

Domestic Violence is NEVER Funny

President's Report

Tiffany Carr, President/CEO

Once again, I am left bewildered, stunned, and disheartened by another professional sports team - the Cleveland Cavaliers. I am fairly certain that by now you have either heard or watched the "skit" produced by the Cleveland Cavaliers and played during a timeout in the middle of their game against the Chicago Bulls. The one-minute video features a guy and his girlfriend watching a basketball game together at home, when "their song" comes on they begin dancing and then he throws his girlfriend across the room because she is cheering for the opposing team. Needless to say, the skit represents everything we work against every day: power and control, violence and intimidation, coercion, victim blaming – the list goes on.

Appropriately so – yet after the fact, there were apologies, rebukes, articles and editorials shaming the team for producing such a video. From a domestic violence advocate's perspective, I was surprised that

after the heightened pitch and awareness this past year of both domestic violence and sexual assault as it specifically relates to sports teams – that the Cleveland Cavaliers would be so incredibly tone deaf. Because this was not an act just caught on tape that found its way to the public. Instead, this was a production where someone spent time deliberately writing a script, filming the skit, producing a video, and then making a calculated decision that it was appropriate to show it to more than 20,000 fans. There is no doubt there were many people involved in both the production and the approval of this message, which left me questioning if we as a society are making any headway in our efforts to end violence against women, children, and men.

We continue to hear that professional sports teams are creating stronger policies for their players, and requiring training about domestic violence and sexual

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Behind the Crime Reports

Chair's Message

Angela Diaz-Vidaillet, FCADV Board Chair and Executive Director of Victim Response, Inc. The Lodge, Miami

In late May, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement released the 2014 Uniform Crime Report (UCR). As I read the press accounts about the "lowest crime rate in 44 years" and that Florida's crime rate dropped 4.9 percent compared to 2013, I was cautiously optimistic. Then I got to the domestic violence offenses. And while there was some encouraging news specific to overall domestic violence offenses (a reduction of 1 percent), I was incredibly saddened by the 14.2 percent increase in domestic violence murder. If you include manslaughter and murder together the increase is 10.2 percent over last year. 205 individuals died as a result of domestic violence in 2014.

Overall, the UCR reflected a total of 106,882 domestic violence offenses reported to law enforcement. What is so troubling about that number is what we all know, that domestic violence remains one of the most underreported

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Together We Can End Domestic Violence

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of individuals, centers, and advocacy groups sharing the goal of eliminating domestic violence.

Chair's Message — Continued from page 1

crimes! Advocates working with domestic violence survivors know countless women, and some men, that come into shelter or outreach who have experienced horrible acts of violence; yet, they are too frightened for their own safety or for the safety of their children, other family members, friends and even their pets to report the violence to law enforcement. In fact, according to the National Violence Against Women Survey, only 27 percent of women and 13.5 percent of men who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner reported the assault to law enforcement. For me, that makes the UCR number of 106,882 haunting.

The numbers in these reports are far more than statistics; they represent a name, a face, and a family, torn apart by domestic violence. They represent a state, a community, a neighborhood and a home facing an epidemic of violence. Each of these women and men has a story – and it is a story that needs to be told and needs to be heard! We hear these stories and we see the results of domestic violence every day in the work that we do with survivors and their children. This is why our work is so vitally important.

In reading Tiffany's message, I couldn't help but wonder how many fans sitting in that arena when the

skit was played had experienced domestic violence – how that must have felt and how much it had to hurt. I saw a clip recently about a defense attorney who had shirts printed that read, "You say domestic violence, I say spousal discipline." It seems the shirts were printed a few years ago, but have re-surfaced recently on social media. The attorney explained that the comment was made to him years ago by a domestic violence client and while he was offended he created the shirt to be shocking and create dialogue. Seriously! When we hear these kinds of stories, are we really surprised that so often survivors choose not to report domestic violence?

We have the opportunity to create change. These crime reports and these stories about sports teams, business establishments and individuals making a mockery of domestic violence make us angry and sad, but they also make us resolute! We look in the eyes of domestic violence survivors who have courageously sought safety for themselves and their children and we see hope. Our work is critical, it is life changing and life saving. And I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you, no matter your role, for the work you do every day to end domestic violence. We ARE resolute!

