



Zonta Club of Charleston

Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*



**Summary Report  
The Fourth ZONTA Coffee  
September 23, 2010**

*Bringing community resources together in collaboration to advocate for victims  
and to raise awareness and prevent interpersonal violence in the Tri-County.*

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For information on previous Zonta Coffees go to  
[www.ZontaofCharleston.com](http://www.ZontaofCharleston.com) and click on **Zonta Coffee Reports**

## Meeting Notes September 23, 2010

### Topic: Education and Employment

Present information on three important resources in our community that provide for victims and help others avoid domestic violence through education, training and employment.

#### Presenters:

**Butch Kennedy, Project Unity**

**Peggy Smith, Palmetto Goodwill Inc.**

**Terry Chandler, Education Opportunity Center, Trident Tech**

### Welcome

The coffee began with registration and networking. Vladia Jurcova-Spencer, President of Zonta Club of Charleston, gave the opening remarks and provided information on our upcoming feature event\*. Diana Bogart, Coffee Committee Chair introduced the topic and the three speakers.

#### \*Zonta Feature Event

The Zonta Club of Charleston and Liza's Lifeline are co-hosting "Breaking the Silence Gala and Awards Dinner" January 22, 2011. Please go to [www.zontaofcharleston.com](http://www.zontaofcharleston.com) to nominate a friend or colleague who is deserving of an award because they have made a difference in a victim's life or in the community.

### Speakers

**The spotlight speaker was Butch Kennedy of Project Unity.** This is a faith-based non-profit organization that works directly with young men to reduce violence in the neighborhoods. It was started in Columbia, SC in 2006 by Bruce A. Trezevant with the idea of promoting unity among five important groups: community, clergy, law enforcement, local businesses and media. Violence statistics in Columbia have been dramatically reduced as a result of his program. Mr. Kennedy brought this concept to North Charleston in 2008. His Board of Directors consists of 25 individuals who are at-

the-ready to implement programs and events. More details can be found at [www.projectunityusa.org](http://www.projectunityusa.org). Project Unity programs such as the tutoring initiative “Reach Back”, are helping kids stay in school. Today 500,000 young people are illiterate in SC and 7,000 students dropped out of school in '08-'09. Networking with other groups such as Liza’s Lifeline and CAIVA have helped accelerate Unity’s programs and brought to the front the issue of domestic violence. On November 6, 2010 at 7:00 at the North Charleston Coliseum, the Stingrays hockey team will be wearing purple jerseys to bring attention to the issue of domestic violence. Display tables that can accommodate one or two groups are available for \$100 each. Tickets are \$15 per person. Proceeds will go to Project Unity.

**Peggy Smith of Palmetto Goodwill Inc.** was the next to present. Many people think that Goodwill is a place to bring donations or is an organization that hires the handicapped. But Goodwill is much more. To quote from their website, “Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization that serves the communities of 18 counties in the lower areas of South Carolina. By offering job training, career coaching and other employment programs and services, Goodwill helps people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work!” It provides staffing for NAICS Government Contracts. Of 500 employees, 75% do have disabilities. In addition, through **JobLink**, Goodwill works with individuals who have other barriers to work. **JobLink** provides education, computer access, computer skills, job interview skills, resume preparation, transportation and vouchers to their stores to purchase clothing. <http://www.palmettogoodwill.org/>

**Terry Chandler of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)** gave us an overview of its services. Located at Trident Tech, it is one of eight federally funded TRIO programs to help people become employed. Its services are free of charge to anyone that seeks to improve their education. EOC offers the Self Interest Inventory and helps anyone from dropouts to those years out of school. It encourages adults to become educated “because when they do better their kids do better”. EOC does not recruit for Trident Tech or any other educational facility. It can however, guide students to the best matches for their areas of interest. The office is located on the Trident Tech campus at (843) 722-5509.

## **Networking:**

Networking is an important part of the Zonta Coffees. Everyone was given an opportunity to stand up, introduce him or herself, and tell the group what they do and what they needed. Here is a sampling of what was presented:

**Doug Warner founder of Liza's Lifeline:** Provides quick emergency funds to help victims of domestic violence. They need volunteers and help selling charms. The Zonta Club of Charleston and Liza's Lifeline are co-hosting "Breaking the Silence Gala and Awards Dinner" January 22, 2011. Please go to [www.zontaofcharleston.com](http://www.zontaofcharleston.com) to nominate a friend or colleague who has made a difference in a victim's life.

