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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ANITRA
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Rita Anita Linger

**NORTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

THE NORTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NCCADV) announces that Rita Anita Linger has been named Executive Director. Rita Anita has a wealth of experience in domestic violence work including nonprofit and government positions in Arizona and New York.

In Arizona Rita Anita served as the Arizona Supreme Court Program Manager—Domestic Relations, the Director of Advocacy Services at the Center Against Sexual Abuse, the Senior Program Manager for the Arizona Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Network, the Regional Project Protocol Manager for the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the Co-Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice, and Director of Diversity and Community Engagement at Gateway Community College.

During her time in New York, Rita Anita served as Executive Director of Chances and Changes Domestic Violence Program, Program Director of Apple Core Transitional Housing Program, and Founder and Director of Gateway to the Courts Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Program. She also served as the Program Director /Coordinator of the Community Dispute Resolution Center.

Rita Anita currently serves as Adjunct Professor at Peace College where she teaches Foundations of Leadership/Leadership and Social Change. She has extensive experience in program development, management and evaluation, grant writing, public policy, strategic planning and community outreach and is a survivor of domestic violence. Additionally, Rita Anita is currently in the process of completing her PhD. degree in Human Science with concentrations in Social Transformation, Integrative Health and Organizational Systems from Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center in San Francisco, California.

NCCADV Board Chairs Jackie Goodwyn and Karen Parker Thompson welcome Ms. Linger to the Coalition. "Rita Anita's skills and experience provide the perfect match with NCCADV as we enter this next phase of service to domestic violence survivors and programs throughout North Carolina."



Announcing Statewide
Theme for October 2007
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month

**North Carolina:
Stop Domestic Violence
Before it Starts!**

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Imagine

Imagine a North Carolina full of resources, immediately accessible to us if we need protection, safety, counsel, advisement, emotional/financial support, and mentorship.

Imagine a North Carolina at the ready, able to fearlessly prosecute perpetrators of domestic violence at the outset, ensuring systemic empowerment of victims and survivors.

Imagine a North Carolina focused on enhanced interdisciplinary connectedness and state-of-the-art approaches to domestic violence prevention and intervention service provision.

Imagine a North Carolina where victims and survivors are able to recover, heal, and habilitate from the throes and ravages of domestic violence with the level of support needed for sustainable self-actualization.

Imagine North Carolina domestic violence survivors moving forward with purpose and without fear to independence and violence-free productive lives.

Imagine the number of domestic violence fatalities being "0" in any given year. Just Imagine!

IMAGINATION, IMAGING AND VISIONING are the first steps to creating social change. Recognizing the need for change or enhancement of a social system that needs assessment and re-calibration, provides us the opportunity to explore the possibilities for change and imagine into reality, the ideal paradigm.

My philosophy, having worked and lived as a social justice advocate and survivor of domestic violence for over 23 years is that our "reach should exceed our grasp" (Robert Browning). We as individuals should translate to a collective—a collective of people with a shared vision and purpose which is to stop the pain, immobilization, and death associated with domestic violence as well as the negative residual effects that permeates throughout society as a direct result of it.

The first step to eviscerating this crystallized social problem is by acknowledging that it exists and that it takes on many forms. The Center for Disease Control defines *Intimate Partner Violence* as "patterns of assaultive or coercive behavior, including physical, sexual, psychological coercion that adults/adolescents use against intimate partners to clarify the activities and relationships that characterize such abuse" (Uniform Definitions, 1999). The sad truth is that whether we know it or not, we all know someone who is affected by domestic violence, either directly or indirectly.

Violence in the home places an enormous burden on all those affected by it. Not only are primary, secondary and tertiary victims negatively affected by it, but our law enforcement, judiciary and social service systems also

experience economic strain in response to domestic violence. The research on the indisputable and horrific impact of domestic violence on women and the children who watch these acts of violence has been well documented. While there are male victims of domestic violence who seek, deserve and should be provided with mechanisms to safety and support, the research clearly indicates the overwhelming number of victims of domestic violence are female.

Many states in the United States including North Carolina have made incredible strides toward creating a safe and violence free environment for victims and survivors. However, there is much more to be done. This past year 58 women were murdered in North Carolina as a result of domestic violence. These beautiful women were daughters, mothers, and sisters; some were very young, some were older—all were loved and now all are gone.

