



A P U B L I C A T I O N O F C R I S I S C E N T E R N O R T H

second edition 2013

The mission of Crisis Center North is to empower victims of domestic violence and cultivate community attitudes and behaviors that break the cycle of violence.

CRISIS CENTER NORTH'S SIXTH ANNUAL COCKTAILS AND CUISINE

Crisis Center North will be holding its sixth annual Cocktails & Cuisine, with sponsorship from the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, Diehl Toyota of Butler, UPMC Health Plan, and Bayer Healthcare, and media sponsorship from *North Hills Monthly Magazine* and Comcast. The fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 17, 2013, from 6 - 10 p.m. at The Woodlands in Bradford Woods.



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**WHAT'S
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The event will again feature top-notch food from local restaurants; wine and ale purveyors; the sounds of Pittsburgh's hottest Jazz singer, Antoinette; and silent and live auctions. Live auction teasers include trips to Napa Valley, London, Bora Bora, and Tuscany. Jon Burnett, KDKA-TV Accuweather Forecaster will serve as emcee. Celebrity foodie judges, Doug Oster and Rhonda Shuldt will be selecting the Best Overall Taste Treat and all event guests will have the opportunity to vote for The People's Choice Award for overall favorite.

2013 participating vendors include: Madison Avenue Specialty Cakes, Emiliano's Mexican Restaurant, Chef George Wertheimer – Key Impact, John Marshall Catering, The

Saucy Pig – Chef Jake Crostin, Sweethouse Bake Shop, Panera Bread, Ugandan Gold Premium Coffee, Southern Wine and Spirits, Beer by Fuhrer Wholesale, The Chadwick, The Wine Boss, Kru Vodka, Lola Bistro, Whole Foods Market Wexford, Café Notte, Bonnie and Clyde's Restaurant, Walnut Grill, Pretzel Crazy, Edu.cake.tion, Bartram House Bakery, Arrowhead Wines, D'Andrea Wines and Liquor Imports.

Funds raised at the event support the Center's counseling and advocacy services provided to nearly 2,000 survivors and prevention education to over 10,000 community members each year. The event is the Center's signature and largest fundraiser, and has grown to raise nearly \$70,000 a

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THERE IS STILL TIME TO CELEBRATE WITH CCN

For more than three decades, CCN has remained committed to its mission of empowering victims of domestic violence while cultivating community attitudes and behaviors that break the cycle of violence.

“This particular anniversary marks a monumental milestone in the organization’s history, as CCN commemorates providing service to nearly 70,000 victims of domestic violence, during the past 35 years.”

CCN BOARD PRESIDENT, DONNA IMHOFF

CCN’s board, staff, and volunteers have extended an invitation to the community to celebrate with the organization from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013.

As part of the year-long festivities, CCN is asking community members to consider celebrating their birthdays by:

- Hosting a birthday party that benefits CCN
- Using Causes to raise funds for CCN in your honor

If you would like to host a birthday celebration in CCN’s honor, please contact Stacy de las Alas, Development Director at 412-364-6728, ext. 15. Please remember to share photos of your special celebration with us for posting on CCN’s Facebook page.

To Donate on CCN’s “Causes” Page:

1. Go to crisiscenternorth.org
2. Click on the birthday cake on the home page
3. Click the Causes link and Donate (click here to connect to link)

Please help CCN reach its fundraising goal of \$10,000!

Cocktails and Cuisine - continued from cover



year for the last two years. It is this level of support that has enabled Crisis Center North to continue to serve the community for the past 35 years. Those services include a 24-hour hotline, counseling, medical and legal advocacy, and prevention education programs for schools and the community.

Tickets are \$75. To access premier parking on the Woodlands campus, \$25

parking passes are available, though quantities are limited. Free parking with shuttle service to the event is available to all ticket holders. Sponsors and program advertisers are still needed. To participate or attend in this spectacular event, or for more information, call Crisis Center North at 412-364-6728, ext. 15 or visit CrisisCenterNorth.org.