We are opening the door to hope!

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assault, but how can we hold players accountable when they see a "public relations" skit that essentially makes a joke about domestic violence? What message does that send to the players, the fans, our children, and the country?

It is not just the sports world, although the list of offenders continues to grow with few consequences for violent behavior thereby lending itself to be "top of the mind awareness." But I also heard about a sign outside a restaurant that said "I like my beer like I like my violence – domestic". Once again, I was left wondering how many people walked past that sign and said nothing? However, I am very thankful for those that walked by and spoke up against such a cruel message.

I know this callous disregard for the impact of domestic violence angers all of us working within this field and those allies joining us to end this crime that plagues our communities. Every day you see the fear in the eyes of the survivors you serve; you know the terror they have experienced. And while acts like this create a sense of grave disappointment in each of us – we still have made progress during the past 30 years.

And while we may not be able to change the attitudes and behaviors of everyone, we are changing them for many. Each time we create a new partnership or prevention program, each time we engage a new community, social, or civic organization, we are creating change. As we all know, it isn't happening at the pace in which it should, but it is still happening.

As we engage and educate new partners, we have more and more people and organizations standing up and speaking out about domestic violence. We may not agree with everything they do or say, but by working together we can share messages about healthy homes and relationships.

Such an example is an opinion editorial written by Coach Tony Dungy, the first African-American head coach to win the Super Bowl and the national spokesman for All Pro Dad. Coach Dungy is personally engaging men to stand up against domestic violence. He is adding his voice in recognition that it takes all of us working together to truly end domestic violence. *Please see page 10.*

New Mascot and Public Awareness Campaign: Darby Against Domestic Violence

The golden retriever puppy will document her journey online to raise awareness, educate, and support programs to end domestic violence



The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) is pleased to announce a new addition to the FCADV family. Darby is an adorable golden retriever, whose mission is to raise awareness about domestic violence and the interconnection of animal abuse. This new public awareness campaign, Darby Against Domestic Violence, will serve as the launch of a cutting edge online journey that will increase awareness of the services and programs offered by FCADV and Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers while providing the opportunity to interface with Darby and increase resources to combat this hideous crime.

"The addition of Darby allows our organization to expand its education efforts to a broader spectrum of Floridians, via social media, about the impact of domestic violence on our families, including our beloved pets," said Tiffany Carr, President and CEO of FCADV. "Darby's journey will raise awareness of existing programs and our new endeavors geared towards ending domestic violence."

While engaged in her mission to educate others about the impact of domestic violence, Darby will have fun along the way by sharing photos and the details of her daily life as a dog fighting against domestic violence. The campaign launched via popular social media channels Facebook and Twitter with additional information about the new program available on the FCADV website (www.fcadv.org/darby).

While Darby's journey will have light moments, her mission is very serious. A woman is battered every 15 seconds in this country and each day an average of three victims will die at the hands of a current or former partner. Last year in Florida alone, there were

205 deaths as a result of domestic violence representing approximately 21 percent of all homicides in the state.

The interconnection of domestic violence and animal abuse is documented through the American Humane Association which reports that 71 percent of women entering emergency shelter indicated that the abuser had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims. And between 25 and 40 percent of battered women delay leaving abusive situations in fear for the safety of their animals.

While several of Florida's domestic violence centers have kennels and partnerships with local vets, FCADV embodies a goal to help generate funds to supplement these efforts and ensure all survivors have the ability to flee a violent home with their animal companions.

Darby may be liked on Facebook at Darby Against Domestic Violence, followed on Twitter @DarbyAgainstDV or emailed at Darby@fcadv.org.



ProLiteracy Teams Up with FCADV and Three Certified Domestic Violence Centers

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and three local certified domestic violence centers are partnering with ProLiteracy to introduce literacy services to survivors of domestic violence. Approximately 38 million adults in the United States have low reading and math skills, but only 3 million of them are enrolled in adult education programs. Because low literacy skills often exist alongside social issues, ProLiteracy's Expanding Access project provides resources to help agencies add adult education services. These programs will reach people not currently accessing education services and help them develop the foundational skills they need to address additional challenges in their lives.

