

# Tenth Annual Domestic Violence Conference

## Working Together: The Key to Ending Domestic Violence

<b>When:</b>	Friday, October 14, 2016, Registration from 8:00 am - 8:30 am, Conference from 8:30am - 4:15pm
<b>Where:</b>	Rock Bridge Church, Stage 123 Address: 123 Gordon St. Dalton, GA
<b>Cost:</b>	\$40 (\$50 as of 10/10/2016) (Please Note: Lunch is not included with registration. Lunch will be on your own.)
<b>CEUs:</b>	Forthcoming
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide information/training to professionals, community organizations, faith communities, and families in order to increase understanding, dispel myths, and assist attendees in effectively identifying/responding to domestic violence.
<b>Directions:</b>	From I-75 South take exit 333 and go east on Walnut Avenue. Turn left onto S Thornton Ave. Turn Right onto W Cuyler St. Turn Left onto S. Pentz St. Turn Right onto Gordon St.
<b>Parking:</b>	Free public parking downtown (See website for a link to maps)
<b>Lodging:</b>	Lodging: Please visit, <a href="http://www.visitdaltonga.com/dalton/comfy-beds-await-you/">http://www.visitdaltonga.com/dalton/comfy-beds-await-you/</a> , for a list of options.
<b>Schedule:</b>	
<b>8:00 - 8:30 am</b>	Registration
<b>8:30 - 8:45 am</b>	Welcome and opening remarks
<b>8:45 - 10:00 am</b>	<b>Keynote Address - Media Coverage of Domesitic Violence and Its Impact - Kit Gruelle</b>
<b>10:15 - 11:30 am</b>	Morning Breakout Sessions (choose one): A. <b>Female Perpetrators and the Cycle of Victimization - Kit Gruelle</b> B. <b>Darkness to Light: Session 1 of 2 - Mary Smith</b> C. <b>Addressing Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities - Limia Obadi</b>
<b>11:30 - 1:00 pm</b>	Break for Lunch
<b>1:00 - 1:20 pm</b>	Program
<b>1:20 - 1:30 pm</b>	Award presentations ( <b>See page four for award descriptions and nomination information.</b> ) <b>The Betty Higgins Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Award and The Jackie Williams Criminal Justice Award</b>
<b>1:30 - 2:45 pm</b>	<b>Plenary Address – Law Enforcement Training - Kit Gruelle</b>
<b>3:00 - 4:15 pm</b>	Afternoon Breakout Sessions (choose one): A. <b>The History and Impact of the Violence Against Women Act - Kit Gruelle</b> B. <b>Darkness to Light: Session 2 of 2 - Mary Smith</b> C. <b>Stalking &amp; Cyberstalking: A Victim's Voice &amp; Law Enforcement Challenges - Dr. Natalie Johnson &amp; John Edwards</b>

**REGISTER ONLINE:** <http://cfvaconference2016.eventbrite.com>

**QUESTIONS regarding registration?**

**Email:** [cfvaconference@gmail.com](mailto:cfvaconference@gmail.com)

(Please allow 2 business days for a reply)

**PAY ONLINE:** Discover, MasterCard, American Express, VISA

or

**PAY BY CHECK:** **Make check to Conasauga Family Violence Alliance. Mail to DV Conference 2016, PO Box 984, Dalton, GA 30722.**

**Note: If paying by check, you must still register online.** (Choose “show other payment options” and “pay offline” options.)

**COST:** \$40; (\$50 as of 10/10/2016) (Please Note: Lunch is not included with registration. Lunch will be on your own.)

**NO REFUNDS! However, participant substitutions are accepted by email ([cfvaconference@gmail.com](mailto:cfvaconference@gmail.com)) through 10/10/2016 for guaranteed CEU credits.**

Current college students may attend the conference free-of-charge, but online registration is required.  
Valid student ID will be required at the conference registration desk on October 14th, 2016.

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### **KIT GRUELLE**

Kit Gruelle is a survivor of domestic violence, who has worked as an advocate for battered women and their children for almost 30 years. As a renowned community educator, she has trained scores of advocates, criminal justice professionals (law enforcement, prosecutors, magistrates and judges), health care providers, clergy, legislators, educators and other allied professionals, and has guest lectured at colleges, universities, medical and law schools, schools of social work and public health, and departments of sociology, women's studies, and psychology on violence against women and children.