SHALER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Please join CCN in congratulating the Shaler Township Police Department for winning our annual *Building Bridges to Safety Award* for 2012. Recently, CCN asked the community for nominations of police officers or police departments who exhibit a compelling commitment to domestic violence victims.

The staff members at CCN agree that the Shaler Police continually display a “zero-tolerance” response toward abuse committed by

intimate partners and family members by consistently making on-scene arrests for domestic violence crimes. Moreover, Shaler Police have adopted and enforced current policies related to domestic violence and have shown their commitment to ending domestic violence by forging and sustaining their relationship with CCN for mutual referrals and troubleshooting as necessary.

The legal advocacy team would like to commend Shaler Township for dedicating a



ESSPA KOZMETIKA SPONSORS CCN'S FIRST MOMINATION CONTEST

As said by Martha Beck in her book, *Expecting Adam*, "Mothering has little to do with biological reproduction." Think of mothering as a verb rather than a noun and the definition becomes expansive. Typically it involves actions like acceptance, nurturing, instruction, and empowerment, and can be done by mothers; mentors; family members; friends; males; females; young or old. There are people who mother all their lives without ever giving birth.

To acknowledge and encourage this activity and to raise funds for the empowering and supportive services of Crisis Center North, we have paired with **ESSpa Kozmetika Organic Skincare** to sponsor the *First Annual Momination Contest*. To nominate, simply post your best stories of mothering. The contest winner will be awarded an entire year's worth of massages from ESSpa. To encourage participation, ESSpa will also give a gift certificate to everyone who subscribes to nominate and vote for their most deserving "Mom" (see our Facebook page April 1).



Starting April 8, we will accept nominations on our Facebook page through April 19. During this Momination process, we will also ask our Facebook friends to "like" their favorite Mominee. The top three will be featured on our website starting April 26. Once the top three Mominees are posted at CrisisCenterNorth.org, final voting will occur from April 26 – May 3 to determine the grand prize winner. Final votes will be tallied via online donations to CCN, with one dollar = one vote. There is no maximum amount that anyone person can vote and

IMPORTANT DATES	
April 1	details, contest rules and nomination form posted online
April 8-19	nominations accepted on Facebook – be sure to "like" your favorite Mominee
April 26	top three Mominees chosen and posted at CrisisCenterNorth.org
May 3	final voting via online donations to CCN \$1 = 1 vote no maximum; tax-deductible
May 6	winner announced

donations are tax-deductible. The winner will be announced Monday, May 6.

"ESSpa is a great fit for this contest," says Stacy de las Alas, "They are a sanctuary that promotes wellness, health, pampering and self-care – all acts of mothering. "We are honored that ESSpa decided to join us in this effort."

"When the Crisis Center told me about their Momination idea, it reminded me of how much we expect of our Mom and sometimes take for granted," says Eva Kerschbaumer, owner of ESSpa and mother of Kristian. "Being a mom is hard work, but when you have a crisis – for whatever reason, big, small or chronic – it can be devastating, I opened ESSpa to be a place where people can feel safe, escape their worries and leave relaxed and a little healthier."

Esspa Kozmetika is located at 17 Brilliant Avenue in the heart of Aspinwall. They offer facials, massages, manicures, pedicures, waxing, body wraps, makeovers, and organic skincare. ESSpa was named 'The 3rd Best Spa in America' and recently earned the 2012 Angie's List Super Service Award. Visit their website at esspa.net.

Join us in honoring a special person in your life while supporting Crisis Center North.

Building Bridges to Safety

private space within their borough building for officers to consult with survivors in a comfortable and safe fashion. The department has also partnered with CCN and the DA's office to host a series of trainings to several police departments within the North Hills to distribute and train on the newly-created model stalking protocol.

The award was presented at CCN's annual meeting, with Chief Bryan Kelly accepting the award on behalf of the department.

