stop by to say hello. We are always glad to see you.

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## Join Us for Partners in Peace Awards

Tickets are now available for our annual Partners in Peace Breakfast to be held at the Elgin Country Club, 7:30 am, on October 2.

A Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Dr. Pat O'Brien, Sociology Professor at Elgin Community College for her extended work in Domestic Violence Prevention. Dr. O'Brien has been a great supporter of the Community Crisis Center and our work in the Elgin community and with her students including the annual

"Clothesline Project" at ECC.

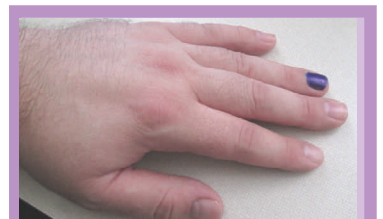
Receiving Awards for outstanding work are: Officer Tracy Dykema of the Elgin Police Department; Tom Berna, owner of Berna Moving Storage; Angela Balk, Early Learning Diagnostician, School District U-46; Christine Escobar, University of Illinois Field Studies; Tess Sakolsky of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Denise Momodu Asst. Planner with City of

Elgin Community Development Block Grants program.

Each of these persons has in the performance of their daily work been a support to the work of the Community Crisis Center and our clients.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$25.00. They may be purchased by contacting: Kari Albert-Sheppard at: [ksheppard@crisiscenter.org](mailto:ksheppard@crisiscenter.org)

Phone: 847-742-4088 ext. 128



Color one nail purple to increase Domestic Violence Awareness — See pg. 2

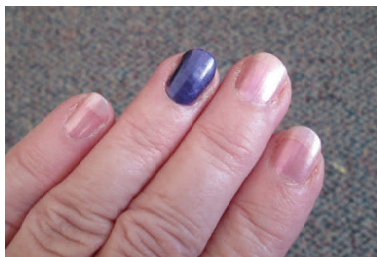
**Remember: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**



# Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities



**Thursday**  
**October 29, 2015**  
**7-9 pm**  
**“Take A Stand  
Against Domestic  
Violence”**  
**Elgin Community  
College**  
**Featured Speakers:**  
**Cheryl Stella, Survivor,**  
**Elgin Police Chief**  
**Jeffrey Swoboda**



“Put the Nail in it” as a way to Take A Stand Against Domestic Violence.

Paint the nail on the left ring finger purple as a reminder to stand against Domestic Violence and a way to open the conversation with those who ask.

Purple nail polish will be available at all our events for those who wish to join us in calling attention to domestic violence.

**Join Us to**  
**Take A Stand Against Domestic Violence!**

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**October 8 “In Her Shoes”**  
**Elgin Community College Community 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 an hour to forty-five minutes

**October 20 “An Introduction to Domestic Violence”**  
**Randall Oaks Library, 500 N.Randall Rd., W. Dundee**  
Learn the basics about Domestic Violence. What it is, forms it takes, how it affects children, 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**

**October 2 Partners In Peace Breakfast 7:30 am**  
**Elgin Country Club**  
**Call 847-742-4088 for more information**

**October 14-15 Clothesline Project Display 9 am to 7 pm**  
**Elgin Community College — Building G**

**October 29 Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence 7 pm**  
**Elgin Community College — Spartan Auditorium**

**INFORMATIONAL TABLES: 10:00am -7:00 pm (10-5 Friday/Saturday)**

**October 1 & 23 Poplar Creek Public Library (Streamwood)**  
**October 2 & 22 Bartlett Public Library**  
**October 5 & 16 Algonquin Public Library**  
**October 6 East Dundee Public Library (Fox River Valley Public Library District)**  
**October 7 & 8 Elgin Community College (by Cafeteria)**  
**October 10, 21, & 26 Gail Borden Public Library**  
**October 12 & 27 \*Judson University — Outside Cafeteria \*11am-1pm**  
**October 13 & 28 St. Charles Public Library**  
**October 14 & 15 Elgin Community College (Building F)**  
**October 19 Randall Oaks Public Library (Fox River Valley Public Library District)**

# Community Crisis Center 40th Anniversary

*celebrating 40 years of partnership with the Elgin area*

Community Crisis Center, Inc. has served Elgin and surrounding communities for 40 years.

It was in 1975 that the doors first opened providing a safe place for women and their children to stay while they determined the next steps in their lives.

During the 40 years, the Crisis Center services have expanded to include services to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, as well as providing services to those who are in need of food, coats,

diapers, phone service, rent and utility help etc.

The Community Crisis Center has been well supported by the Elgin community with donations, volunteers, and participation in fundraising.

We want to have a great evening of celebration together.



## 40th Anniversary Celebration

November 12, 2015  
Grand Victoria Casino  
Elgin, IL

Cocktails at 5:30 pm  
Dinner at 6:00 pm with  
program to follow.

