



**MARYLAND NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
**35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS DINNER**

**Awards to Outstanding Community Leaders and Program Honorees**  
**and Lethality Assessment Awards**

The **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)** will celebrate 35 years of service and highlight the work of outstanding community leaders and domestic violence program providers at the **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner** on **Thursday, October 22, 2015, 6:00-9:00 pm** at **La Fontaine Bleue** in **Glen Burnie**.

Celebrating 35 years as Maryland's statewide domestic violence coalition, the MNADV will honor the work of four outstanding community leaders, recognize the contributions of seven domestic violence program honorees, and present three Lethality Assessment Awards to organizations that have demonstrated an extraordinary standard of performance during the last year.

"We are so excited to be highlighting the work of these outstanding leaders during the MNADV's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, which is also being held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month," said Michael Cohen, Executive Director of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. "It's a very special year for us to celebrate our achievements as well as the extraordinary accomplishments of special people in our state."

**MNADV ANNUAL AWARDS:** Award presentations will be made to **four outstanding community leaders**.

**Senator Susan Lee** will receive the **2015 MNADV Legislative Award** for her leadership in sponsoring and supporting successful domestic violence legislation. Additionally, her support of child custody reforms, equal pay, identity fraud, cyberstalking, and human trafficking has also benefitted domestic violence survivors as well as other women and their families in Maryland.

**Laure Ruth**, Legal Director at the Women's Law Center of Maryland, will be honored with this year's **2015 MNADV Leadership Award** for her many years of leadership and partnership with the MNADV in domestic violence legislative and public policy advocacy, advocacy for other issues which impact women and families, such as paid sick leave, oversight of the Women's Law Center's POARP and MEDOVI projects, which provide direct legal services to victims of domestic violence, and participation on numerous Baltimore and statewide committees to address the needs of domestic violence survivors.

**Cassie Offutt**, LAP crisis worker with the DOVE program at Northwest Hospital, will receive this year's **2015 Domestic Violence Service Provider Award** for her extraordinary work in assisting domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. She is always available to provide extra help for survivors and their families, including advocacy with other service providers and criminal justice personnel to provide for victims' needs. Her dedication to doing whatever is needed both serves and inspires others.

**Jim and Kathy White** of the Friendly Taxi Service are being recognized with the **2015 MNADV Community Partners Award** for their dedication to supporting domestic violence survivors in Cecil County. For six years, they and their company have provided support and assistance to these families, providing 24/7 taxi services to transport them to a variety of appointments and locations, donations of food and gifts for shelter residents, and gifts and treats for the individuals they transport. Their compassionate commitment to helping these families is an extraordinary example of how one business can positively impact the lives of domestic violence survivors and fulfills their motto of "A Free Smile with Every Ride."

**LETHALITY ASSESSMENT AWARDS:** To recognize ten years of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), the MNADV will present **three 2015 Lethality Assessment Awards**.

The **Maryland State Police** will receive the **2015 Lethality Assessment Law Enforcement Award** for the outstanding work of their 22 barracks in screening domestic violence victims, identifying those in high danger, and encouraging them to speak on the telephone to a local hotline advocate. While the Leonardtown Barrack received this award in 2012 and 2013, this year the entire agency has demonstrated a high standard of performance. As an LAP participant since 2008, the Maryland State Police have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to saving lives.

The **Life Crisis Center**, serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties on the southern Eastern Shore, will receive the **2015 Lethality Assessment Domestic Violence Program Award** for their high standard of performance in providing safety and empowerment to high danger victims, significantly exceeding the statewide average for the number of victims speaking on the hotline and going in for services, coordinating efforts with 14 different law enforcement agencies, administering screens to victims who call the hotline directly with 100% utilizing services at the Life Crisis Center, administering the LAP at temporary protective order hearings, and providing regional leadership and training on the LAP.

The **DOVE Program at Northwest Hospital** will receive the **2015 Lethality Assessment Program Hospital Award** in recognition of their high standard of performance, including administering 49% of the total screens given by participating Maryland hospitals and having an advocate work with every high danger and non-high danger victim screened, resulting in 30% of victims entering services. Additionally, they have administered victim-initiated lethality screens, continued to conduct in-home follow-up visits with the police department, and provided regional and statewide leadership and training.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM HONOREES:** **Seven domestic violence program honorees** have been nominated by their programs to receive special recognition this year:

**Dionne Jimenez**, Residential Director, HopeWorks of Howard County

**Tracey Collins**, Intake/Shelter Coordinator, TurnAround, Inc., Baltimore County

**Chelsea Bosley**, Residential Support Supervisor, Family Crisis Resource Center, Allegany County

**Sherrel Peterson**, Lead Crisis Worker, Family and Children's Services, Baltimore County

**Kelley Rainey**, Director of Domestic Violence Services, Family and Children's Services,

**Joanne Sharff**, Residential Services Director, Heartly House, Frederick County

**Cynthia Ohana**, Legal Advocate, CHANA, Baltimore City/County

**Tickets** for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner can be **purchased online or by check**. The **Early Bird Ticket Rate of \$55** is available from August 3 to September 30, 2015. The **Regular Ticket Rate is \$65** from October 1 to October 16, 2015. **No tickets will be sold after October 16, 2015** and tickets are *not available* for purchase at the door.

For more information, contact the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence at 301-429-3601, [info@mnadv.org](mailto:info@mnadv.org), or access the MNADV website at [www.mnadv.org](http://www.mnadv.org).

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. The Network accomplishes this goal by providing education, training, resources, and advocacy to advance victim safety and abuser accountability.

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