

A Message from CWS' Executive Director

2020 has proven to be a force with which to be reckoned during its first seven months, and its unpredictable nature will undoubtedly characterize August as we deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Isaisas and an unprecedented start to a new school year.

Preparing for the first hurricane of the year offered a familiarity that brought an ironic level of normalcy to eastern North Carolina. We have survived monstrous storms that have deeply impacted our community in recent years; but despite our adeptness for resilience that has been learned from these experiences, we approach the remainder of the hurricane season in the landscape of COVID-19 and continued civic unrest – both of which will undoubtedly affect the availability, structure, and offerings of emergency and rescue services in response.

And after several weeks of discussions regarding the re-opening of schools for the upcoming year, many school districts across the state – including Craven County – have opted to begin the year remotely for all students. For the first nine weeks, kitchen tables will once again become classrooms for local students as state and local leadership work to ensure the availability of quality instruction for state learners while prioritizing student, staff, and public health.

At Coastal Women's Shelter, we are working with our clients to help ensure that they are prepared and ready to meet the upcoming challenges. Advocates helped families plan for the impending storm and are sharing information and resources so that parents and children will have a successful start to the new school year. Generous donors have responded to our call for help in both of these endeavors, donating school supplies and materials for our families' youth and gifting nonperishable food, paper products, and other much-needed supplies that are essential components of emergency preparedness kits for families. We continue to be heartened by the generosity of our neighbors.



Tova Hairston
Executive Director



Client service statistics for July 2020

We are also delighted to welcome two new members to the CWS team this month. Serving in critical roles, Fund Development Coordinator Johanna Schaefer and Craven County Advocate Sarah Jackson are excited to offer their skills and talents to support our

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CWS Back to School Supply Drive

**Call us at 252.638.4509
about drop-off times**

**Face masks • Lunch boxes
Disinfectant wipes & sprays
Binders (all sizes) • Scissors
No. 2 pencils • Pencil boxes
Pencil sharpeners • Erasers
Crayons & colored pencils
Markers & highlighters
USB flash drives • Earbuds
Composition notebooks
Glue sticks • Index cards
Notebook & construction paper
Lunch & snack items**

**Gift cards and monetary donations
are always welcome!**

Through August 31

CWS Welcomes New Staff Members

As August begins, Coastal Women's Shelter is thrilled to welcome the following new staff members.



Kimberly Drew, former Craven County Advocate, will now serve as our Education and Prevention Coordinator. A graduate of East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in public health, she joined Coastal Women's Shelter in March 2019 and has provided dedicated advocacy to more than 300 Craven County residents. In this capacity, she completed certification as Victim

Service Practitioner through the NC Victim Assistance Network. Ms. Drew is eager to build on her experience as she transitions into this new role that focuses on advocating for survivors as they move forward from abuse.



Sarah Jackson is the new Craven County Advocate. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from San Diego Christian College and is currently completing a master's degree in licensed clinical mental health counseling from Liberty University. Ms. Jackson has a wide scope of experience in human service capacities, including having worked three years for the County of San Diego in Child Welfare Services. She

is thrilled to draw on these experiences to serve Craven County residents who live with domestic abuse.



Johanna Schaefer serves as the new Fund Development Coordinator. Hailing from Connecticut and a native of Boston, MA, she has been a member of the New Bern community for a year and has quickly grown an appreciation for our community's resilience and culture. Holding a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Wayne State University, she offers extensive experience in managing corporate communications across various

industries, including healthcare IT, the military, and nonprofit organizations. Ms. Schaefer is well-versed in grant writing as well as marketing, donor cultivation and engagement, and volunteer management.

Coastal Women's Shelter

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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Amanda Delgado

Shelter Director

Johanna Schaefer

Fund Development Coordinator

Christa Siener

Helping Hands Boutique

Manager

Kimberly Drew

Education &

Prevention Coordinator

VEBOG Produce Benefits Community Veterans, CWS Families

Lovay Singleton, Executive Director of the Veteran's Employment Base and Organic Garden (VEBOG), recently shared her organization's bounty with CWS families. She visited our office to donate approximately ten pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers to help feed families residing in the CWS safe house as well as our clients throughout Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties.

VEBOG is a North Carolina-based, non-profit corporation that is dedicated to assisting disabled, disadvantaged, and homeless veterans to acquire employment, agricultural skills, and veteran specific information.

According to the VEBOG website, it is "located in the Duffyfield community, which is an ethnically diverse and low- to moderate-income area of New Bern. The garden benefits veterans in the program but also provides access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food for community members."

The donation marks the beginning of a new partnership as a monthly food distribution site for fresh fruits and vegetables harvested from the group's local garden site. Above, VEBOG Executive Director Singleton (right) is shown with CWS Executive Director Tova Hairston.



The Shoe Boutique Donates Over 100 Pairs of Footwear to Thrift Store

Ann Marie Campoli, owner of The Shoe Boutique in New Bern, has donated 131 pairs of new, high-quality shoes and boots to Coastal Women's Shelter. Brand names include UGG, NAOT, and Wolky.