### **LIMIA OBADI**

Limia Obadi is the Domestic Violence Program Manager at Tapestri. She is originally from Ethiopia. Her family is from Yemen and she grew up with both middle-eastern and Ethiopian culture. She first began working with Tapestri as a volunteer in March 2009, and started working as a Legal Advocate in February 2010. Limia is very involved with the Ethiopian community in Atlanta. She has been involved in various workshops and has been providing culturally appropriate services for the immigrant and refugee population. She coordinated and organized focus groups and various media advertisements within different communities focusing on efforts to end violence against women and girls. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Public Administration. Limia is also a BIA accredited representative and helps survivors with immigration petitions such as VAWA, UVISA and Battered spouse waiver. Limia speaks Amharic, Arabic and English.



### **MARY L. SMITH, Ed.S.**

Mary L. Smith, Ed.S., retired from Dalton Public Schools as Director of Social Services and also served as a counselor and classroom teacher. Since "retirement", Mary has been employed part-time with the Family Support Council in Dalton and has both received and provided extensive training in the area of child abuse prevention, divorce and grief. She also works with the courts with high conflict divorce or custody cases and domestic violence and/or emotional abuse is sometimes a factor. Mary once served on the Domestic Violence Task Force and has provided training to local D.V. staffs and has a high level of interest in this arena.



### **DR. NATALIE JOHNSON, PhD**

Dr. Natalie Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Dalton State College in Dalton, GA. She holds a PhD and a Master of Science in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University. While she teaches a wide variety of courses, Dr. Johnson's primary research and teaching expertise and passion is in family violence and victimology, particularly intimate partner homicides, stalking, as well as the effects of child abuse on child development and life outcomes. She is also very active in teaching for study abroad programs and has previously taught in London, Madrid, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Dr. Johnson serves as President-Elect for the Board of Directors for the Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center (NWGFCC) and is actively involved in volunteering for the NWGFCC. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Conasauga Family Violence Alliance and she is also a member of the newly formed RESOLV board (Recognizing, Exposing, and Stopping Our Learned Violence). She has also assisted the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV) in conducting interviews of women who are currently incarcerated in the state of Georgia in order to learn how domestic violence may have played a role in women's convictions and sentencing.



### **OFFICER JOHN EDWARDS**

Officer John Edwards of the Dalton Police Department has been a patrol officer for 12 years and recently attained the rank of Master Patrol Officer. In 2012 he attended "Police Officer Response to Domestic Violence Incidents," a 40 hour training course that teaches law enforcement proper tactical response, investigation, evidence procedure, and courtroom preparation for domestic violence incidents. During his career, he has responded to hundreds of domestic-related calls, some of which have resulted in arrest of the primary aggressors, both male and female. For the newest officers joining the department, Officer Edwards teaches them DPD policies regarding officer response to domestic calls, and he designs scenarios in which the officer must respond to and investigate.



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### SCHEDULE and SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**8:00 - 8:30am - Registration**

**8:30am - 8:45 am - Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**8:45 - 10:00 am**

**Keynote Address: Media Coverage of Domestic Violence and Its Impact**

**- Kit Gruelle**

Media coverage often constructs a tragic narrative of domestic violence while obscuring the community inaction that allowed the violence to occur. This session will examine how the media portrays violence against women and fails to address the true nature of violence against women. We will also look at how society still uses the abuse of women as entertainment and what we can and must do to call attention to it.

**10:15 - 11:30 am**

**Morning Breakout Sessions (choose one of three):**

**A. Female Perpetrators and the Cycle of Victimization**

**- Kit Gruelle**

Often, women find themselves having to protect themselves and their children. Our criminal justice system then charges them, despite the fact that many of these cases could have been prevented if the violence being committed against her and/or the children was appropriately addressed. This session will address the problem of domestic violence victims being charged as offenders.

