

## Message from Executive Director Tova Hairston

For me, fall has always symbolized the beauty of change. Although children mourn the loss of long fun-filled summer days, their excitement around reconnecting with favorite teachers and friends and entering their schools in fresh new duds bubbles to the surface as pool parties, popsicles, and day-long trips to sandy beaches give way to school orientations, school supply shopping trips, and harvest festivals.

As the long days of summer must give way to the richness of autumn months, Coastal Women's Shelter is preparing to embark on a new program year. Serving individuals and families living with domestic violence will remain our mission, and we are excited to continue to grow and expand the breadth of our services to best meet the many and varied needs of this population.

We will be focusing on more deliberate service to the children impacted by violence in their homes in this new program year. While many families have already benefited from the art therapy services we provide for these children, we are excited to be partnering with community initiatives like Pamlico Partnership for Children and Craven County Children Collaborative to foster more opportunities and safe spaces for families to grow and heal as a unit after violence.

During July, we provided services to over 60 individuals in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties, including emergency shelter, crisis counseling, information, and referrals. What makes these efforts so successful? The staff, board members, supporters, and volunteers of Coastal Women's Shelter who work to change and save lives every day. But we don't do it alone. We are part of a larger community that helps survivors of relationship violence achieve better physical, emotional, and mental health – with less anxiety, depression, and isolation and more safety, restful nights, and self-confidence. Whether you give of your time, your talents, your resources, or all the above, we appreciate you. You are helping to make our community a better place for all who call it home.

## Safe House needs for August

These items can be taken to our main office Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

- **Food items-** *lunch box items/ children's snacks; fresh produce; proteins; canned fruits and vegetables; cooking soups like cream of chicken; spaghetti and sauce; cereal bars;*
- Baby wipes
- Women's undergarments- *(bras, panties, and socks; sizes 1X-3X)*
- Children's undergarments- *(t-shirts, underwear, and socks; sizes 2T-6X)*
- Rakes for yard work
- Women's makeup
- Ethnic hair products
- Housewares items- *(pots and pans; kitchen utensils; shower curtains; shower mats and rugs)*
- Gift cards from grocery and retail stores
- Gasoline cards
- Children's diapers (sizes 5-6X) and training pants



Tova Hairston Executive Director

### Board of Directors

Betty Hatcher - *President*  
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### Staff

Tova Hairston  
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*Shelter Director*  
 Candice Parker  
*Fund Development Coordinator*  
 Christa Siener  
*Helping Hands Boutique Manager*  
 Amanda Delgado  
*Education Prevention Coordinator*

## Recent community events

See our website – [coastalwomensshelter.com](http://coastalwomensshelter.com) – and “like” us on Facebook to view more photographs.



VICTORY! Runners cross the finish line in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Run For Shelter

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run** was held June 16 at Creekside Park in New Bern. Approximately 180 runners participated in the fundraiser, helping to raise over \$11,600 for Coastal Women’s Shelter. Many thanks to CWS board member Bill Sanchez for helping to coordinate this annual event.

Community sponsors included Bakers Kitchen; Carolina East Medical Center; Dermatology Associates of Coastal Carolina; G. L. Diechmann; Doubletree by Hilton New Bern; Envee Spa; Fisher Oil Company; Harris, Creech, & Ward; Havelock-Cherry Point Rotary Club; International Paper; Chad Sittig; and Trent Cadillac. Chevrolet of New Bern formed and supported a large team of runners; and

the following lawyers donated on behalf of Ward & Smith, PA: Donalt Eglinton, James Norment, Hugh Overholt, Knox Proctor V, Ryan Simmons, Amy Wang,

David Ward, and Leigh Wilkinson.

Thank you as well to Catholic Daughters of America, Neuse River Realtor Association, Primus, FMA, and Sea Glass Café for their generous donations and to Run Sign Up for managing the registration.

To recognize the many contributions of its supporters, CWS hosted a **Champion Luncheon** on June 24 at Christ Episcopal Church’s Harrison Center in New Bern. Approximately 150 invitees – representing over 31 local business, civic, and government groups – gathered to celebrate our community and to hear about the work being conducted by the agency.

Event speakers were Tova Hairston, CWS executive director; Dr. Betty Hatcher, CWS board chair; Rolando Hernandez, general manager of Double Tree by Hilton New Bern; Shelby Miller, owner of Envee Spa; and Christina Saunders, owner and founder of Luv 2 B U. Music was provided by Alissa Mike with Matt and Lori Glass working the sound system they supplied.

Community sponsors were Harris Teeter, Outback Steakhouse of New Bern, PNC Bank, and Publix.

**A 1920s Adult Prom** raised almost \$1,000 for the shelter. In what CWS hopes will become an annual fundraiser, the evening focused on the education and engagement of men and boys in ending the cycle of domestic violence.

Inspired and hosted by Jamara Strayhorn, AKA Jaye Skye, an LGBTQ+ survivor of domestic violence, the July 14 event helped to highlight the agency’s commitment to serving all of its constituents. Music was provided by DJ Coleslaw.

Skye is the founder and CEO of Fabulous, Inc. Other community supporters were The Bengel Group, Premiere Designs, and Lovve & Soule Catering Company.

Approximately 65 revelers attended the Gatsby-themed festivities.



Attendees pose for the camera at the 1920s Adult Prom. Jaye Skye (middle) founder of Fabulous Inc.

## Upcoming events

For more information, please contact Candice Parker at 252.638.4509.