This footwear will be sold at Helping Hands Boutique, whose proceeds support our mission, and will be given to Safe House residents and CWS clients.

In addition, Ms. Campoli donated clothing racks and display tables that will be used at the thrift store.

Helping Hands Boutique Manager Christa Siener is grateful for these donations, stating, "The shoes are very beautiful, and it's a blessing to have these new racks in the store."

We are saddened by the news that The Shoe Boutique closed for business in July, but we are sincerely grateful to Ms. Campoli for her generosity and support over the years.



Latitude Church Congregants Share Nature's Bounty with CWS

Executive Pastor Ted Leith of Latitude Church (New Bern) visited the Coastal Women's Shelter main office twice during July to deliver paper products and fresh produce. The goods were given in response to our agency's call to replenish our pantry shelves, which were all but depleted after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the generous gifts – 40 boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables – was offered to help address community hunger for the most vulnerable populations in our community. In addition, the

congregants donated 300 rolls of toilet paper and 150 rolls of paper towels.

Coastal Women's Shelter is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization that serves Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties.

The donations will be distributed among the families we serve throughout Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties and will be used by residents of our Safe House.

Visit our website – www.coastalwomensshelter.org – and our Facebook page for more information.
Or call us at 252.638.4509.

Thank you to Executive Pastor Leith – who is shown above with Valerie Merkler, CWS Operations Manager/Bookkeeper – and to Lead Pastor Christina Smith, who was instrumental in collecting the items.

Stubbs and Perdue Law Firm Hosts CWS Representatives

Stubbs and Perdue, PA (New Bern) recently hosted an informational session on domestic violence for its employees. Guest speakers were CWS Executive Director Tova Hairston and advocates Lisa Moore and Kimberly Drew. The event took place during a “Little Acts of Kindness” breakfast gathering at Captain Ratty’s Seafood and Steakhouse in New Bern.

Ten participants from the law firm learned about the cycles of domestic violence and the long-term effects of abuse on children. The dynamics of abusive relationships were discussed, and attendees learned about the services CWS offers to victims in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties.

We are grateful for the opportunity to spread the word about our work; and we thank Stubbs and Perdue, PA, for the \$250 donation to our organization.

106.5 WSFL Interviews CWS Executive Director About Services

Rhyan, host of Man-Made Radio on 106.5 WSFL, recently interviewed CWS Executive Director Tova Hairston about the services provided by our agency, including the Safe House. Other topics included court advocacy, outreach, domestic violence prevention, and educational opportunities.

Rhyan noted that “people now are more restricted than ever before in these challenging times. Women may not know about the Coastal Women’s Shelter as a resource for them, and I wanted to make our listeners aware of this exceptionally supportive agency.”



To listen to the interview, please visit our “news” page at coastalwomensshelter.org.

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mission and the families we serve in a time when that support is needed more than ever. Kimberly Drew, our former Craven County Advocate, has also taken a new position as our Education and Prevention Coordinator.

With adaptive schedules, new technologies, and innovative platforms for service provision, our team stands strong in the face of uncertainty as we move forward into another program year. Understanding the importance of community partnerships, we are grateful for the steadfast support and dedication of our agency’s volunteers, funders, donors, stakeholders, and community advocates who stand with us to make certain that those living with and moving forward from domestic violence can continue to seek services, support, and safety through our agency and its life-saving work.

Virtual Support Groups Now Offered Through CWS

As a part of service adaptations in response to COVID-19, Coastal Women’s Shelter is launching new virtual support groups for adults served by the agency.

These support groups will be offered online twice each month – on the 2nd and 4th Mondays – with a licensed, trauma-informed therapist. The online platform can be accessed via computer or phone. Sessions will begin Monday, August 10. Pre-registration is required for participation with a limit of 50 persons per session.

Interested parties may contact Kimberly Drew, Education and Prevention Coordinator, at 252.638.4509 x 5 or at newbeginnings@coastalwomensshelter.net.

Helping Hands Boutique

Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm • Saturday 9 am-4 pm



Shoes! Fabulous Shoes!

Come see our amazing selection of quality, name-brand shoes – generously donated by The Shoe Boutique of New Bern! We also have a variety of warm weather clothing still available. Stock up now while supplies last!

In addition, our “Christmas in July Sale” has been extended through August. Spend \$25 during the 1st and 3rd weekends in August and receive 25% off your total.

Proceeds from the thrift store benefit CWS’ mission to end domestic violence, so bring your friends!

To help keep everyone healthy, we are limiting the number of people in our store to 15 at a time, including shoppers, staff, and volunteers. In addition, markers have been placed along the floor, indicating the CDC-recommended 6-foot spacing between individuals. And, of course, we strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask while visiting us.



Helping Hands Boutique

2721 US 70E • New Bern

252.633.6305

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