Here's how three domestic violence centers in Florida are incorporating literacy services to teach survivors skills to become independent as they emerge from abusive relationships.



Peace River Center, Lakeland

The Peace River Center offers an Economic Freedom course to help women in their program become financially independent. However, some women may lack the necessary reading skills and financial background needed to participate fully and successfully in the course. Now Peace River also offers a three-week financial literacy program to prepare women for the course. The class – now in its second session -- teaches basic financial literacy concepts and vocabulary including budgeting, comparison shopping, and math skills.

"Keeping [women] financially self-sufficient helps keep them safe," said Ta'Nika Ellington, Peace River's economic justice advocate for domestic violence.

"In a lot of abusive relationships, survivors don't have any control over what they can buy," Ellington said.

The class meets for two hours twice a week, but "we would extend the class time," Ellington said. "Survivors are so excited to learn about things they have never had the opportunity to learn."

The women are especially interested in lessons on starting a business and getting a job. Many are unemployed, have never worked, or have been out of the workforce for awhile. "It provides a sense of hope for them," Ellington said.

"As you become more self-sufficient, you don't have to rely on your partner," Ellington said.

Shelter House, Fort Walton Beach

Shelter House offers a health literacy class that teaches participants reading comprehension strategies while they learn about germs, food preparation and handling, and over-the-counter medicine.

"We wanted to do something practical," said Carrie Warf, program director. "We wanted it to be useful information they can apply to their everyday lives."

Survivors receiving services from the Shelter House can attend one or all of the sessions. "We have a lot of women who don't think they can go to college and may have been convinced that they can't learn. We want to show them they can," Warf said. She added that she hopes to offer the class up to four times a year. "If we can increase their comfort level with reading AND help increase their vocabulary, that's even better," Warf said.

Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Naples

The Shelter for Abused Women and Children offers English language classes in eight-week sessions to women at its outreach center in Immokalee. The classes meet in the evening to accommodate the working schedules of the women registered for classes. There will be a summer break, and classes will resume in the fall when women return from seasonal work elsewhere.

"Many survivors express their frustration about not being able to advocate for themselves," said Josie Means, Immokalee outreach manager. "They use their children as translators. Law enforcement may not speak Spanish. A lot can get lost in translation."

Many don't know their legal rights. Maybe their partner has said, 'No one will help you. If you report me, I'll have you deported,' Means explained. "There are protections they receive as a victim of domestic violence," she said.



In Memoriam Vincent Mazzara A Life of Service 1950 - 2014



There is no one else in the world like Vince Mazzara. His gentle spirit, tenacity for life, and his drive for helping others will always be cherished by those that had the privilege of knowing him. Vince's impact on the world is evident in the lives he touched – and those lives are many. Vince had a vast and highly decorated career in law enforcement that began in Detroit, where he worked as an undercover officer and infiltrated and investigated organized crime. He was twice nominated to the International Association of Police Chiefs as one of the 10 Best Police Officers in the country and subsequently honored as a recipient of the 'Medal of Honor' by the Governor of Michigan for his investigations. In 1997 he was appointed by the Palm Beach County Sheriff to lead a new Domestic Violence Program where they created a community awareness program. Under his leadership the program was awarded a Department of Justice grant to start an 'internet project' where photographic evidence, taken at the domestic violence crime scene was loaded to a secure website and available to the judge, prosecutors and advocates in court the very next morning.

After many years as a police officer, FCADV tapped into his incredible experience to lead and expand the Coalition's Law Enforcement Training Program. Vince worked tirelessly in this role and in the process saved more lives than any of us will ever know. He had a deep passion for helping women and their children who are living in fear every day. Vince knew that in order for law enforcement to really understand the impact they could have on survivors' lives, they had to hear from those who had experienced violence at the hands of an abusive partner. In order to make that connection real, he would ask a survivor to speak at each of his law enforcement trainings during his time at the Coalition.