Examining and holding up to a mirror, our belief systems around gender roles, family, government intervention, and relationships is key to becoming aware of the greater context within which we must work to eliminate this enormous social problem.

Working together as a collective comprised of every day citizens, advocates, corporate America, medical and faith communities, social justice/social services/ community organizations, our legal and law enforcement systems and other governmental entities, we can stop the violence and share the hope of a domestic violence free state...*Imagine!*

RITA ANITA LINGER, MA

Executive Director

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

National Network to End Domestic Violence Lobby Day 2007

ON JUNE 6, 2007, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence participated in the National Network to End Domestic Violence's (NNEDV) annual Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. State coalitions and domestic violence service providers from across the country came to Capitol Hill in an effort to urge their Congress members to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005. NCCADV met with nine members of the NC delegation and distributed federal information prepared by NNEDV, as well as state-specific information prepared by NCCADV to all 15 Congress members.

"VAWA funding is absolutely critical to meet the needs of victims in NC, and we have to show our representatives the impact that domestic violence has on our state and make them aware that this funding should be a priority," says Tammy Hartley, NCCADV Board member who participated in lobby day. The National Network to End Domestic Violence 2007 Lobby Day was a great success evidenced by a victory for FVPSA (Family Violence Prevention and Services Act) which came through on Friday, June 8, 2007, when the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education voted to increase funding for FVPSA by \$10 million. The appropriations bill will be heard next before the full House Appropriations Committee.



(from left to right) Beth Froehling, April Burgess-Johnson, Barbara Lagemann, Rita Anita Linger, Tammy Hartley, and Wendy Lindberg attend reception at the Library of Congress in Washington DC for National Lobby Day

NC WOMEN UNITED ADVOCACY DAY 2007

ON MAY 22, 2007, members of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence participated in North Carolina Women United's annual Women's Advocacy Day at the General Assembly in Raleigh. More than 120 participants from numerous organizations across the state came out to show their support on issues affecting women, including violence against women, access to healthcare, civic participation and equality, and economic self-sufficiency. The day began with a training in the auditorium with speakers on each issue area to prepare participants to meet with their legislators to advocate for the bills included on the Women's Legislative Agenda.

NCCADV Public Policy Director Beth Froehling explained the importance of passing House Bill 44 so that offenders who violate domestic violence protective orders can be charged with a felony on the 2nd violation rather than the 4th violation and for passing Senate Bill 31 to increase funding for domestic violence programs. Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue spoke at the press conference that followed along with many legislators who



Senator Boseman speaks at the Women's Advocacy Day Press Conference in Raleigh

showed strong support for the Women's Legislative Agenda, including Senator Boseman and Representative McLawhorn who co-chair the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence. Women's Advocacy Day successfully mobilized constituents concerned with issues affecting women by voicing their concerns with their elected officials. Thank you to everyone who participated! For more information, please visit www.ncwu.org.

Addressing Domestic Violence In Schools

One way to break the generational cycle of domestic violence is to ensure that children receive appropriate messages about the unacceptability of violence and about how to form healthy relationships. NCCADV and the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) have partnered to ensure that NC schools are equipped to respond to domestic violence and to offer prevention messages to students. At the annual Safe Schools conference, NCCADV and the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault offered a workshop designed to equip school leaders to recognize, respond and prevent domestic and sexual violence affecting students. In addition, NCCADV and NC DPI conducted two statewide trainings engaging multi-disciplinary teams from communities to address the issue of domestic violence in schools.

This August, the Coalition will sponsor trainings for domestic violence advocates to support their work to build partnerships with schools on a local level.

This strong partnership evolved from work conducted to fulfill the requirements of House Bill 1354 passed in 2004, which mandated that NC DPI study anti-violence curriculums used in NC schools. The study revealed that there were a wide variety of strategies used throughout NC and suggested increased collaboration between school systems and domestic violence programs.

NCCADV applauds the work of the NC Department of Public Instruction to continue in the spirit of HB 1354 by ensuring that NC school professionals receive critical training about domestic violence.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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"I am honored to be part of this great organization. We are dedicated to working on enhancing and re-defining access to systems which act as the gatekeepers to support, empowerment and violence-free lives for women and their children who are victims and survivors of domestic violence throughout the state of North Carolina.

