

## A Message from CWS' Executive Director, Tova Hairston

April 2020 was difficult. The familiar comfort of our normal routines was replaced with a foreign unease that continues to deeply permeate every inch of the new landscape that is the COVID-19 pandemic. With social distancing being the new norm to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, kitchen tables have become spaces for learning and work, and families have created new opportunities to slow down and connect with one another in real ways. While shelter-in-place orders are designed to protect community residents against a collective viral threat, however, they can increase fear and danger for victims for whom home is a battleground.

Isolation is one of the primary ways that abusers exert control over their victims. Shelter-in-place orders increase distance from support systems and limit safe connections for victims who live with their abusers. Many schools, businesses, and community safe spaces are closed; and other places that often serve as sanctuaries for victims are no longer accessible. With few to no alternate options for these individuals, they are subject to violence in their homes that may become more severe and more frequent. Although national, state, and local resources continue to provide services, victims have fewer chances to call or reach out to agencies for help. With many jobs suspended and perpetrators at home and out of work, victims cannot call Crisis Lines or call for shelter intake with their abusers next to them or in the rooms.

So while calls for help have decreased, we know that the need for safety services for victims has not. Given these new barriers and challenges at reaching those who need our assistance the most, Coastal Women's Shelter staff members continue to focus our efforts, energy, and advocacy on safety planning for victims who are residing with their abusers. These safety plans focus on emotional



**Tova Hairston**  
Executive Director

*Continued on the back page*



Now more than ever  
we are called to  
make a difference

Visit us at [www.coastalwomensshelter.org](http://www.coastalwomensshelter.org) and  
support our spring appeal campaign today!

## Spring Appeal Campaign

The following letter from the Coastal Women's Shelter Board of Directors was recently mailed to our distribution list. Please share it to your friends.



April 20, 2020

Dear friend,

While many things have shut down or discontinued due to the COVID-19 virus, one thing that has not slowed down or gone away is the reality of domestic violence. Statistics related to domestic violence are staggering during normal circumstances; however, the American Psychological Association maintains that this number "could increase dramatically during this period of social distancing and quarantine," and the impact of this violence will be seen in the weeks, months and years to come.

One of the greatest setbacks for us is that several of the major fundraising opportunities that help support our agency have had to be postponed to a date yet to be determined. To address this challenge, we have designed a special campaign to meet the shortfall in our budget. The goal we have set is \$30,000, and the funds raised will help us continue to provide the life-saving services for victims of violence that need them most during this time.

We understand that this is a pretty big number and no one person is able to meet this goal. In response, we have designed a campaign that empowers all donors to make a meaningful contribution. These amounts can be a one-time donation, or a monthly gift to help us end domestic violence. To help us meet our goal, please consider making your gift at one of the following donation levels:

125 donations of \$25	100 donations of \$50
75 donations of \$100	50 donations of \$125
40 donations of \$150	30 donations of \$250

As a CWS champion, we invite you to give at whatever level you can—each and every dollar received will help keep our shelter doors open and advocacy and support services available to victims and survivors of violence across Craven, Pamlico and Jones counties. Please visit us at [www.coastalwomensshelter.org](http://www.coastalwomensshelter.org) for easy, online gifting.

As members of the Board of Directors, we are most thankful for Tova, CWS office and shelter staff, the Helping Hands Boutique Manager and its volunteers, and the many people and organizations who give of their time, talents and resources to help directly and positively change the lives of the 500+ individuals and families we serve each year.

We thank you in advance for your generous support of Coastal Women's Shelter and this special campaign. We cannot do the work we do every day without the generous support that you and others so willingly offer. For more information, you may contact Tova Hairston, CWS Executive Director, at 252.638.4509 x 1.

With warmest regards and many thanks,

CWS Board of Directors

1333 S. Glenburnie Road | P. O. Box 13081, New Bern, NC 28561  
Phone 252.638.4509 | Fax 252.638.1298 | Crisis Line 252.638.5995

[www.coastalwomensshelter.org](http://www.coastalwomensshelter.org)



## CWS administrative offices set to reopen May 18

With the expiration of Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 121 on May 8, Coastal Women's Shelter joins numerous businesses and organizations across Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties in getting back to business as usual.

Pending no extension of the current statewide stay-at-home order, we will resume normal operations beginning Monday, May 18.

To best protect staff and community members that need us most and stay vigilant in doing our part to reduce the risk of exposure and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we will structure staffing and operations to continue to comply with CDC recommendations for social distancing, protective gear, and increased cleaning and sanitizing measures.

Thank you for your partnership and support through these difficult times. We are inspired by our community's resilience and are excited to serve.

### Helping Hands Boutique will remain closed until further notice

- The thrift store has stopped accepting donations until store operations resume.

### CWS' safe house has increased its health and safety measures

- CWS is still processing new intakes for emergency shelter for victims in need.
- Staff are observing the cleaning and sanitation measures for shelter facilities, using CDC recommendations as a guide.
- Residents' personal spaces in the shelter comply with CDC recommendations for social distancing
- The staffing schedule also complies with these recommendations.

## If you leave home, know your Ws!



**WEAR**  
a cloth face covering.



**WAIT**  
6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.



**WASH**  
your hands often or use hand sanitizer.

@NCDHHS

#StayStrongNC

CWS's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Run for Shelter fundraiser – originally scheduled for June 20 – is being postponed because of COVID-19.

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Want to show your support now?

Visit us at

**[www.coastalwomensshelter.org](http://www.coastalwomensshelter.org)**

to donate to our spring appeal campaign.  
And remember to follow us on Facebook!

- Staff are sharing resources with residents about preventative measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and about steps to take if they become symptomatic.
- CWS is meeting with residents regularly to assess changing and/or emerging needs as the pandemic progresses.

# Executive Director's Message

*Continued from page 1*

safety, physical safety, helping victims think critically about how to create distance between themselves and their abusers in the same homes, and what to do in emergency situations.

Despite our collective feelings of uncertainty or angst, we must all remember that this pandemic - as well as the current legal mandates enacted to protect us all - will not last forever. Most assuredly, schools will reopen; businesses will resume normal operation; and victims will once again be able to seek safety, resources, and refuge from abusive partners.

Thank you for your continued support of our agency and our work to help victims of domestic violence stay safe.

As an agency, we need your support to help ensure that we can stand prepared to meet these and other needs when they come.

I hope you will stand with us and make a financial contribution to this year's spring appeal. Like other nonprofit organizations across the country, we have had to cancel several key fundraising events this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This substantial loss of income threatens our ability to meet the many varied needs of the individuals and families who need us most.

Thank you for your continued support of our agency and our work to help victims of domestic violence stay safe. Your generosity will help provide emergency shelter, legal, and court advocacy and all the lifesaving services survivors need as they work to create a safer, healthier, and violence-free future for themselves, their families, and our community.

## Client Service Statistics for April 2020



## Coastal Women's Shelter

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

### Board of Directors

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*Vice President*

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*Treasurer*

Antoinette Boskey  
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### Staff

Tova Hairston  
*Executive Director*

Kimberly Drew  
*Craven County Victim Advocate*

Lisa Moore  
*Jones County Victim Advocate*

Ruzalia Davis  
*Pamlico County Victim Advocate*

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*Helping Hands Boutique Manager*

Vacant  
*Education & Prevention Coordinator*