Vince is survived by his wife, Tina; sons, Justin and wife, Laura, and David Wainright and wife, Aundria; daughter, Jennifer Carroll and husband, Adam; and grandchildren, Emily and Adelyn Mazzara, and Katarina and Ethan Carroll. He is also remembered by the countless adult and child survivors that he helped, the advocates and law enforcement officers he worked with daily, and all of us at FCADV and Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers.

Vince will always live on in our hearts. We carry the torch to prevent domestic violence knowing he is watching over us and cheering us on. We are forever changed by his life of service to others.

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The class teaches English skills that women can use to advocate for themselves and their children in the health care and school systems, or with law enforcement. It also focuses on the English needed to access services in the community, interact with others, and to solve problems peacefully.

"Women may not know the court system; or, if their child's school sends a letter in English, they may not always understand it," Means said. "Survivors that only speak Spanish want to learn English so they can understand their rights and responsibilities."

Support from ProLiteracy and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

As the three agencies launched their literacy services, ProLiteracy assisted participating centers assess the needs of the survivors they serve, provided resources and teaching materials, and provided training in literacy and English language instruction. Enthusiasm from staff and participants highlights the potential to develop further partnerships between ProLiteracy and Florida's certified domestic violence centers.

2015 Biennial Institute: Trauma Informed Advocacy Services for Survivors

This year's Biennial Institute provided participants with information specific to creating trauma-informed services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault. A trauma-informed organization, system, or community is one that incorporates an understanding of the pervasiveness of trauma and its impact into every aspect of its practice or programs.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear national keynote speaker Tonier Cain, CEO and Founder of Healing Neen, who speaks all over the world on trauma, incarceration and recovery. Attendees also heard from Mildred Muhammad, a domestic violence survivor, author and consultant to the Office for Victims of Crime. Muhammad shared her story of survival at the hands of the now executed sniper who terrorized the Washington, DC metro region in 2002. Additional

plenary speakers included, Lina Juarbe Botell, Women of Color Network, Inc. and Rose Pulliam, Assistant Professor, Texas State University, Jennifer Curley and Cathy Cave with the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health, and Anne Menard with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

During the Institute, the inaugural Vincent Mazzara Law Enforcement Leadership Award was presented during a moving and emotional presentation. In recognition and honor of the dedication and commitment Vince exhibited throughout his career, FCADV created the award that was presented to Lieutenant Koren Colbert of the Bay County Sheriff's Office. The award will continue to be presented biennially to law enforcement officers who embody Vince's commitment to survivors of domestic violence and their children.



2015 BIENNIAL INSTITUTE TRAUMA INFORMED ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS



Child Welfare Regional Training Institutes

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has hosted 12 Child Welfare Regional Training Institutes throughout the state for more than 1,500 local child welfare professionals, domestic violence advocates, and community partners. The Regional Training Institutes are designed to enhance collaboration between certified domestic violence centers and child welfare agencies, to build the capacity of child welfare and partnering agencies to assess for domestic violence, to partner with survivors of domestic violence to achieve child safety, and to appropriately safety plan with families experiencing domestic violence that are involved in the child welfare system. Additionally, participants have received training on FCADV's

Child Protection Investigations Project, the Safe and Together™ Model and how to effectively implement domestic violence informed practice within the Florida Safety Methodology.

Each Regional Training Institute included a powerful Keynote presentation by Susan Still, a domestic violence survivor who escaped a 24-year abusive relationship with her husband. Still's case garnered national attention, as her abusive ex-husband received the longest sentence in New York state history at that time, in which the victim survived the abuse. Ultimately, her abuser was convicted and sentenced to 36 years in prison.



2015 Rural Domestic Violence Statewide Training Institute, Celebrating 18 Years of Success

For the 18th year, rural providers from around the state participated in the FCADV 2015 Rural Domestic Violence Statewide Training Institute in Marianna. This year, more than 150 institute participants attended from across the state and represented domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and survivors, law enforcement officers, attorneys, health care professionals, child welfare professionals, and allied social service professionals.