**B. Darkness to Light: Session 1 of 2**

**- Mary Smith**

Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children provides individuals, organizations, and communities with the tools to protect children from sexual abuse. This training teaches adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. This training increases knowledge, improves attitudes and changes child protective-behaviors for any adult who knows children. It is important for those in the service fields, legal fields, medical, faith community and any responsible adult to receive this training. Child abuse and domestic violence are often intertwined causing great trauma to the children who are affected.

**C. Addressing Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities**

**- Limia Obadi**

Immigrant communities face many of the same challenges as local communities including in cases of domestic violence. Participants will learn about Tapestri Inc, and the barriers to resources in the immigrant and refugee community. Learn about the keys to addressing domestic violence in the migrant communities and best practices to best relate to these communities.

**11:30- 1:00 pm – Lunch**

**1:00 - 1:20 pm – Program**

**1:20 - 1:30 pm – Presentation of Awards:** The Betty Higgins Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Award  
The Jackie Williams Criminal Justice Award

**1:30 - 2:45 pm -**

**Plenary Address: Law Enforcement Training**

**- Kit Gruelle**

Law Enforcement is one of the first lines of defense in Domestic Violence. This session will discuss law enforcement response and strategies to enhance those responses. The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 dedicated millions of dollars to train our criminal justice community. We'll discuss how these funds have assisted communities and how police departments have used those funds to implement training.

**3:00 - 4:15 pm**

**Afternoon Breakout Sessions (choose one of three):**

**A. The History and Impact of the Violence Against Women Act**

**- Kit Gruelle**

The battered women's movement has faced many hurdles throughout its history, from combatting stigma to fighting the "domestic problem" label. This session will take a look back at the history of the American battered

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women's movement and how it has evolved over the last 30 years. We will look at successes and examine what challenges we still face, and talk as a group about the evolution of the work in Georgia.

### B. Darkness to Light: Session 2 of 2

- Mary Smith

Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children provides individuals, organizations, and communities with the tools to protect children from sexual abuse. This training teaches adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. This training increases knowledge, improves attitudes and changes child protective-behaviors for any adult who knows children. It is important for those in the service fields, legal fields, medical, faith community and any responsible adult to receive this training. Child abuse and domestic violence are often intertwined causing great trauma to the children who are affected.

### C. Stalking & Cyberstalking: A Victim's Voice & Law Enforcement Challenges

- Dr. Natalie Johnson and John Edwards

Stalking is a hidden form of domestic abuse because it is commonly assumed it is something that is perpetrated by strangers rather than intimate partners. It is often not taken seriously and underestimated by the general population, the community, and even criminal justice professionals and is even romanticized in the media (think Twilight and There's Something About Mary). Cyberstalking is a subset of stalking and one that is becoming ever prevalent in our digital age. This session will expose stalking and cyberstalking for what it really is and the forms it takes, as well as how seriously it should be taken given the effects it has on its victims. A unique opportunity to hear from a victim of cyberstalking will also take place in this session. Finally, this session will tackle the

## NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARDS

For questions about awards or to request a nomination form, email: [cfvaconference@gmail.com](mailto:cfvaconference@gmail.com)

**Nominations are solicited for awards presented at the conference. Please consider making a nomination!**

Two awards are presented at the conference to honor community members who demonstrate excellent service to domestic violence victims or offenders in Whitfield or Murray Counties. While award recipients are not required to be residents of Whitfield or Murray County, it is important that the majority of the nominee's work is accomplished within the Whitfield/Murray judicial circuit.

**The Betty Higgins Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Award** is intended for professionals or community members who are victim advocates and who work for community awareness of domestic violence, who provide services or education, or who work to hold offenders accountable. It is named for the late Betty Higgins, former director of the Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, for her exemplary service and commitment to the field.

**The Jackie Williams Criminal Justice Award** is intended for criminal justice professionals, including but not limited to: judges, probation/parole officers, law enforcement, and District Attorney's office employees who work for community awareness of domestic violence, who provide services or education, or who work to hold offenders accountable. It is named for the late Jackie Williams of the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office who was committed to justice for all domestic violence victims in Whitfield and Murray Counties.

**Displays are Welcome**

**Register at 706.694.0956 to bring displays/brochures/cards – No charge for space!**



Georgia  
Commission on  
Family  
Violence



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