

HOPE WORKS!



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STEPS TO HOPE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

August 1st, Diane Nelson joined the team as Executive Director of our 37-year-old organization. She is welcomed by a seasoned staff who perform their work with compassion, empathy, courage, and respect. Diane brings new ideas and energy to the mission of serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community and we are all very happy to have her leadership.



Diane Nelson, Executive Director

SHEDDING LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS



A total of 18 domestic violence informational signs are displayed along Stearns Park walking path in Columbus.

McCreery Park in Saluda. The name of a North Carolina victim and his/her age (at time of death) appears in white lettering. The victim's photo and story are featured on the back. The black lettering represents LOCAL victims who have died from domestic violence related incidents since 1981.

Exclusively at Stearns Park, 18 informative, enlightening and powerful pieces were displayed along the walking path. These featured statistics, myths, and facts regarding domestic violence as well as safety planning and ways to escape an abusive situation.

Steps to HOPE has also partnered with area businesses to spread DV awareness. Local coffee shops are distributing coffee sleeves bearing the slogan, "Love Shouldn't Hurt" and the contact information for Steps to HOPE. Participating locations include Landrum's Buck 'N Brew

Coffee & Ice Cream, Tryon's All Good Things Bakery & Tryon Coffeehouse, Saluda's Wildflour Bakery & Café, & Columbus' Openroad Coffee Roastery.

Landrum Library currently hosts a display of domestic violence fact sheets as well as books that feature domestic violence in its many forms within the pages. Among the titles are the popular novels, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover and many more.

Another testament to the prevalence of domestic violence in our community are the 555 purple flags that appear in the Steps to HOPE front lawn at 60 Ward Street in Columbus which will remain through October. Each purple flag represents 1 domestic violence crisis call received since January 1. "These calls are from people in our own community seeking help and guidance to escape from a difficult and

THANKS A LATTE



STH employees, Cindy Wicklund & Jessica Cashwell pose with coffee sleeves that area coffee shops distributed to all customers for the month of October.



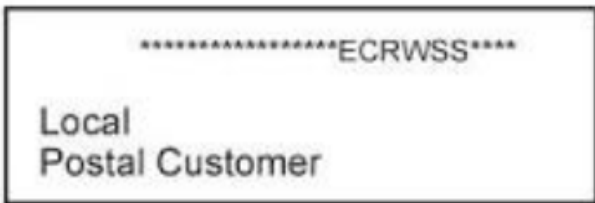
- Administrative
- Thrift Stores
- Court Advocacy



If you're interested in learning about our volunteer opportunities, please call 828-894-2340 or email admin@stepstohope.org.



For October 2022, Steps to HOPE staff committed to spreading awareness in our community like never before. Purple banners were raised on flag and lamp posts throughout the downtown areas of Columbus, Tryon, Saluda, and Landrum with informational slogans and annual statistics featured on each. In addition, purple ribbons were displayed at Stearns Park in Columbus, on the hill in downtown Tryon, Steps to HOPE Thrift Barn in Landrum and



Purple ribbon signs cover the front lawn at Stearns Park in Columbus. Names, ages, photos, and information regarding their domestic violence related deaths were displayed on each.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

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often dangerous situation,” Executive Director, Diane Nelson, stated. “It takes courage to make that call, to take the first step. And that’s why we are here...so they don’t have to do it alone.”

So far this year in NC, 28 homicides can be attributed to domestic violence with victims ranging in age from 8 months to 79 years. Domestic violence knows no age limits, no socio-economic status, no race, no religion, and no distinction between males and females. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million people, or 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men who experience severe intimate partner physical violence. Domestic violence is all too frequently kept a secret so the possibility of being able to reach those affected through an innocent coffee sleeve or library display could make all the difference in saving a life.

Everyone deserves a healthy relationship free of violence. Steps to HOPE offers 24-hour crisis hotlines, emergency safe shelter, support groups, and counseling. All services are free and guaranteed confidential. If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please call 828-894-2340 or email info@stepstohope.org.






The front lawn of Steps to HOPE displayed 555 purple flags that represented the number of domestic violence crisis calls Steps to HOPE has received since January 1st.



CALL 828-894-2340 FOR HELP
 Steps to HOPE October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

1 of 5 banner variations featuring domestic violence awareness slogans and statistics. Banners were raised in downtown Columbus, Tryon, Saluda, & Landrum.

WAYS TO HELP

-  Give by MAIL
Steps to HOPE
PO Box 518
Columbus, NC 28722
-  Give by PHONE
828-894-2340
-  Give ONLINE
at stepstohope.org



Go to smile.amazon.com and search Steps to HOPE. A percentage of what you spend comes back to Steps to HOPE.



All non-perishable, unexpired food items collected will go directly to the clients and children in emergency shelter at Steps to HOPE.

Adopt-A-Family HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We need individuals, organizations, churches and businesses to "adopt" children in need this holiday season! Help us spread the magic of the holidays! For more information, call 828-894-2340 or email programs@stepstohope.org.



JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER
CALL 828-894-2340

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stepstohope.org

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