FCADV and the Rural Institute Planning Committee brought a combination of national and local domestic violence experts to present topics ranging from creating coordinated community responses to domestic violence in rural communities, building and enhancing language access plans, providing accessible services to the LGBT community, faith and domestic violence, domestic violence and traumatic brain injury, mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence, stalking and cyberstalking, cultural competency, and working with youth; to name just a few. All workshop options were derived from the feedback and responses received from rural domestic violence service providers, FCADV Rural Caucus members and past institute training participants with a consistent focus on providing services in rural communities. Each day began with an exceptional keynote speaker. The first was Mily Treviño-Sauceda, President and Co-Founder of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas and recent recipient of the 2015 Cesar Chavez Legacy award. Treviño-Sauceda shared her story of survival and activism for women's safety and farmworker rights connecting the experience of immigrant survivors and barriers experienced when attempting to access safety. Marcus Bruning, retired Supervising Deputy Sheriff (Rank of Major), from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office opened the second day of the Institute. Mr. Bruning discussed the value of a coordinated community response to domestic violence in rural communities. He spotlighted the success and struggles experienced in Duluth, Minnesota including lessons learned and implemented practices.

If you were unable to attend this year's Rural Training Institute, but would like more information or are interested in participating in planning next year's event please email: fcadvrural@fcadv.org.

Mellie McDaniel Award Presented to Corporal Jessica Hammond

This year's Mellie McDaniel Award was presented to Corporal Jessica Hammond, an outstanding law enforcement professional responding to domestic violence in rural communities. Corporal Hammond has spent 15 years working with the Pasco County Sheriff's Office and now serves as Officer Friendly in some of the most rural sections of Pasco County, Florida. Corporal Hammond was nominated by Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center because of her exceptional ability and passion for using her life experiences, educational background and history of work with the Sheriffs Department to encourage positive changes in those she comes in contact with on a daily basis. In her own words, "I am the bridge between the Sheriff's Office and our community". Corporal Hammond understands the dynamics of domestic violence and the many challenges that survivors of domestic violence experience when attempting to seek safety from their abusive partners.



Corporal Jessica Hammond (left) this year's Mellie McDaniel Award winner with Jeanette Short from Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center.

Florida Leaders Join FCADV and the Allstate Foundation to Launch

Changing Lives: A Partnership Between Florida Allstate Agents and Domestic Violence Centers

FCADV and the Allstate Foundation kicked off National Financial Literacy Month and their partnership to raise awareness about the importance of economic empowerment and financial independence in the lives of domestic violence survivors and their children. Joining FCADV and the Allstate Foundation at an April press conference were Attorney General Pam Bondi and Senator Denise Grimsley; both stressed the need for innovative economic empowerment partnerships that address the complex needs of domestic violence survivors.

“Economic justice and financial independence are consistently identified as top needs by domestic violence survivors,” said Tiffany Carr, President/CEO of FCADV. “Programs that promote financial literacy save lives by providing domestic violence survivors with the tools and resources they need to leave abusive partners and live independently.”

FCADV and the Allstate Foundation have expanded their economic justice collaboration to include *Changing Lives: A Partnership Between Florida Allstate Agents and Domestic Violence Centers*. The overarching theme of the project is to create partnerships at the local/community level between Allstate agents and certified domestic violence centers.

“The Allstate Foundation has had a long standing commitment to the economic empowerment of domestic violence victims,” said Mike Sheely, Field Senior Vice President for Allstate Insurance Company. “The *Changing Lives* partnership allows us to reach deeper into the communities to support economic empowerment programs and further our impact by partnering with Allstate agency owners around the state to hold supply drives for their local shelters.”

As part of the project, a Statewide Advisory Team is working within their respective communities to create plans for increasing financial literacy, economic justice opportunities for survivors of domestic violence, and promoting activities and projects that engage Allstate agents as strong partners, such as **#SpringCleaning4DV***.

Attorney General Pam Bondi emphasized that education and awareness are needed to empower survivors of domestic violence. “Financial abuse is just one of



From left: Mike Sheely, Field Senior VP for Allstate Insurance Company, Tiffany Carr, President/CEO of FCADV, Speaker Pro Tempore Matt Hudson, Senator Denise Grimsley, Representative Dana Young

many forms of domestic violence,” said Bondi. “Through the programs my office supports, and initiatives like the *Changing Lives* partnership, we can help provide survivors with the tools they need to live independently while raising awareness in the local communities.”

