

CONNECTIONS

The Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse, Inc.

Fall 2015

Upcoming Events

- 10/5-7 **purple treats** at How Sweet It Is Bakery in Duluth
- 10/8-10 1-6pm "**Fall Into Giving**" Donation Drive at Harborview Super One in Superior benefiting CASDA's Emergency Shelter
- Every Monday in October **purple treats** at Tasty Temptations
- 10/12-13 **purple treats** at Red Mug Bakery
- 10/17 9am-4pm **Fall Funky Junk** Sale at Superior Middle School to benefit CASDA
- 10/17-18 noon-noon **Night Without A Home** at City Square Park
- 10/21 **Kelly Burger** to receive the "Women of Distinction" Award from the YWCA & **purple treats** at Wednesday Bakery
- 10/22 **Wear purple** for **#PurpleThursday** Leave your porch light **ON**, show support for victims and survivors of domestic violence
- 10/29 5:30-7:30pm documentary "**Private Violence**" showing at Holden Fine Arts Manion Theatre UWS. Free food and drinks.

"Thanks CASDA for everything! Appreciate everyone and the help received" Thank you so much for everything, everything about the program was great!"

~August 2015

Shelter Client



Display at Douglas County Courthouse: in 2014, 467 domestic violence calls in Douglas Cty

In This Issue

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Volunteers from Jamar Company use green thumbs on CASDA's landscaping

Jamar Brings Green Thumbs By: Amber Popplewell

This summer a group of seven volunteers changed out of their office clothes, rolled their sleeves up, put gloves on and got to work.

Teams divided and conquered; one group jumped right to work on shrubs, bushes, trees, and rocks while the other group worked on some safety fixes for the playground equipment out back.

No rock was left unturned and all screws were tightened. The group showed their commitment to community by helping CASDA with some much needed love and attention to our facility grounds.

Advocates had the opportunity to interact with the group as they brought out water and much appreciation for their help. Like CASDA's small committed crew, the Jamar team worked like a well oiled machine and interacted more like a family unit than a group of coworkers.

Big thanks from our CASDA family to yours, Jamar.

Donation Solicited Brings in Colorful Beauty

Even after the gloves came off, the work didn't stop. Jamar solicited a \$750 donation from Engwalls of multiple hanging baskets, annuals and perennials. Thank you for sharing the beauty, Engwalls!

More Than a Construction Company

Jamar Company is a specialty contractor headquartered in Duluth, MN. Their website says "At Jamar, giving back is fundamental to who we are as individuals and as a company. We value our commitment to each other and our role in our communities."

Interested in volunteer opportunities like this? Email jill@casda.org

Proclamation of the President of the United States- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015 (October)

Domestic violence impacts women, men, and children of every age, background, and belief. Nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States have suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner. Victims are deprived of their autonomy, liberty, and security, and face tremendous threats to their health and safety. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to forging an America where no one suffers the hurt and hardship that domestic violence causes -- and we recommit to doing everything in our power to uphold the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse.



Shelter Advocate Connie Gaier

A resounding thanks to Nemadji Golf Course, as well as all the teams, hole sponsors, and volunteers who supported "Socks for Survivors," our July 31st Golf Scramble. It was a beautiful day to pull on powerful socks and tee off for a great cause!

If you or your business is interested in becoming a hole sponsor, playing on a team, becoming an event sponsor, or want to make the committed step to become a **sustainable CASDA donor, give us a **call today**.

Join our community effort to end violence.



Team Superheroes to End Violence from Four Star Construction

Kelly Burger Honored as "Woman of Distinction" by YWCA of Duluth

By Elsa Swenson

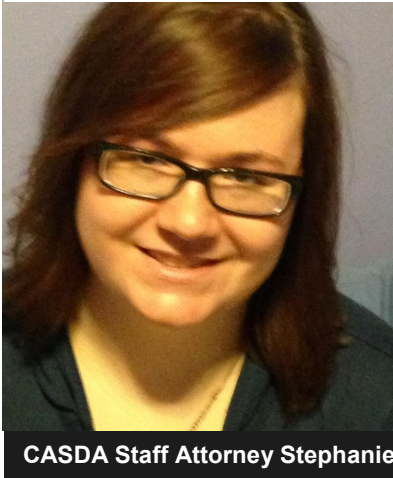
Kelly Burger, CASDA's fearless leader, will be recognized by the YWCA of Duluth for her lifelong dedication to the empowerment of women on October 21st, 2015 at the Women of Distinction Luncheon.

Kelly first entered CASDA's door seeking assistance in leaving an abusive relationship. Kelly was one of the first advocates CASDA hired, and has worked her way up to Executive Director over the past 25 years. Kelly's leadership is firmly rooted in her experiences, and her passion for the safety of women and children has kept her going strong in a field where burnout is more common than a lifetime career. Kelly is humble about her impact on our community, and regularly rolls her eyes when staff, board members, and others tell her what an inspiration she is. I can think of no one I've ever met who deserves this award more than Kelly Burger.

Please join us for the luncheon as we honor all the contributions Kelly has made over the last 24 years, as well as those she will make in the future. For more information and to RSVP to the luncheon, visit www.ywcaduluth.org.

Congratulations Kelly!

