

SCAN Sets Sail at 14th Annual Toast to Hope



1: Sean* and April Hosty; Darryl* and Nirvana Dove. **2:** SCAN Founder Dave Cleary* and Ravi Chandra*. **3:** Former Alexandria Mayor Kerry Donley kicks off the Live Auction. **4:** Saurabh and Michele Raje; Ellen Siuta; Circle of Hope Member Joe* Carlin; and Michael Siuta. **5:** 2016 Cleary Award Winner Leana Katz about to accept her award from Dave Cleary and SCAN Executive Director Sonia Quiñónez. (*SCAN Board Members)

SCAN's 14th Annual Toast to Hope raised more than \$115,000 to support SCAN's child abuse prevention programs! Held on November 12th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington's Gallery, the event—where more than 200 guests celebrated their chance to "Be Anchors for Children"—included food and beverage tastings as well as live music, a Silent Auction and a Live Auction emceed by former Alexandria Mayor Kerry Donley.

During the event, SCAN presented the **2016 Cleary Award** to **Leana Katz**, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer and ardent supporter of SCAN and its work in the community. With nearly a decade of service as a CASA Volunteer, Leana has tirelessly advocated for 13 abused and neglected children across 7 families. Leana also serves on SCAN's Board Development Committee and is a founding member of SCAN's Council of Young Professionals. She and her husband Marc are founding sponsors of SCAN's popular Croquet Day event each spring.

"Leana's intimate work with at-risk children in our community motivates her generosity and leadership in strengthening our organization," said Sonia Quiñónez, SCAN's Executive Director. A mother of three, Leana has been an articulate spokesperson for the needs of children and families as well as a passionate advocate for the way SCAN's programs support parents and protect children in our local community.

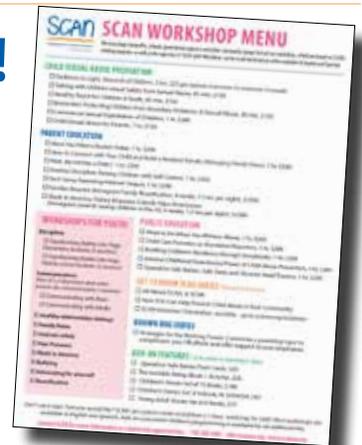
Toast to Hope was made possible by lead sponsors **Dave Cleary, Joe & Sara Carlin** and **Wells Fargo**. Dozens of other businesses and individuals provided additional sponsorships, in-kind donations, and culinary and beverage tastings including **King Street Blues, Virginia Imports, Ltd, Beltway Brewing Company** and **Tempo Restaurant**. Thank you!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- CASA Program News **PAGE 2**
- New Safe Sleep Guidelines, Darkness to Light **PAGE 3**
- Strengthening Families Parenting Classes **PAGE 4**
- Speak Up for Children Advocacy Day **PAGE 5**
- New Board, Staff Members **PAGE 6**

Schedule a SCAN Workshop in 2017!

We encourage nonprofits, schools, government agencies and community groups to host a SCAN workshop. Based on our existing programs as well as the expertise of staff, SCAN workshops can be customized and are often available in English and Spanish. How about a brown bag discussion at your workplace on balancing parenting and a job? Does your place of worship have child safety training and guidelines? Would your PTA like to discuss healthy teen relationships or dating violence? See our full list of workshops at www.scanva.org by searching "Workshops".





The Hon. Judge George Varoutsos, Hon. Judge Robin Robb, Nick Reynolds, Rachel Muth, Matthew Byrd, Kathryn Marcantel, Kendra Burlingame, Lanette Moore, Kim Echols, Jonathan Dunn, Alex Casiano, Tammie Capers, Eli Morales and CASA Program Manager, LaTeeka Turner.

Welcome New CASA Volunteers!

The Honorable Judge George Varoutsos and Judge Robin Robb administered the CASA oath to 11 new CASA volunteers on December 12, 2016 at the Arlington Juvenile Court. Each of these volunteers share the CASA program's mission to provide a voice for the most vulnerable children involved in our Juvenile Courts and Child Welfare Systems.