Cost: \$40.00

For Reservations Contact:  
Kari Albert-Sheppard at:  
[Ksheppard@crisiscenter.org](mailto:Ksheppard@crisiscenter.org)

Or call:  
847-742-4088, ext 128

## Mural art decorates entrance



The mural in process.

Schueneman have underwritten local artist, Tracey Padron to paint a mural in the entrance to the Crisis Center.

The finished mural will incorporate pictures of our founding mothers as a tribute to them.

Taking a cue from a statement by Executive Director, Gretchen Vapnar, that clients come to us when they are at the end of their rope, a portion of the mural depicts people holding on to a frayed rope to climb the stairs.

We are enjoying watching the progress as this mural is taking shape.

As part of our 40 year celebration, donors Art and Nancy

## 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" Fund-raiser, 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, the Kane County Judicial Center, and South Elgin, and provided infor-

mation for the Block Parties and for the Festival Park Party in Elgin.

In addition you may have spotted volunteers at the Elgin Harvest Market or eaten a treat supplied by us at a Festival Park movie night.

See Project Back-

## Some Project Backpack statistics:

- Total number of backpacks distributed in 2015: 2,000

- People waiting in line for our event: 3,500-4,000

- Support to those waiting in line included 7,000 bottles of water and apples, courtesy of Northern Illinois Food Bank, comfort dogs from Lutheran Charities, and children's programming from ECC's Early Childhood Center

- Since Project Backpack started at Elgin Community College, more than 10,000 backpacks and supplies have been distributed to needy families.

pack Information above. Now on to fall.....

# A Call to Men

One nonprofit aims to redefine manhood in order to end domestic violence

May 06, 2015  
By domesticshelters.org



Tony Porter, co-founder of the nonprofit **A Call to Men**, believes ending violence against women starts by redefining what it means to be a man. In his moving **2010 TED Talk**, Porter describes a time when he caught himself telling his sobbing five-year-old son to go to his room, pull himself together and not come out again until he “can talk to me *like a man*.”

But with his daughter? “She could get on my knee, cry, cry it out, it didn’t matter.” He realized that the definition of

“being a man” meant emotions weren’t allowed, a feeling he traced back to his own childhood.

Growing up in New York City between Harlem and the Bronx, Porter says he was taught that “men had to be tough, had to be strong, courageous, dominating—no pain, no emotions, with the exception of anger.” It was ingrained in him that men were in charge, which meant women were not. He learned that women were of less value, they were the property of men and they could be treated like sexual objects. Only later did he learn these ideals of being a man were adopted by much of society.

Porter is on a mission to change that stereotype, one talk at a time. He co-founded the nonprofit **A Call to Men** with Ted Bunch in 2002 to educate males all over the world that preventing domestic and sexual violence starts with them, and that starts with a conversation.

“We speak to a wide variety of audiences—high school and middle school students, colleges and universities, law enforcement, military personnel, government officials, and professional athletes and coaches. Our training team presents to tens of thousands of people each year,” Porter says, adding, “Our programs are geared toward men and boys, but we always encourage women to attend our events as well.”

One of **A Call to Men**’s guiding principals states that men are responsible for creating, maintaining and benefiting from a male-dominated culture. That’s why Porter says the organization’s motto is to “reach in and grab the hearts of men to ensure they leave our presence thinking and feeling differently than when they entered.”

To learn more about **A Call to Men**, visit their website [here](#).

## Calendar

### Ongoing:

#### Drop-In Domestic Violence Support Groups

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

#### Parenting with Love and Logic: Session 8 (10/28/14-12/02/14)

### Check These Out:

October — Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
November 12 — 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner  
January--Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Training  
February—Dating Violence Awareness Month  
April—Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## Current Needs

- ♦ *Diapers—we are still in need of size large (4-6).*
- ♦ *Non Perishable food for emergency pantry shelves.*
- ♦ *PLEASE NO: vegetables, beans, or tomato sauce*
- ♦ *REMINDER: We cannot accept food which is past its expiration date.*
- ♦ *Toiletries*
- ♦ *Household supplies*
- ♦ *Dishwasher Detergent (Liquid)*
- ♦ *Laundry Supplies (Powdered HE detergent )*
- ♦ *Snack size treats for children in shelter*
- ♦ *Home baked goods are always appreciated. We give them to walk in clients.*
- ♦ *Paper goods*

**Holiday needs in next edition**

## Community Crisis Center Board of Directors

Mary E. Hyatt, **President**  
Keith Brill, **Vice-President**  
Betty Rauschenberger, **Secretary**  
Mario Karayannis, **Treasurer**  
Chathia Johnson, **Past President**

Mariana Barriga  
Jean Bowen  
Cathy Olson  
Daniel O’Shea  
Sherry Totzke  
Lisa West

**Agency Executive Director:**  
Gretchen Vapnar

For help call **847-697-2380**