Survivors of domestic violence and their children spent 534,369 nights in one of Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers. “These statistics are startling, yet it is programs such as the *Changing Lives* and economic justice partnerships that will ultimately help reduce this number,” said Senator Denise Grimsley. “Financial security is the number one predictor of whether or not a victim of domestic violence will successfully leave and stay free from abuse.”

In addition to *Changing Lives*, FCADV and the Allstate Foundation have expanded the successful Allstate Economic Empowerment Program, *Moving Ahead Through Financial*

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FCADV
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Allstate
Foundation

The Time is Now for Men to Stand Up Against Domestic Violence

By: Tony Dungy, Super Bowl-Winning Head Coach & National Spokesman for All Pro Dad

From video games to movies to even the nightly news, violence seems to be pervasive in our country. Sadly, many people use violence to intimidate, control and hurt others – this is not new, but it seems we are seeing it more and more with fewer consequences. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., my father and my faith have taught me that violence is never the answer. It is not how we should handle adversity in our communities, and certainly should never be tolerated in our homes.

One in four women experience domestic violence at some point in their lifetime, and it is the leading cause of injury for women ages 15-44. That means that someone you know has experienced violence by a person that is supposed to love them most. Your sister, daughter, aunt, grandmother and niece are all at risk of being a statistic. We cannot disregard these stunning statistics anymore, and we cannot wait a moment longer to do something about it.

Domestic violence is a disgrace to our country, our state and our communities. And it is a disgrace in our homes. Domestic violence flies in the face of the equality we all hold dear. Now is the time to take a stand. Now is the time to treat each woman in your life with the dignity and respect she deserves.

As men, we are a part of the solution. We cannot simply take a seat or look the other way when we see our sons, business associates or even our friends engaging in disrespectful or violent behavior toward women and girls. We are done sitting on the sidelines, and we ask you to join us.

We need strong men who are willing to step up and speak out on violence against women. Domestic violence destroys lives and we must be the men of character we say we are—ready and willing to do something about it.

As the conversation about domestic violence continues to escalate, I am eager to be a man who steps up. I want to be a man known not only for football, but also for showing dignity and respect toward all people—especially women. I want to be known as a man of integrity and character before any athletic accolades or accomplishments. Because of this desire, I am excited for All Pro Dad to partner with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) in an effort to take a stand.

Together as a team, we have put together resources and prevention tips for our sons, our daughters, and our communities. My family and I have been featured throughout these resources in hopes of encouraging

our communities to raise the bar in respect for women and girls.

We have many resources that can serve as a guide for your relationships. On our website, AllProDad.com/Stronger, there are tips on “Five Things Dads Must Teach their Sons about How to Treat Girls” and “Five Ways Dads can be a Good Example of a Great Man.” Our website, along with the FCADV website, fcadv.org, contains newsletters, videos, articles and information that can help you better understand the dynamics of domestic violence, as well as tools and resources to build strong families and healthy relationships.

These resources could provide the perfect opportunity to spark a conversation with your children. This is a conversation that could change the trajectory of their lives as well as yours. At a young age, children must be taught the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect. They must be taught that violence is never the answer to any situation, particularly inside the home. They must be taught that boys and girls may have different gifts and talents, but are equal—in your eyes and in the eyes of our society. Your kids are looking to you to set the example.

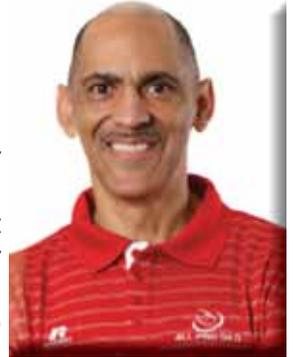
As a father of seven sons and two daughters, I understand the importance of setting an example—in our words, our deeds and our behavior. I understand the positive impact a man can have on his family and the influence a man of character can have on his community. I am calling all men to the highest level of excellence. We must be men who are excellent fathers, sons, husbands and friends. We must be excellent in our treatment of each other, so that we set an example of excellence for the coming generation.