These motivated, multicultural and multilingual members of our community have taken on the mission of advocating for the best interest of children by promoting safe, stable and permanent environments for youth before the Courts. It was apparent during their intensive training that each of these volunteers were passionate, willing and capable of serving our Alexandria and Arlington children in providing a consistent voice on their behalf throughout the court process. Welcome Fall 2016 CASA volunteers!

Join us for a SCAN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION this year!

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 12:30 PM

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 12:00 pm

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Update on the Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program:

Dear Friends,

I hope you've picked up SCAN's new annual report and 2017 calendar. I'm very proud of the stories we've included about CASA volunteers and the children whose lives they have touched. In particular, I love the quote from a volunteer that appears with the January calendar:

"SCAN gave me the chance to be a voice for a child in my own community. It is very empowering to be a non-biased advocate for a child. I love that I get to stand up for this girl!"

Our program is just one in a national network of more than 1,000 local CASA programs, but every day I see that every voice in every one of those programs can make a difference for a child.

Last year, SCAN saw a 60% increase in the number of appointments in Arlington, a slight decrease in Alexandria, and was able to meet the shifting demand to make sure every child appointed to the program received a CASA volunteer. In total, our Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program gave a voice to 202 child victims of abuse and neglect in our community last year. Thanks to an incredible group of volunteers and dedicated staff, we are ready to do it again in 2017. If you know someone looking for a challenging, life-changing volunteer experience, I hope you will share information about the CASA

Program with them! The most vulnerable children in our community are depending on it.



LaTeeka Turner
CASA Program Manager

Update from the Public Education Program:

Dear Friends,

In preparation for our April child abuse prevention campaign, we have recently been gathering insight and thoughts on: "Parenting can be tough when..."

Some of the responses:

- ...you have children
- ...when everyone gets sick at once, including mom and dad
- ...my child's behavior frustrates me
- ...my kids need my attention and patience, but I am tired
- ...I don't have regular support from family and friends
- ...toddlers aren't able to use their words
- ...you have a drug or alcohol addiction
- ...your child has an intellectual disability
- ...no one is listening

As the mother of a 10 and 12 year old, I can personally relate to most of these. But it is not just a matter of relating to the statements. More importantly, I know I am not alone. In my position at SCAN and through public education, I can let other parents know that they are not alone. That it is okay to have realistic conversations about parenthood and that there is never one answer to solve all parenting challenges. As a society, we need to normalize parenting struggles. Focusing on "Pinterest" parents and "Facebook" proud moments can isolate parents by telling them they are "parenting" wrong. Some parents are doing the best they can with what they have.

Those should be the "proud moments" for parents and kids.

Tracy Leonard
Public Education Manager



Have you taken part in a Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children training? Would you like to?

Contact Tracy Leonard at tleonard@scanva.org.

NEW SAFE SLEEP GUIDELINES FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

"The majority of sleep-related infant deaths occur when babies are sleeping on their stomach, or with soft bedding nearby, or when bed-sharing with their mother, other caregiver or other family members," said Dr. Fern Hauck, a pediatrics researcher at the University of Virginia who serves on the AAP task force on SIDS. Approximately 3,500 infants in the U.S. die from sleep-related causes, annually.

In October, the task force released new guidelines on safe sleep. Most of what we know as safe sleep stayed the same (baby is alone, on their back, and in a crib with only a firm mattress and fitted sheet). **What's new? - the recommendation that babies should stay in their parents' room at night for a full year, but a minimum of the first 6 months.** By doing so, the AAP says this can lower the chances of a baby dying from SIDS by as much as 50%.

Encourage moms-to-be in your life to have conversations with their doctors and baby's doctor about what is safest and then support their decisions to practice safe sleep.

Child Sexual Abuse Facts (from Darkness to Light, www.d2l.org)

FACT: Child sexual abuse is far more prevalent than most people realize.

- Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences.
- About one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
- This year, there will be about 400,000 babies born in the U.S. that will become victims of child sexual abuse unless we do something to stop it.

FACT: Child sexual abuse often takes place under specific, often surprising circumstances. It is helpful to know these circumstances because it allows for the development of strategies to avoid child sexual abuse.