NCCADV's staff is committed to serving as social change agents and believe that through the venues of education, advocacy, and the mobilization of all aspects of

community toward transformative change, we can together move toward actualizing a domestic violence free state. I look forward to the challenges and successes that lie ahead," says Linger.

The mission of NCCADV is to create social change through the elimination of the institutional, cultural, and individual oppressions that contribute to domestic violence.

NCCADV Training Institute News

On June 21, 2007, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) held a training entitled *Community Response to Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence* in Durham. Approximately 135 law enforcement officers, social workers, children's advocates and other allied professionals attended the training. The featured speakers were Lt. Mark Wynn (ret.) and Sgt. John Guard of the Pitt County Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Wynn, a twenty year member of the Nashville, TN Metropolitan Police Department on which he served as Lieutenant to the Domestic Violence Division, focused his discussion on the importance of law enforcement officers being properly trained on how best to respond to incidents of domestic violence,

particularly to those involving children. Sgt. Guard shared the story of the Anitra Allen Coburn case (see article page 5) which led to the creation of the domestic violence unit in Pitt County.

Fran Bumgarner, Legal Assistant to the Durham Chapter 13 Office stated, "As always, each time I hear Mark Wynn speak at a conference I am so impressed with his ability to connect directly with each person at the conference. The statistics he presents are shocking and unnerving, but he speaks from personal and professional experiences that make the issues of domestic violence apply directly to each and every person in the audience. It is always a privilege to hear him speak, but more than that, it is a privilege to know him as an amazing advocate and educator."

Verizon Wireless Makes Contribution to the Anitra Allen Coburn Emergency Fund to Assist Victims of Domestic Violence

ON AUGUST 28TH, 1996, Anitra Allen Coburn was murdered by her ex-boyfriend, Douglas Carter in Franklin County in what was then the longest standoff in the history of the SBI. Her murder devastated her family, the community, and law enforcement officers. The murder of Ms. Coburn left a lasting impression on Sgt. John Guard with the Pitt County Sheriff's Department. He wanted to do everything he could as an officer of the law to protect victims and to be certain that his community did not have another person suffer the torment that Ms. Coburn did.

In addition to his tireless work as a law enforcement officer on the domestic violence unit in Pitt County, Sgt. Guard wanted to do something more. He had a dream of creating an emergency fund for victims of domestic violence. In the summer of 2006, Sgt. Guard's dream came true when he became one of the 2006 recipients of the Sunshine Lady Foundation Peace Award, which included \$3,000 for Sgt. Guard to provide to the agency of his choice to assist victims.

Sgt. Guard asked the Coalition to start an emergency fund for victims of domestic violence in memory of Ms. Coburn. In August 2006, the North Carolina Coalition



Gregg Currie, Major Account Manager with Verizon Wireless, presents check to Sgt. John Guard

Against Domestic Violence created the Anitra Allen Coburn Emergency Fund for Victims of Domestic Violence. Since the inception of this fund, the Coalition has provided financial assistance to more than 25 victims of domestic violence. NCCADV has been able to help so many victims because of the continued support of businesses, allies, and advocates who want to give back to their community.

On June 21ST, 2007, Verizon Wireless made a \$2,000 contribution to the Anitra Allen Coburn Fund and presented the check to Sgt. Guard at the NCCADV Training Institute, *Community Response to Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence*. "This fund is a bridge for victims to become survivors. Something as simple as a bus ticket or one month's

rent can make a major difference in someone's life," said Sgt. Guard. "I am grateful that North Carolina has a fund to ease the burden of victims trying to find safety."

The Coalition is grateful to everyone who has supported the fund in its first year. We appreciate the generosity of Verizon Wireless, Sgt. Guard, and all of our allies who helped start up the fund.

We would like to thank the following donors for contributing to the Anitra Allen Coburn Fund:

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How to make a contribution to the Anitra Allen Coburn Fund

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Executive Director

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Issues, Prevention, Outreach, Diversity Issues
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LGBT), Resource Development, & Best Practices*

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