I am here to challenge all men from every walk of life. Whether you are young, old, married or single, join me as my family and I partner with FCADV in the work to end domestic violence.

When you are faced with adversity in your life, ask the simple question “what can I do to make this better?”

It starts with saving one life, and you can make all the difference.

If you are currently experiencing or know of someone who is currently living through domestic violence, please call the 24-hour Florida Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1119.



Economic Justice Institute

In April, FCADV held this year's Economic Justice Institute in Orlando. This annual two day Institute focuses on supporting Florida's certified domestic violence centers in developing economic empowerment programming to support survivors of domestic violence in reaching their financial independence. The Institute also highlights affordable housing issues.

Financial instability is one of the largest obstacles for survivors seeking safety and one of the reasons that survivors most often give for why they stay or have returned to their abuser. Olga Trujillo kicked off the first day with a presentation titled, "Exploring the Financial Impact of Violence". Rounding out the day was a panel presentation from two of the three centers currently incorporating literacy education into their existing financial empowerment programs. ProLiteracy's Todd Evans also contributed to the discussion as a representative of the organization that provides funding for these innovative initiatives.

Day two began with a screening of part three of the film "Race: The Power of An Illusion" which discusses the impact of racism on access to housing for people of color." Kim Pentico, NNEDV's Director of Economic Justice, facilitated the discussion following the film. Ms. Trujillo offered a presentation on how to assist survivors in regaining control of their finances, and the Institute concluded with Roxy Caines, the Earned Income Credit Campaign Director for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities who shared, "Boosting Financial Empowerment through Tax Credits."

2015 Youth Summit #iStandSummit

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence partnered with Harbor House of Central Florida for the 2015 #iStandSummit that brought together 150 youth and adults to promote healthy relationships and alternatives to violence. Participants of all ages took part in a full day of speakers and workshops designed to encourage attendees to make healthy relationship choices and to provide practical skills that can be used to stop teen dating violence before it occurs.

The #iStandSummit included informational workshops such as: speaking to youth about equality in relationships, the role of technology, and dating rights and responsibilities. Laila E. Leigh, JD from Break the Cycle, served as the keynote speaker. Leigh engaged participants in an interactive session where both youth and adult participants learned about healthy relationships, upstander intervention (being more than a bystander by stopping abuse when you see it happening), technology and abuse, and violence prevention. During the



Summit, adults learned strategies to engage in meaningful conversations with youth regarding teen dating violence prevention, while youth focused on upstander intervention and how to help a friend who is being abused by a dating partner.

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Management. This program includes training specific to creating a financial plan, opening bank accounts, implementing matched savings programs, and helping survivors successfully meet their goals through micro-loans, micro enterprises or matched savings accounts provided by the participating centers.

"Training, awareness, and community engagement are all critical and will ultimately change and save lives, said Speaker Pro Tempore Matt Hudson. "The *Changing Lives* partnership encompasses each of these and has been recognized by the National Network to End Domestic Violence as a unique and model idea to engage Allstate agents with certified domestic violence centers."

Majority Leader Dana Young added, "The commitment to this partnership from both the Allstate Foundation and FCADV is significant and impactful. I've seen firsthand the difference that advocacy and financial empowerment

can make in the life of a domestic violence survivor. As the project grows and expands to additional areas in the state, many more survivors will reap the benefits of this important partnership."

"The FCADV and Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers are extremely proud to work with our outstanding Allstate Foundation and Allstate agent partners," said Carr. "We are also grateful to our elected officials who demonstrate their commitment to domestic violence survivors through their public actions and advocacy."

***About #SpringCleaning4DV:** For further information about specific certified domestic violence centers and Allstate agents involved or additional information, please visit <http://fcadv.org/fcadv-allstate> or email: AllstateProject@fcadv.org.



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Florida Voice is published to inform supporters, members, interested individuals, and organizations of the activities of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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Visit us now on



FCADV is making an effort to “Go Green” in the distribution of our Florida Voice Newsletter. Please help us by visiting our website www.fcadv.org and providing your email address.

You can unlock the door to hope.

***Join FCADV as a member, sponsor or champion and make change happen!
www.fcadv.org***