CASDA WELCOMES NEW STAFF



CASDA Staff Attorney Stephanie

Stephanie Thomas grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri and graduated from Marquette Law School in August. She took classes in Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Law, earning a certificate in Litigation and receiving extensive negotiation and mediation training. She worked pro bono with victims of domestic violence and assisted them in obtaining restraining orders. She has always been concerned about social justice, working to empower those who for whatever reason are at a disadvantage.

Stephanie looks forward to assisting clients throughout the court process while she makes a home for herself in Superior, and settles into her second "home" here at CASDA.

Good luck with your first north-land winter, Stephanie!

Children's Program Coordinator By: Amber Popplewell

Nicole grew up in the Northland and after serving time in the Marine Corps chose to raise her family here. Nicole earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from St. Scholastica in 2007, later receiving credentials from UMD in Special Education. Nicole has worked as a teacher in the northland but when CASDA posted this position she knew working with kiddos facing real life struggles was her true calling. Welcome to the team, Nicole.

Sexual Assault Program Coordinator

Amber grew up southwest of the Twin Cities and moved to the Twin Ports in 2006. Amber graduated from WITC with an AAS in Human Services. She started at CASDA as a volunteer in 2011, was an intern from 2012-13, then held the Shelter Case Manager position for over two years. Amber is honored to work for CASDA, with a passion for social change while she advocates for survivors.

Shelter Case Manager

Joanne grew up in the Superior area and has a degree as a Medical Administrative Specialist that she received in 2008. Joanne realized that her true interest was helping others so she went back to WITC, earning her AAS in Human Services in 2013. She interned in 2012 and started as a Shelter Advocate in 2013. Jo has followed her passion and worked hard to obtain her new position at CASDA. Our team is lucky to have you and all of your tenacity!



From left: Nicole Nemec, Amber Popplewell, and Joanne Sanders

AWARENESS FOR A “PRIVATE” ISSUE

BY: JILL HINNERS

CASDA's fall 2015 interns, **Samantha Karaba** and **Brittney Carlson**, have been organizing a major community event to highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

On **Thursday, October 29th at 5:30 pm**, the powerful documentary “**Private Violence**” will be screened at the University of Wisconsin's Manion Theater, located in the Holden Fine Arts Center at 1805 Catlin Avenue, Superior. The event will also feature: 1) brief comments from **Superior Police Chief Nicholas Alexander** and **CASDA Legal Advocate Elsa Swenson**; 2) domestic violence-themed displays by UWS Professor **Maria Cuzzo's** “Law and Human Behavior” classes; and 3) snacks and informal discussion following the film. **The event is FREE**, and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

“**Private Violence**” premiered on HBO last year. Featuring two survivors – a mother who seeks justice for the crimes committed against her and an advocate who seeks justice for all women – this film reveals many of the complex realities of intimate partner violence. The women's respective stories challenge entrenched and misleading assumptions, providing a lens into a world that is largely invisible. “Private Violence” begins to shape powerful, new questions that hold the potential to change our society: “*Why does he abuse?*” “*Why do we turn away?*” and “*How do we begin to build a future without domestic violence?*”

When asked for her impressions of the film, **Carlson** – a WITC Human Services student – said, “It provides a different perspective and shows the intensity of what people go through.” The “vivid images” also made an impact on her. She said she never thought “things could get that bad. It was crazy and heartbreaking to see that someone could do that to another person they're supposed to care about.” With respect to the advocate in the film, Carlson said, “It was great to see how committed she was to the victim.”

Karaba, a student in the University of Phoenix's online Human Services program, said that the film wasn't quite as shocking to her because she came to it more familiar with the issue of domestic violence. Yet, she said, “Seeing it is a completely different story. In my field (mental health), I am more familiar with the long-term after-effects than seeing the abuse unfold.” She also said that she had never before considered “the effect on a child who witnesses violent abuse...”. When asked about the role of the featured advocate, she said, “It surprised me how involved and passionate she was about helping this person and also how many people the advocate had to go to, to get the victim help and justice – even with the severity of the abuse and with the abuser admitting it. It was both terrible and amazing.”

Karaba also commented on the value of the upcoming public screening: “The film makes the issue real, shows it in a real sense – real woman, real child, real struggles. Real advocate.” She hopes it will inspire positive action among viewers: “It gives you an idea of what to look for so you may be able to help people and don't have to think ‘I should have...’ if something happens. Also, if you are in an abusive relationship, it might give you some insight on that, some warning signs that you might be in a toxic relationship.” She also said, “I'm glad the police chief will be there to shed light on the local angle and to bring more awareness to an issue that many people still think is **private**.”

The Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse, Inc., is pleased to acknowledge our 2015 Special Events Sponsors:

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A special thank you goes out to all of the individuals who provide financial or other resources to CASDA during the course of the year. We couldn't do it without you.

Your sponsorship helps fund events like the New Years Eve Gala

7th annual CASDA New Years Eve Gala, "Behind the Mask," presented by Enbridge.

Tickets \$50 in advance, \$60 at door. Barkers rooms \$59/night for Gala guests, includes breakfast. Showtime Band. Wine Toss. Silent Auction. Balloon drop.

Currently seeking auction donations. Must be delivered to CASDA or for p/up by 12/1.



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