

VOL. 4 | DECEMBER 2019

CONNECTIONS

The monthly e-newsletter of Connections for Abused Women and their Children



Looking Back

Dear Friends,

Winter days are here which means colder weather, shorter days and plenty of holiday cheer. It also means there are only a few days left in 2019, allowing me reflect on the past year and looking forward to 2020.

There are many moments that our organization can be proud of, such as the launch of our Multi-Disciplinary Team, Restaurant Industry Night, and our Sounds of Silence Gala. And still, there is much work to be done, as there remains an urgent need to provide services to families escaping the trauma of domestic violence.

Despite these needs, I'm proud to say that CAWC did its part, by fostering relationships with those who champion our cause, meeting with families who are in crisis, and serving as a trusted resource for the state government and local media. I could not be prouder of what we accomplished in 2019. And, as I look to the new decade, I am grateful to all of our board members, volunteers, staff, and supporters. You make our work possible, and we are so humbled by your continued support.

May you and your family have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Love-Patterson'.

Stephanie Love-Patterson, ICDVP
Executive Director

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CAWC

Connections for Abused
Women *and their* Children
Rebuilding Lives, Renewing Hope.

CAWC News

CAWC Executive Director Interviewed on Windy City Live

On October 29, 2019, CAWC Executive Director Stephanie Love-Patterson appeared on Windy City Live with Chicago restaurant industry veteran Daniella Caruso to discuss Restaurant Industry Night aka #NowServingAwareness-the groundbreaking event that brought together over 70 Chicago restaurants in May to shine a light on the issue of domestic violence within the restaurant industry.

Their interview was part of a powerful hour of television that also featured co-host Val Warner publicly sharing her own experience as a domestic violence survivor for the first time. We want to thank the team at Windy City Live and ABC7 Chicago for taking a stand for survivors of domestic violence and their families. To see the interview, please visit <http://bit.ly/WCLSIP>.



CAWC Releases FY19 Annual Report

On October 15, 2019, CAWC unveiled our latest Annual Report during our Annual Meeting that was held at the Association House Chicago. The 20-page document highlighted our accomplishments in fiscal year 2019.

Among the highlights of the annual report are the impressive growth in total service hours provided to our clients (23, 905) as well as the successful launch of Multi-Disciplinary Team Services Program at CAWC, which offers comprehensive domestic violence services to domestic violence survivors referred by the Chicago Police Department's 14th District after police intervention. You can view our annual report now by [clicking here](#).

Survivor Spotlight Esmeralda's Story

My name is Esmeralda.* Before I came to CAWC, I called myself a domestic violence victim. But through individual and group counseling and a new support network who truly care about me, I realized that I am a survivor. I am a champion. And I'm proud of who I am today.

Thanks to CAWC's generous donors, I received help and hope. And I was so grateful to find CAWC because, without this amazing organization, I don't know where I would be today.

I was abused as a child. Because of that, I learned how to pick myself up and keep going. I tried to be strong and brave. But I was only a kid. I wanted someone to protect me. No one did.

[Click here to read all of Esmeralda's Story.](#)

* Image used is a stock photo to protect client's identity

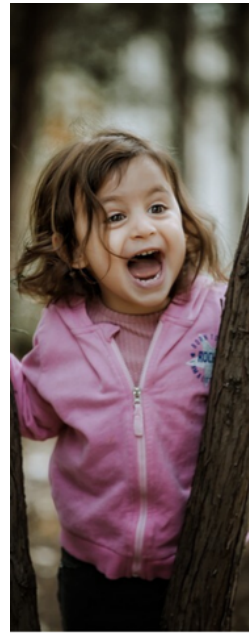


Making a Difference This Holiday Season

This holiday season, you can truly make a difference by showing domestic violence survivors that you care. When you donate to CAWC's Holiday Appeal, you are making an investment in the future of all domestic violence survivors and their children.

Please consider a financial gift to CAWC's Holiday Appeal to help us continue our mission of ending domestic violence. With your help, CAWC can continue to provide individual and group counseling at our Humboldt Park Outreach Program, 24-hour emergency shelter at Greenhouse Shelter, immediate care for DV survivors at our Hospital Crisis Intervention Project at Northwestern and John Stoger Hospitals, and intervention at our domestic violence services at Haymarket Center, a substance abuse treatment facility. These ground-breaking programs can only thrive and continue with your support.

Thank you for partnering with CAWC as we stand up for survivors. Through your Holiday Appeal investment, you can make a difference between a dark past and a bright future.



support our
mission to end
domestic
violence

[Click Here to Donate Today](#)



YOU can make a difference

Your Donation Makes a BIG Difference Did you know?



\$5,000 pays for three months of shelter at Greenhouse Shelter for a domestic violence survivor.

\$2,500 pays for one year of counseling for a child who has witnessed domestic violence in their home. Children who witnessed domestic violence are at risk for anxiety, depression, lying and/or bullying.

\$1,000 pays for one month of the telephone bill for CAWC's domestic violence hotline. Each month, the hotline receives 300 calls from domestic violence survivors who may feel frightened, hopeless and alone.

\$500 pays for clothing for seven domestic violence survivors so they have appropriate attire to wear on job interviews. This is important because many survivors flee from an abusive home with nothing but the clothes on their back.

\$250 pays for transportation expenses for ten survivors who need to go to court to seek an order of protection from their abusers.

\$100 pays for school supplies for four children who live at Greenhouse Shelter – these children had to change schools when their parents fled from domestic violence.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

LATESHA HARRIS

Latesha Harris is a social worker who currently works to empower mothers living in subsidized housing, helping them with education, employment, financial literacy and home ownership. She also has 15 years of experience serving historically marginalized populations as a rape victim advocate.

Latesha believes strongly in CAWC's mission because of her own experience of building confidence through education, goal setting and self-awareness. With this in mind, Latesha created the ***The Power of the Pocketbook***, a fundraiser focuses on personal narratives about domestic violence.

"The Power of the Pocketbook was an empowering approach to aid sheltered women with a pocketbook full of items that provide security," Latesha explained. "My mission for this project was to unite my peers and others to discuss the correlation between homelessness and domestic violence."



Latesha invited her friends, colleagues and family members to "hang out" for an informal get together where they ate and shared their thoughts regarding intimate partner violence. And although most women who attended the event had not personally experienced domestic abuse; this opportunity led to some authentic conversation about the vicious cycle of abuse and power. The attendees shared their testimonies while packing toiletries into their gently used handbags. Finally, each women wrote a special message of compassion on a note card to be included in each survivor's gift.

For Latesha, the experience was truly powerful as it gave her a chance to connect with friends and family over a topic she's passionate about.

"For me, the most fulfilling part of the project was being able to gather women in order to have this caring and authentic dialogue," I am always looking forward to a social event but being able to 'hang out' for a purpose was incredible!"

