

White Ribbon Day at 4Cs on March 21

Posted Feb 28, 2019 at 3:57 PM

Updated Feb 28, 2019 at 3:57 PM

Independence House, Inc. is Cape Cod's leading resource, counseling and advocacy center to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence. The agency began with just a few women and a telephone in 1979, assisting women facing domestic violence. It expanded in 1981 to include a rape crisis center. Independence House now supports all demographics across Barnstable County who have been impacted by these forms of abuse.

In addition to a 40th anniversary, the agency is celebrating the 20th anniversary of Lysetta Hurge-Putnam as executive director. Lysetta and her team to offer critical response programs and services that assist all gender identities, races, sexual orientations, abilities and cultures. She has guided the agency's growth over the past two decades, collaborating with essential partners and offering resources that assist, on average, over 9,000 Cape Codders impacted by domestic and sexual violence annually.



Lysetta Hurge-Putnam is celebrating 20 years as executive director of Independence House. [COURTESY PHOTO]

A year-long series of events hopes to bring together groups of all ages and cultures. The first event just wrapped up during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February. The event reached out to high school students with a virtual contest, testing their knowledge about teen dating violence and healthy relationships.

On March 21, Independence House will collaborate with the Yarmouth Police Department and Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office to co-host Cape Cod White Ribbon Day. This national event, now in its 12th year in Massachusetts and 7th year on Cape Cod, encourages men to be part of the solution to ending violence against women. White Ribbon Day will take place at Cape Cod Community College on March 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Other highlights include an International Festival on the Hyannis Village Green; a luncheon with survivor and photo-journalist Patricia McLean, bringing her acclaimed photographic and audio exhibit to the community; and a visit and conversation event with Jenna Quinn of Jenna's Law, the first U.S. child sexual abuse prevention and education law. In addition, there will be a 3rd-year collaborative benefit concert with Cape Cod Synagogue; a charity open golf tournament; a lobster roll cruise; a 40-site, year-long tour of Independence House Silent Witness and Clothesline Project exhibits; a bowling event to Strike Out Domestic and Sexual Violence; and culminating with the 40th Commemorative Gala on Nov. 16. More events and a full schedule can be found at www.independencehouse.org.

Community and business members are encouraged to help Cape Cod survivors live free from domestic and sexual violence by becoming supporters or sponsor of events. Contact Donna Giberti, director of Development and Marketing, for details at donnag@indhous.net, 508-771-6507 x221.

Independence House offers free, confidential services and programs to residents of all 15 towns on Cape Cod with offices in Hyannis, Falmouth, Orleans and Provincetown. The staff engages with all Cape District and Probate Court-houses; at Cape Cod and Falmouth Hospitals to assist sexual assault victims; in nine Cape Cod High Schools facilitating prevention curriculums; and by collaborating with numerous Cape Cod agencies. The agency also operates a confidential, 24-hour hotline and emergency shelter.