A perk of the Building Bridges Award is lunch for the entire police department. Two CCN advocates, Allison Martin and Taylor Voss, personally delivered a delicious lunch of sandwiches and salads on March 1. A grateful Chief Kelly insisted they dine with the group, which included Sergeant Sean Frank, Officer Gregory Steinmetz, Officer Shane Kochanowski and Deputy Chief Kevin Boyle.

It is a true honor to work with Shaler Township Police Department. This is the level of community collaboration we strive to seek and nurture for the benefit of victims in our region.

Legal Advocates, Allison Martin and Taylor Voss with Shaler Township Police Officers



BRAVERY AND BEAUTY – BIG BENEFIT

Bravery and Beauty, a benefit for Crisis Center North was held Wednesday, March 13 at Altar Bar in the Strip District. Around 250 supporters gathered to pay tribute to Karissa Kunco, murdered in 2011 by her abusive boyfriend, and to acknowledge the strength and struggle for thousands of survivors among us in our community.

The show incorporated hair design, independent fashions, and interpretive dance that portrayed a woman's battle with domestic abuse. The night was entertaining and inspiring – full of fashion, beauty, great auction items and vendors, and food and drink that allowed guests the opportunity to enjoy themselves while supporting a worthwhile cause. The event grossed over \$10,000 and proceeds will assist Crisis Center North in delivering critical counseling and advocacy services.

WHOLE FOOD'S MARKET, NICKELS FOR NONPROFITS

Whole Food's Market, Nickels for Non-Profits is a way of giving customers the opportunity to give back to their community. Each time a customer shops with a reusable bag, Whole Foods Market offers a 5¢ rebate that the customer can either keep or donate to one of two chosen local non-profits.

Customers who choose the donation option receive a wooden nickel for each reusable bag and are directed by the cashier to deposit it into one of the two slots available on the wooden holder in Customer Service.

Crisis Center North was the beneficiary for the last quarter of 2012 and received a donation of \$690 in February. We would like to thank Whole Foods Market for the opportunity and all of you who chose to support Crisis Center North in this way!



Bravery and Beauty organizers, (l to r) Lea Guarino, Danielle Danzuso, and Erin Bell

The event would not have been possible without the foresight, passion, and determination of three special women. Danielle Danzuso of Dani's Hair Loft and Lea Guarino and Erin Bell of Guarino Group Productions, volunteered their time and energy to make this event the success it was. Their compensation was nothing more than the pride of creating awareness of an issue far too prevalent in the lives of women and memorializing the lives lost in its tragic wake.

In addition to Dani, Erin and Lea, we would like to thank the sponsors who so generously contributed to the even. They include: Choice Respiratory Care; Alfonso & Son Landscaping; Prudential Preferred Realty; Slice on Broadway; Fathead's Brewery; Classic Accent Kitchen & Baths; Jefferson Hills Real Estate; Pollack, Begg, Komar, Glasser & Vertz, LLC; Epcon Communities; North Star Chevrolet; Mitchell Kosanovitch; Bella Capelli Academy; and Daly Care.

Fashions were provided by: Cache, Exhibit D, and Designer Angie Cunningham. The production team included: Frank Murgia, Carpelz Creative Dance & Performing Arts, Alicia Photography, Post Script Productions, Signs by Tomorrow Pittsburgh North, Tri State Valet, Pureology, Perle, Bella Sera Catering, Flowers by Carol, You Can Be There Live, WPGH Fox 53 & WPMY My Network TV, Whirl Publishing, City Tee Shirt Co., Andrew Larris (model sponsor), and Nick Vettorel (video production).

Without the incredible efforts of everyone involved, an event like this would not have been possible. What a beautiful thing!

SHOP. GET PAID. DONATE.

Crisis Center North has joined shop.com to offer supporters the opportunity to earn cash back on the products you currently buy online, while we earn royalties.

