

A Message from CWS' Executive Director

Given the wildly unpredictable past several months, we pause with anticipation and a bit of dread as July rolls in. Typically, July represents the pinnacle of summer fun and excitement. But amidst the tumultuous landscape of COVID-19 and Black Americans' vocal and long-suffering fight for equality and justice, July's usual long, sun-filled days spent at the beach with family and backyard gatherings to celebrate America's independence have been replaced by continued social distancing efforts; face-covering mandates; and uncertainty for students, parents, and teachers across the state about the upcoming school year.

In these unprecedented and difficult times, we at Coastal Women's Shelter draw strength and inspiration – despite the unknown – from the individuals and families we serve to squarely stand in the fear of the unknown and embrace the journey while learning from each experience.

July represents the beginning of a new program year for Coastal Women's Shelter. Planning for and transitioning to a new year in the middle of a global health pandemic is, admittedly, a daunting task. No one can confidently predict how or when the pandemic will end, but we have learned to lean on the resilience of creativity during this time when resources and wits have been all but exhausted. Our passion for our mission shapes our response to the barriers and challenges of this new landscape; and rather than passively longing for a return to normal, we create a new normal for our reality.

Like many other businesses and organizations, CWS continues to operate on a reduced contact schedule and has implemented more rigorous measures to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 for agency stakeholders. Our newly structured services reflect this deliberate focus. Therapy sessions, staff trainings, and team meetings are now conducted virtually. We continue to provide shelter services for victims fleeing domestic violence but now work with local hotels and faith-based agencies to provide alternate shelter options for unmet needs. Advocates continue to provide remote services for individuals served to help them establish plans of action during incidents of violence.