- 81% of child sexual abuse incidents for all ages occur in one-perpetrator/one-child circumstances.
- Most sexual abuse of children occurs in a residence, typically that of the victim or perpetrator – 84% for children under age 12, and 71% for children aged 12 to 17.
- Sexual assaults on children are most likely to occur at 8 a.m., 12 p.m. and between 3 and 4 p.m. For older children, aged 12 to 17, there is also a peak in assaults in the late evening hours.
- One in seven incidents of sexual assault perpetrated by juveniles occurs on school days in the after-school hours between 3 and 7 p.m., with a peak from 3 to 4 pm.



Parenting Classes: A FACILITATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

We can tell you all about our programs but why not hear it from the people who are there week to week working with the families? Our facilitators are an amazing group of men and women who are not only knowledgeable but passionate about what they do. Here is a first-hand account from our long time Spanish-language facilitator, Ruth Roberts:

"It is always interesting to see how a group dynamic changes over the course of a parenting series. Each group is unique in how they engage with the program and others in the group. Some are very vocal from day one while others take a little longer to share their stories. My most recent group was a quiet group but nevertheless came each week eager to learn. As the sessions progressed **parents began to feel more comfortable and open to talk about their challenges** and lessons learned.

"For example, **a father admitted that he did not realize how young people go through so many changes** during adolescence" until he began to attend the program. Understanding this and learning other skills, he says the program taught him to be more patient with his teenager.

"I also remember a case of **a mother and her son whose relationship showed lots of strain when they arrived** to take part in a program. The mother often cried when telling her story about the disagreements she had with her teenage "rebel" as she called him. After a few weeks into the program the mother said that she had put into practice several tools she learned including creating family rules with the family and implementing strategies to help build independence in her son. She shared that the communication between them had improved over the last few weeks of the program and that the quarrels and disagreements had diminished thanks to what she had learned in class.

"On graduation day the mother approached me and with great emotion told me she was very grateful to SCAN for providing parenting programs as she now felt confident in dealing with the changes her teenage son is going through.

"Parenting is tough. And being able to serve these families and see how I can somehow help alleviate the stresses they are going through as they try to connect with their children is a blessing."

Update from the Parent Education Program:

Dear Friends,

It has been a year of growth for the Parent Education program. We are excited to share the news that the Strengthening Families (10-14) parenting series will now be offered in Fairfax County thanks to the "Partnerships in Prevention Fund" grant supported by Fairfax County.

Added to SCAN's parenting series just a year ago, this curriculum has generated lots of positive feedback from our families. We are especially grateful to our partners for their support and contributions to all our parenting programs. From improving outreach efforts to enhancing programs and services, there are many ways that their support has helped improve our organization's efficacy, impact, and sustainability.

In just the first half of this fiscal year we were able to implement 7 parenting series, 4 trainings and reach a total of 102 families with the help of ten community partners!

We want to thank those who have directly impacted our parenting programs this year:

- 1st Assembly of God Church
- Arlington County Department of Human Services
- Casa Chirilagua
- Cora Kelly Elementary School
- Dream Dog Foundation
- Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE)
- First Christian Church of Alexandria
- Hammond Middle School
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
- YoKids

We hope to continue to find like-minded partners with similar goals that produce positive change for our community.

Marisol Morales
Parent Education Manager



5th Annual Advocacy Day: Speak Up for Children!

On November 18th, SCAN hosted its 5th Annual Speak Up for Children Advocacy Training, bringing together more than 40 attendees for a day of public policy education and advocacy training. Partners from **Prevent Child Abuse Virginia** and **Voices for Virginia's Children** along with a diverse group of child welfare experts and elected officials led discussions during the day-long, interactive workshop. The group discussed effective advocacy tactics at all levels; critical legislative updates; and policy priorities for the upcoming 2017 Virginia General Assembly session.

A central portion of the training focused on advocating for public policy relating to substance-exposed infants, as well as Erin's Law, which requires that all public schools implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program teaching child abuse awareness, recognition and reporting for students, parents and school personnel. The training was sponsored in part by Verizon. Volunteers from Boeing supported promotion, planning and facilitation of the event.

For tips & tools from the event, visit www.scanva.org and search "Child Advocacy"



Speakers included (left to right) Arlington Co. Supervisor Katie Cristol, Senator Barbara Favola and Alexandria School Board Member Veronica Nolan. Also, not pictured: Senator Jennifer Wexton; Johanna Schuchert, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia; Mary Beth Testa, Voices for Virginia's Children; Jesse Ellis, Fairfax County Prevention Manager, Trauma Informed Care Network; and Dr. Joshua Attridge, Medical Director – NICU, Mary Washington Hospital.



