

Welcome

to the 10th Annual
Women Against Violence (WAV)
Luncheon



Featuring:
**April
Hernandez
Castillo**

Actress, Author,
& Survivor

Presented by:



WOMEN
AGAINST
VIOLENCE



OCTOBER 11, 2024
WESTIN VIRGINIA BEACH
TOWN CENTER

Welcome

Dear Friends,

The act of storytelling is uniquely human. We use it to pass down personal experiences, historical events, and our different cultures from one generation to the next. But storytelling does more than relay information. It can be a powerful tool. When survivors of domestic violence share their story, it inspires others to take an active role in the solution. It shines a light on a subject many would rather not look at. Speaking up can break down barriers and unlock doors previously shut off from the truth. Survivor stories make a difference.

Women Against Violence (WAV) recognizes this and shares stories of strength and hope each year at this luncheon. This year, the 10th annual, is no different. April's story is one of resilience, and we thank her for sharing it.

WAV's impact goes beyond this luncheon. Throughout the year, we also support Samaritan House's outreach and education efforts in the community through financial support and volunteer assistance. Since its inception, the WAV Luncheon has raised over \$407,000, largely thanks to many individuals here today. This past year alone, WAV's generosity has helped Samaritan House educate over 1,700 youth to build healthy relationships through storytelling, interactive workshops, and education.

We couldn't do any of this without your continued support.

With sincere appreciation,

Sarah Castleberry

Sarah Castleberry
WAV Founder
WAV Luncheon Chairperson
The GBS Group

Trish Coffey

Trish Coffey
WAV President
Peoples Mortgage

Event Program

- 11:30 a.m. Check-in & Networking
- 11:45 a.m. Welcome & Lunch, Kristen Crowley, Host
- 12:10 p.m. Message from Robin Gauthier,
Executive Director
- 12:15 p.m. Trish Coffey, WAV President
- 12:20 p.m. Sarah Castleberry, WAV
Founder, WAV Luncheon Chair
- 12:30 p.m. Presentation of Brooke Briggs
Community Impact Awards
- 12:40 p.m. Keynote Speaker, April Hernandez Castillo
- 1:10 p.m. Success Story
- 1:15 p.m. Shining the Light
- 1:30 p.m. Meet & Greet with April Hernandez Castillo

Kristen Crowley, Host



Kristen Crowley is a long-time supporter of Samaritan House which started during her time as a news anchor at WTKR News Channel 3. After 12 years on-air telling stories, she is now the owner of reFRAME Your Brand, a boutique brand agency, where she can help others grow their brand image online and write their own stories of success.

Kristen is proud to also be a WAV member and bring awareness to the needs here in the Hampton Roads area and beyond. As a military wife and mother of two, she understands the importance of community and support. It takes a village, she says, and that is why we are all here today.

April Hernandez Castillo

Keynote Speaker



Best known for her riveting performance as “Eva” in the hit movie, *Freedom Writers*, starring alongside Hilary Swank, April Hernandez Castillo was living the Hollywood dream. She starred on tv shows such as *Person of Interest*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Dexter*, and *New Amsterdam* to name a few. However, behind the glitz and glamor was a woman dealing secretly with a traumatic past.

April’s inspirational story of resilience, overcoming adversity, and choosing to move forward no matter what happens in life is a message that resonates with audiences across the globe. In her keynote titled *Moving Forward*, April intimately describes how she was able to take all her tragedies and turn them into triumphs by choosing to never give up. From growing up in the tough streets of the Bronx during the Crack Epidemic Era, to being in an abusive relationship as a teenager, to almost taking her own life, April truly understands what it feels like when the odds are up against you.

“My life dramatically changed when I made two critical decisions during my abuse. I made a choice to leave and I made a choice to live.”

Understanding her platform as an actor and speaker has allowed April to grace an array of audiences. Her message has reached thousands of students and conferences nationwide and internationally. April is also an author and has released her memoir, *Embracing Me*.



We stand with survivors of violence and abuse.

We are honored to sponsor the 10th Annual Women Against Violence Luncheon, and to support Samaritan House in their mission to help individuals and families break free from domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and homelessness.

TheGBSGroup.us



DRAGAS COMPANIES

Dragas Companies proudly supports Samaritan House and the Women Against Violence (WAV) Luncheon.

www.dragas.com

Brooke Briggs

Community Impact Award



Brooke Briggs was the Major Gifts Officer at Samaritan House and was instrumental in the creation of the WAV Luncheon and many other successful fundraising efforts.

Brooke's sincere desire to help the community around her was an inspiration to those who knew her and was a 'friend to all.'

Brooke suffered from a heart condition that resulted in her being the 300th heart transplant recipient at Sentara Heart Hospital in May 2010. Brooke went on to live with a renewed sense of compassion and service until she sadly experienced heart complications that took her life on August 31, 2016. Samaritan House wishes to honor Brooke and continue her legacy with the Brooke Briggs Community Impact Award, that recognizes individuals each year for their significant contributions to the Samaritan House mission.