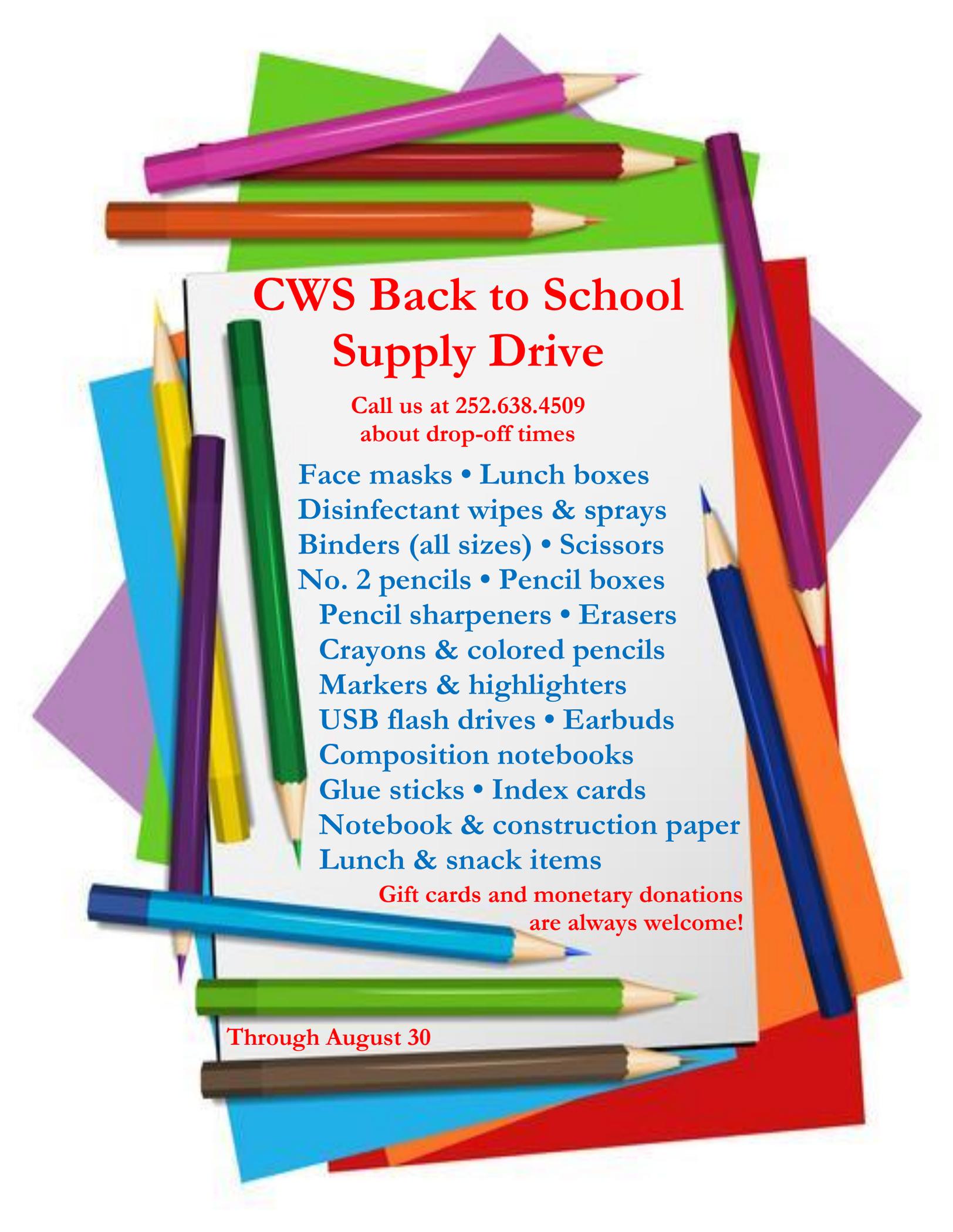


Tova Hairston
Executive Director



Client service statistics for June 2020

Similar to the safety plans that the individuals we serve create for themselves and their families for crisis situations, our agency's COVID-19 response structure builds on our strengths, knowledge, and expertise to ensure continued provision of services while prioritizing the health and well-being of our staff, our families, and our community.



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 30



Bridgeton Town Hall Donates Chairs, Printer to CWS Safe House

Bridgeton Town Hall donated chairs and a desktop printer for resident use at the Coastal Women's Shelter Safe House. The generous donation will be used in the shelter's resource room, a learning lab for residents to work on established goal plans such as creating résumés and submitting housing applications. Residents and shelter staff will refurbish/redesign chairs as a special project over the next several weeks.

Shown above are Melba Bolton, Bridgeton Town Clerk, and William Howard, Town Planning/Zoning Administrator, who are all smiles about lending a helping hand!

Coastal Women's Shelter

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

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Tova Hairston
Executive Director

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Craven County Victim Advocate

Lisa Moore
Jones County Victim Advocate

Ruzalia Davis
Pamlico County Victim Advocate

Valerie Merkle
Operations Manager

Amanda Delgado
Shelter Director

Vacant
Fund Development Coordinator

Christa Siener
Helping Hands Boutique Manager

Vacant
*Education &
Prevention Coordinator*

International Paper Company Makes Generous Donation to CWS

International Paper Foundation has awarded Coastal Women's Shelter a grant of \$10,000 to support the agency's operating costs, which include security, shelter repair, shelter maintenance, and communication. We appreciate the ongoing support of IPF and its communication specialist Catherine Burgess. In 2018, the company awarded CWS \$13,000 to create a resource room/learning lab in our Safe House.

Client "Wish List" Includes Basic Health and Clothing Items

Coastal Women's Shelter is in immediate need of the following items for its clients. Please contact us at 252.638.4509 about drop-off times and visit coastalwomensshelter.org to view a comprehensive list of needed items.

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Art and school supplies
- New socks for children and adults
- Laundry detergent
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes/spray



COVID-19 Safety Protocols Remain in Place at CWS Offices, Shelter, and Thrift Store

As COVID-19 continues to affect our community, Coastal Women's Shelter is maintaining its protocol to protect the health of our staff, our clients, and our neighbors.

Until further notice, the maximum capacity for the main administrative office will be 10, including staff and visitors. The capacity at Helping Hands Boutique will be 15. We ask that everyone wear a cloth mask and respect social distancing etiquette. Persons who are experiencing fevers, chills, or other flu-like symptoms should not enter the building but should instead contact CWS staff via phone for information and assistance.

Donations of tangible goods will be accepted only by appointment on Mondays and Fridays. Please call Helping Hands Boutique at 252.633.6305 or the main office at 252.638.4509 during business hours to schedule an appointment.

In addition, clients and staff members at our Safe House continue to follow government safety guidelines to combat the spread of COVID-19.

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Coastal Women's Shelter is the sole provider of no-cost comprehensive domestic violence services in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties. Our services include a 24-hour crisis line, court advocacy, monthly support groups for women and children, transportation, tuition assistance, clothing, food, employment resources, housing assistance, and inter-agency information and referrals. We also provide some employability services through a grant from the North Carolina Council for Women.



Helping Hands Boutique

2721 US 70E • New Bern
252.633.6305

Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm

Saturday 9 am-4 pm

It's our Christmas in July Sale!

If you spend \$25 during **Friday and Saturday, July 10-11**, you will receive 25% off your total!

And there's more! During the month of July, customers can purchase and/or donate* Christmas items to Helping Hands Boutique!

To help keep everyone healthy, we are following CDC recommendations by limiting the number of customers in our store to 15 at a time and by asking shoppers to wear masks and to maintain 6-foot spacing between individuals.

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

* To donate tangible items, we ask that you first make an appointment by calling 252.633.6305. It is our policy to quarantine all items for at least 72 hours.