**August 4 • Medication Giveaway.** Volunteers will distribute free over-the-counter medications to low-income families in our area from 9 am until 2 pm at Pamlico County High School in Bayboro

Cough syrup, sunblock, women's products, vitamins, and cold remedies are just a few of the items that will be available at this annual event. Community partners include Walmart.

**August 26.** Zaxby's of New Bern (2006 S. Glenburnie Road) will contribute a portion of its proceeds to CWS from 11 am until 3 pm on the last Sunday in August. Customers who donate a pantry or school lunchbox item while visiting Zaxby's will receive a free chicken nibbler and a drink – plus a coupon to use at a later date.

## Through August 30 • Back-to-School

**Drive.** Unused items needed include book bags, pen, paper, crayons, sandwich bags, pens/pencils, erasers, 3-ring binders, hand sanitizer, glue sticks, art supplies, and highlighters. Donations can be taken to the CWS office or to any of our community partners: Allstate (Havelock), Carolina Bagel, Chevrolet of New Bern, The Fellowship (Havelock), Helping Hands Boutique, Kiddie College, Mitchell Hardware, and Southern Persnickety.

## September 8 • Zumbathon: Dance it

**Up Purple.** Hosted by the Havelock Police Department, this annual event will take place at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center from 10 am until 2 pm. Wear your favorite purple gear and dance to the beat of ZJ Trista Nicosia.

Tickets – which are \$10 each – can be purchased at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center, Make It Personally Yours, and the CWS office. They are also available online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

All proceeds will benefit CWS.

## Kudos

Coastal Women's Shelter is a recipient of a new funding award through the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence to address economic injustice for survivors. As one of two grantees across the state last fiscal year, we are proud of – and humbled by – this distinction.

We are especially proud of being recognized in the financial empowerment category because it focuses on aspects of our work about which we feel strongly: increasing safety and inclusivity for all domestic violence survivors through financial independence and breaking the cycle of abuse through prevention and education.



**Domestic Violence Support Group**  
For Families & Friends of Victims and Survivors  
\*Understanding the cycle, reasons for staying & ways to be supportive\*



*Beginning in June, support groups will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6pm-7pm. Due to limited seating and group safety and security, we ask that you call to RSVP no later than the Tuesday prior to the scheduled group. If your attendance is not confirmed, you will not be admitted to the group. Although we are partnering with local churches to provide safe spaces this activity, these groups, our agency and philosophy to domestic violence are not faith-based and are inclusive and respectful of all faith value systems. Our goal is simply to provide education, understanding and information about local resources for group participants to better assist their loved one living with domestic violence when they need it most.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at The Fellowship in Havelock**

412 W. Main Street, Havelock, NC

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at Mt. Shiloh in James City**

307 Scott Street, New Bern, NC

**Please call Amanda Delgado at 252.638.4509 to RSVP in advance**

## **Good Neighbors**

We are truly honored to have the patronage of Rolando Hernandez (general manager of Doubletree by Hilton New Bern), who has supported our programming efforts and has provided safe beds for families fleeing violence when Safe House has been full.

Many thanks also go to Weyerhaeuser of New Bern whose employees recently collected over 13,000 size 0-3 diapers. In addition, its Timberlands Division donated \$1,000 to the shelter from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund's WAVES grant. This grant is awarded based on employee volunteerism.

## **Legislation that affects our mission**

This past June, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a decision that may put thousands of asylum-seekers and current immigrants at risk. Known as "Matter of A-B-," the policy questions whether being a victim of "private criminal activity" – domestic violence – warrants inclusion in a recognized "particular social group" deserving of refugee status.

The precedent (27 I&N Dec. 316, A.G. 2018; Interim Decision #3929) stipulates that each applicant must prove that his/her abuse was not the result of personal reasons but rather from his/her membership in that socially distinct group and that her home government was complicit in her abuse by not offering protection.

To read more about "Matter of A-B-," visit [Justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov). And to find the contact information for your elected representatives, please visit [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov).

## What is the REAL value of your donation?

**\$50 a month** for 3 months provides 45 meals for safe house guests

**\$100 a month** for 3 months provides 30 days of emergency shelter for 1-2 families

**\$250 a month** will help cover relocation costs for 1 family, providing its members with a safe new home and a brighter future

### Set it and FORGET IT!

Monthly contributions offer many advantages:

- Your regular support helps us continue to provide comprehensive services for domestic violence victims.
- You can change the amount or cancel the contribution at any time.
- There is no minimum contribution. A little each month can help underserved domestic violence victims.

See our website for more details!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
FACEBOOK.COM/CWSNC



## Helping Hands Boutique

For more information, please contact  
Christa Siener at 252.633.6305.

Helping Hands Boutique may be the best-kept thrift store secret in town, but it is also a vital part of Coastal Women's Shelter operation that supports our clients as well as raising community awareness about domestic violence.

Helping Hands is a volunteer- and donor-based operation, and 100% of its proceeds come back into the agency to provide financial assistance for our clients. The store is also an important resource for families to obtain the items they need as they work to establish new homes free from violence.

The boutique is located at 2721 US 70E in New Bern.

## Our Promise

Coastal Women's Shelter – a United Way agency – works to ensure that services will be available for all domestic violence victims in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties.

A 501(c)(3), tax exempt, non-profit organization, CWS strives to be a good steward of your money.

We are committed to making your donation secure and private and will not share your contact information with third parties.

day!