**Steven Wright, Tri-County Housing Director:** Provides housing in 57 locations for 5,600 families plus 300 units of transitional housing. Units are available based on need. Call Althea Brunson at 723-5510 for more information. Mr. Wright is a board member at Florence Crittenton House and a former police officer so has a strong understanding of the impact of domestic violence on our communities.

**Mike Bogart, Exchange Club:** Provides a focus on Americana and the prevention of child abuse. Fundraisers include Wine Socials. The Exchange Clubs assist other organizations by providing funds and people support. They ask that a representative from a petitioning organization attend one of their meetings and speak: third Wednesday of each month at Sunfire Grill. Interested speakers should contact him at [mike@firstclasscruise.com](mailto:mike@firstclasscruise.com)

**Sue Warren Victims Advocate, Mt. Pleasant:** Sue Warren, Donna German and their team focus on make sure victims are safe. They need support in the areas of education, housing, job training and affordable legal assistance. (Individuals above a certain income level do not qualify for free services but cannot afford to pay for legal help.) On October 12, 2010 they are hosting a training for victims.

**Mike DiNicola, PhD and Eugenia Felderer are with the Berkeley County School System** and were attending to learn more about how to help faculty, students and their families deal with issues of domestic and interpersonal violence.

**Kate Nyquist and Erin Huley with the Solicitor's Office and the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence** are, along with Scott Beard, managing a grant to discover where the system is failing victims. Their goal is to increase victim safety and increase perpetrator accountability. They provide an events calendar on their website for other organizations. Email Scott with detailed information about your event at <mailto:beards@scsolicitor9.org>.

**Sarah Finkelstein and the National Council of Jewish Women and CAAIV** is having a run/walk on September 25 to raise funds for their poster program. Over 45,000 anti-violence posters have been distributed statewide.

**Bob O'Connell with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy:** Provides calm care and faith-based support when there is a tragedy, death or suicide within our three counties. They are on call 24/7 with first responders. Twenty-eight agencies use their services.

**Jessica Credeur with Dee Norton Child Advocacy:** Deals with issues of child abuse including violence. They work directly with 39 community services. Jessica Credeur and Josephine Stacey are on the bi-lingual Spanish/English team as well.

**Sandy Moore Davidson, Tri-County Counseling Association:** Has a List Serve with over 1000 counselors. She can post your events and help procure vouchers for clients. It is important to note that abuse is more than physical and counseling services are important for recovery.

Many others reported on their services to assist victims and work with families to prevent interpersonal violence. Please refer to the list of attendees below.

### **Schedule of Upcoming Zonta Coffees:**

Additional coffees are scheduled for **December 9, 2010**, and **March 24, 2011**. All will be held at the North Charleston City Hall building. Topics are chosen in response to comments received from attendees.

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## **Attendees**

**Attendees:** Stephen Wright, Sandra Wigfall, Kevin Shea, Cheryl Bright, Varnessa Wallace, Catrice Smalls, Father Robert O'Connell, Dr. Lisa Robinson, Sarah Finkelstein, Nancy Elmore, Doug Warner, Butch Kennedy, Mike Bogart, Pastor Jim Weathers, Jessica Credeur, Leslie Bergen, Erin Huley, Kate Nyquist, Sandy Moore Davidson, Michael DiNicola, Mary Cartwright, Terry Chandler, Victoria Washington, Zontians included: Patricia Warner, Diana Bogart, Vladia J. Spencer, Jessica Credeur, Caraline Dinunzio, Carl and Lollie Harper

**Represented Organizations:** Berkley County School District, Cathedral of Praise, Charleston County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence, Charleston Housing Authority, Community Alliance Against Interpersonal Violence (CAAIV), City of Charleston PD, Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center, Educational Opportunity Center, Girl Let's Talk, Goodwill Industries of Lower SC, Family Services, Liza's Lifeline of SC, Mt Pleasant PD, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Project Unity USA, Tri-County Counseling Assoc., Serenity Mental Health, University Exchange Club, Zonta Club of Charleston

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