Boeing volunteers with SCAN's Tracy Leonard (left).

Boeing Volunteers Say Thank You:

*"One of the most effective tools utilized by SCAN is the chorus of voices speaking out to prevent child abuse and neglect during the annual Speak Up for Children Advocacy Training Day. During this year's event, we observed the passion and concern for children affected by abuse from the public officials and community members in attendance that day. The call to action was equally fervent, and as **Boeing's Leading Change Volunteers**, we wanted nothing more than to find ways to support SCAN in keeping the momentum going throughout the year.*

Thank you so much for the opportunity to learn about your organization and the critical services you provide to the community. This experience has been truly rewarding for each of us personally and professionally, and we look forward to continued partnership as Boeing volunteers."

Brian Burton, Dan Curran, Jennifer Morgan-An, Phaedra Staton

SCAN says thank you to our generous community:

ACPS FACE for their partnership in providing Strengthening Families parenting class series, held at **CORA KELLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** and **HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL**.

Community partners **ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY (ARHA)**, **CASA CHIRILAGUA**, **DREAM DOG FOUNDATION**, **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ALEXANDRIA (SAPCA)** who help us reach more parents with parent education services.

ARLINGTON COUNTY DHS for hosting our September Allies in Prevention Coalition Meeting and for hosting SCAN facilitators at Strengthening Families trainings.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH and **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA** for providing space to host some of our Parent Education Program activities.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING ACADEMY for hosting our workshop "The Neurobiology of Trauma".

NOVA CHAPTER OF BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE and its member, Steve Stice, for their continued support of SCAN's special events including this fall's Toast to Hope. Members obtained, delivered and set up ice for beverages; made a big hit during SCAN's Live Auction and Special Appeal; and helped break down and load up at the event's conclusion. They also hosted a table at Toast to Hope sharing information about their services on behalf of vulnerable children in Northern Virginia.

OPEN DOOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH for hosting SCAN's 5th Annual Advocacy Day.

PARENT EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY AND TRAINING CENTER (PEATC) and **VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** for providing workshops to our Parent Support Groups.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES OF ALEXANDRIA for hosting a holiday shopping night to support SCAN in December.

VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH and **FAIRFAX COUNTY** for committing to fund new Strengthening Families Parenting Classes in 2017.

WELLS FARGO volunteers for providing and serving dinner at a recent parenting class.

YOKID...STRETCH YOUR LIMITS for providing yoga instruction to children while their parents attend support groups and parenting classes.



Volunteer Spotlight: Nancy Como

Nancy Como has been one of the volunteers SCAN's Parent Education Program can always count on when we need someone to watch the little ones as parents get the help they need in the ABCs of Parenting class. Nancy has been volunteering with us for 9 years. She started volunteering because she loves rocking babies and reading to children; "they always ask the interesting questions."

One of the most memorable experiences she's had volunteering with us was a few years back, during one of our Spanish-speaking classes. We had a large class of about 9 three and four year-olds. Nancy explains, "I don't like to have favorites but these were the most lovable and well-behaved kids in the world. They always enjoyed story time and were just happy kids. At the end of class, SCAN sent me a framed picture that I had taken with all the kids one evening. It is on my desk at work and after all these years, it brings back such happy memories and brightens my day."

What keeps her coming back to volunteer again and again after all these years? "The parents' faces at the end of each session. This program really has an impact and makes a difference. I think for the majority of the parents who attend, this really changes their lives and lives of their children. They want to be great parents but often don't know how and we help them achieve their goals."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The next SCAN Council of Young Professionals (CYP) meeting was originally scheduled for January 10 but we are moving the meeting date to **February 7**. The meeting will take place at the SCAN office at 7:00 PM. We'll talk about upcoming volunteer opportunities, including our signature event Croquet Day.

Know someone in their 20s-30s interested in learning more about the CYP and how it affects the growth and direction of SCAN? Send an email to cyp@scanva.org.

 Find us at @SCANofNOVA #scanCYP

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE AT SCAN AND BEYOND...