Simply sign up through our designated website, www.shop.com/ccn and shop, shop, shop. There are over 3,600 stores to choose from. In addition to your normal purchases that you may make at stores like Target, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, etc. . . . , you can purchase airfare, hotel rooms, textbooks for college, and even Groupon deals.

Cash back awards vary per store and are listed on the site. Consumers save money, get access to exclusive deals, earn up to 50% cash back on qualified purchases, and we receive weekly and monthly royalties based on your purchases. Supporters can also invite friends to shop on our website and earn 0.5% cash back on purchases made by anyone they have invited.

What are you waiting for?



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2013 CONSTELLATION GOLF CLASSIC

Looking for an easy way for you and your friends to support CCN without a long-term commitment? CCN has once again contracted with Prom Catering to provide concession volunteers for the 2013 PGA Senior Players Constellation Classic at Fox Chapel Golf Club, June 25-30.

CCN is grateful for this opportunity to raise funds for the organization. For each person who works a shift, CCN will receive a percentage of the concession profits. This year, CCN secured the Main Entrance tent.

Volunteers need not be currently serving CCN in any capacity. Volunteers from businesses, social groups and organizations are strongly encouraged to sign up together, which can make it more fun for all. Up to 14 people are needed each day with shifts running 6:30am-1:30pm; 8-3pm; and 11am to close (the end of the day's event).

Volunteers receive a free lunch, free parking and a credential to enjoy the event on the remainder of the day when not working.

Last year, CCN filled 64 shifts and with tips, earned a little over \$2,000! Volunteers came from a diverse group including: current CCN volunteers and staff members; golf lovers; friends and family; and a faithful group of volunteers from CCAC North campus. Pictured above from the 2012 event are five current and past presidents from CCAC's Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society: Megan

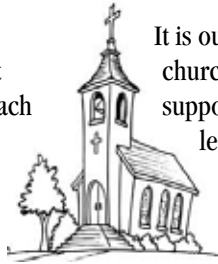


Hennessy, Nik Matoka, Sara Geisler, Kevin Boglitz and Darla Barie.

It is through the generosity of many that the 2012 event was a great success. Ask your friends to join you and sign up here <http://goo.gl/yrvSS>.

CCN EXTENDS OUTREACH TO LOCAL FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES

CCN's Prevention Education division has achieved great success in providing outreach to our local schools and is now working to help church leaders and members be better prepared to support victims of domestic violence.



It is our desire to partner with local churches to help provide guidance and support for not only victims, but assist leadership with how to navigate this most complex topic. We offer workshops to assist clergy and other leaders on how to understand the dynamics of domestic violence; detect its presence in a situation; provide options for victims; and explain how our services can assist.

Many in our community reach out to local clergy for support in difficult situations, and no doubt domestic violence can be one of those topics. One of the most common responses that people have when addressing an issue of domestic violence is, "Why doesn't she just leave?" while other well-meaning friends might encourage unity and restoration. In both situations, a victim could end up experiencing serious – and sometimes fatal – consequences.

We also provide educational workshops for women's ministries, because in many instances, women will discuss their situation with a friend, sister or colleague. We believe that all women should have a basic understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence so they might be better prepared to support one other.

So how does a leader offer effective counsel?

"Domestic violence is something every Christian or person of faith encounters,

whether it's the voice of a friend asking for help or a desperate cry in the pastor's office. People recognize faith-based institutions as safe places where they can come for help and guidance. Often the reality is, we are or feel unprepared and ill equipped. Crisis Center North works to educate, demonstrate and equip. The opportunities they offer are invaluable and their impact in our communities cannot be underestimated," Rev. Joseph G. Murdy, Ascension Lutheran Church.

Our staff is very diverse, and some members have many years of ministry experience and involvement in their local churches. We are able and available to provide faith-based assistance upon request. If you or your church leadership is interested in learning more or scheduling a presentation, contact Darla Barie, CCN's Volunteer Coordinator at 412-364-6728 or dbarie@crisiscenternorth.org.



Crisis Center North

Providing direction to victims of domestic violence

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