WAV Luncheon

Planning Committee

Sarah Castleberry – WAV Founder
and WAV Luncheon Chairperson

Trish Coffey – WAV President

Kimberly Vap – Membership Committee Chair

Members

Emily Ansell - Nancy Beckman - Sabrina Joss

Alex Olague - Mary Taetsch-Whitney

2024 Awardees



Kaylie Martin

Kaylie was invited by a longtime Samaritan House supporter to develop a fundraising tennis tournament. In 2014 she began working with Brooke Briggs on what became Serve Love Heal. This led to 6 years of service on the Governing Board, but mostly exposure to just about every aspect of volunteer connection to the agency. Kaylie has worked tables at art fairs,

cleaned toilets in shelters, posted our messages on social media, hosted viewing events and wine tastings, recruited other supporters, packed move-in kits for clients gaining permanent housing, held candles at vigils, and sold drinks at a Bayou festival. And every time, she says, she has learned more about the importance of the agency, its incredibly dedicated staff, and the value of engagement.

Michelle Goodove

Michelle has dedicated much of her life to public service and community involvement. After a successful career in the cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk, she retired in 1999 to focus on raising her two daughters. Her extensive volunteer work includes nearly two decades on the PTA board and roles as a room mom, dance mom, soccer mom, basketball mom, and swim team representative. Michelle's passion for advocacy led her to become a Court Appointed



Special Advocate (CASA) and currently serves as a Docent with the Virginia Beach Court System. Since March 2023, she has also been actively working in the Donations Department at Samaritan House and helping to organize events such as the Step into the Light Gala.

The Dragas Companies

The Dragas Companies' efforts are driven by a profound question: How can we enhance the lives of our fellow citizens in Hampton Roads and pave a brighter path for the generations to come?

The answer is what guides them, and the journey starts with a resolute step. For many years, The Dragas Companies has supported Samaritan House and its mission through financial support of their programs and employee volunteerism.

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Ginger & Jim Dietz

Grace Orsini

Kaylie Martin

Kim Vap

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Peoples Mortgage

Pinnacle Group

Robin Gauthier

SimVentions

Strategic Solutions by Tricia

Susan, Clinton, and Laura Fulcher

TowneBank

Trish Coffey

Women Against Violence

Women Against Violence (WAV) is a group of professional women dedicated to providing both the financial support and network to enable Samaritan House to succeed



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and raise awareness of services the organization provides. Members of WAV lead the charge and help Samaritan House foster personal safety, growth and self-sufficiency in adults and children through freedom from sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking and homelessness. The WAV mission is to raise awareness and involvement to create a safer, stronger community.

Membership Levels:

- Active Member: \$1,000 annually (\$85/month)
- Young Professional: \$500 annually (\$45/month)

Annual Involvement:

- WAV Luncheon
- Educational & Training Activities
- Volunteer Day & Item Drives
- Networking & Social Events
- Recognition on website
- Promotional Opportunities



WAV leadership and Development Team members pose with Jazime Smith at the 2023 WAV Luncheon

Partnership

Opportunities

Corporate Sponsorship

Monetary donations provide crucial financial support for our overall mission or can be directed toward a specific program or event.

Foundation Support

If your company has a foundation that aligns with Samaritan House's mission we would welcome the opportunity to submit a grant proposal.

Consumer Donations

Retailers may offer their customers an opportunity to add a contribution to Samaritan House at their point of purchase.

Workplace Giving & Matching Gifts

When employee groups give to Samaritan House through giving programs, it boosts morale and fosters teamwork.

Pro-Bono Services

Professionals that donate skill-based services help us meet specific administrative and program needs.

Workplace Education

Domestic violence and human trafficking impacts thousands of women and men and can adversely affect a company's performance. Samaritan House offers unique training and educational programs to help keep employees safe.

Contact Kate Celius at (757) 323-6164 or via email at katec@samaritanhouseva.org to learn about how you or your company can partner with Samaritan House.

Impact

You make the difference

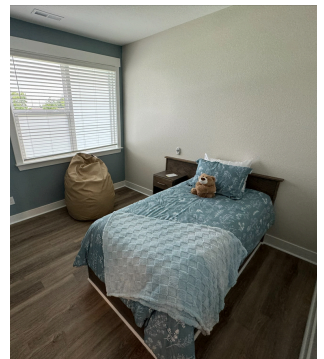
With proceeds from last year's WAV luncheon:

- Samaritan House was able to assist an additional 36 families in emergency shelter.
- Our victim advocates assisted an additional 126 clients with safety planning and navigating the court system.
- 67 new families found their permanent home.
- 45 families enjoyed a holiday meal and gifts under their tree.

The Hallow

Shelter for trafficked youth

Samaritan House recognized a need for an extended stay, licensed, and secure residential facility in Hampton Roads, and began a capital campaign in 2020 to build "The Hallow." Ground was broken in January 2022 for the group home in Virginia Beach that can house up to eight girls, from ages 11-17 where Samaritan House will provide supervision, care, and a wide variety of programs to help them heal.





YOU BELIEVE



We're at our best
when we're caring for
one another.

WE AGREE



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OCTOBER 17, 2024
TO BENEFIT
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TAKE A STAND AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SCAN FOR LIST OF
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