MARY KUDLESS completed 9 years of service on SCAN's Board of Directors. Mary brought extensive background in behavioral health and in managing organizations, and served on the Development Committee throughout her tenure, helping build the board's ability to plan, engage, and participate in fund development. Mary served terms as President and as Chair of the Development Committee.

CHELSEY NEY was a founding member of SCAN's Council of Young Professionals and its first President. Two years ago, she became the first CYP member to be recruited to serve on the Board of Directors. She chaired SCAN's Croquet Day Committee for the last two years and was an active participant on our Toast to Hope committee as well. While a promotion at Microsoft took Chelsey to Seattle in December, she spent the last 2 months of her service facilitating the staff's transition to new software donated by Microsoft.

MARTHA (MARTY) ABBOTT has joined SCAN's Board of Directors. The Executive Director of a national nonprofit membership organization as well as a former foreign language teacher and school district administrator in Fairfax County Public Schools, Marty brings valuable knowledge of nonprofit administration and experience within a local school system. Welcome, Marty!

LAURIE DODD and **DANIELA RICHARDSON** joined SCAN's CASA team as Case Supervisors this fall. Laurie has been a Guardian ad Litem attorney for children and parents in the child welfare system as well as an active community volunteer. Daniela brings personal experience as a child immigrant herself, strong bilingual skills and a personal commitment to a career in child welfare. We welcome them to our team and look forward to introducing them to more CASA volunteers in the coming year.

SAMANTHA HAGENOW joined SCAN's Development staff as part-time Development Associate on November 1st, just in time to assist with final Toast to Hope preparations. Samantha's experience managing volunteer call centers for university fundraising in Richmond and Houston meant she brought solid database and data management skills as well as an understanding of individual donor cultivation.

GRANT UPDATE:

Potomac Health Foundation | \$25,000
Year 2 Grant for Public Education Program's Operation Safe Babies

Fund for Children Youth & Families of the Community Foundation of National Capital Area | \$20,000 for CASA Program

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation | \$20,000
for Parent Education Program

Washington Forrest Foundation | \$20,000
for general operations to support CASA
and Operation Safe Babies programs in Arlington County

Mason Hirst Foundation | \$15,000 for CASA Program

Ivakota Association Incorporated | \$9,000 for SCAN programs

Verizon | \$2,500 for Advocacy Day 2016

Alexandria Rotary Foundation | \$1,500
for Parent Education and CASA Programs

Reception at Katz Residence



Marc and Leana Katz graciously hosted their "Cocktails for a Cause" event on behalf of SCAN and one other nonprofit organization at their McLean, Virginia home on December 2, 2016. Over 60 guests enjoyed an evening of delectable appetizers and moving talks about the benefit of SCAN to children and families in Northern Virginia. Through individual and matching donations, the event raised just over \$15,000 for SCAN's child abuse and neglect prevention programs.

Circle of Hope members give gifts of \$1,000+ that are a critical part of our funding, enabling programs to adapt and teams to collaborate for the most successful services:

John Andelin and Virginia Geoffrey
 Stan Barg
 Jim Barthmaier
 Mia and Tim Bass
 Darren and Caroline Broemmer
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 Joe and Sara Carlin
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 Jane and Nate Green
 Kelly and Alan Harbitter
 Bill and Joanne Harman
 Nick and Anna Harris
 Tom Hay and Gail Ledford
 Dennis Hensley

Tom Hirst and Magaly Mason
 Louis Hofheimer
 Jill Jermano and Steven Mielnicki
 Francine and Steven Katz
 Leana and Marc Katz
 Brooksie Koopman and Mark Eaton
 Mary and John Kudless
 Grace and Dave Lawson
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 Shirl Mammarella and Tom Tuck
 Charles and Ysabel McAleer
 Kevin Monroe
 Lori and Nigel Morris
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 Mary Phelps and Randy Taussig
 Ellen and Patrick Pinschmidt
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Save the date & join in on the fun!
June 3, 2017 12:00 - 3:30 pm Alexandria, VA
 REGISTER A CROQUET TEAM - PLAY LAWN GAMES - WIN PRIZES
 ENJOY FOOD & DRINKS - VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENT!

Learn more (and sign up!) at www.scanva.org/croquet

SCAN IS PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED WITH:



Visit us online at www.scanva.org



Building hope for children & families
 in Northern Virginia
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