



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CADA to Honor Community Allies at Annual Inspire-Hope Benefit Breakfast

(MANKATO, MN) – The Committee Against Domestic Abuse (CADA) is celebrating its 9th Annual Inspire-Hope Breakfast this year by once again recognizing several key community partners who have made a positive impact within the eight counties in which CADA provides services to families and individuals affected by domestic and sexual violence.

CADA’s Outstanding Community Ally recipient, Melissa Cornelius, has served as a Victim/Witness Coordinator for Watonwan County for ten years. In addition to providing direct services to victims of crime, she is a current member of the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) and volunteers as a sexual assault advocate with the Blue Earth County Sexual Violence Resource Center. In her role, Cornelius works closely with victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault crimes, which coincides with the work done at CADA. As an active participant in Watonwan County’s Coordinating Council and the Sexual Assault/Domestic Abuse Task Force, she is dedicated to promoting open communication and good working relationships within the local criminal justice system.

“She cares about victims’ safety, their feelings, their need to be included and have their voices heard throughout the criminal process,” said Shirley Knudson, CADA Community Advocate in Watonwan County. “Melissa’s compassionate outlook, her untiring dedication to her job, and her belief that all of us working together can and will have a positive impact on the victims that we serve.”

CADA’s Distinguished Peace Officer recipient, Jay Dulas, has served as the Waseca County Sheriff’s Deputy for the past 18 years. As a licensed police officer since 1997, Dulas previously worked as an officer for the City of Waterville and as a dispatcher and jailer for the City of Waterville after graduating from the Law Enforcement Program at Alexandria Technical College. He also serves as Lieutenant for the Waseca Fire Department, is an active volunteer in his community, and has proven to be a vital partner when it comes to serving victims of domestic violence.

“Deputy Dulas has always maintained a good working relationship with CADA advocates,” said Stacy Thompson, CADA Community Advocate in Waseca County. “He will make a point to be in contact with the advocate when there is an arrest made, as well as when he is just making a referral to CADA. When speaking with Jay about different cases, I can hear that he truly cares about the safety of victims and wants to be assured that he did everything possible to get them the assistance they might need.”

About the Committee Against Domestic Abuse (CADA), Inc.

CADA provides safety and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through community engagement, advocacy, shelter, supervised parenting time services, and therapeutic support. CADA coordinates services across eight counties in south central Minnesota to address domestic abuse, sexual assault and human trafficking through education about the violence manifested in societal norms and behaviors like teen dating violence, battering, rape, child abuse, sexual assault, and the trafficking of women and children. For more information about CADA’s services and mission, visit: www.cadaMN.org. All services may be accessed by calling the 24-hour Crisis Line at 1-800-477-0466.

If you go

What

CADA’s 9th Annual Inspire-Hope Breakfast
Old Main Village
301 S. Fifth St.
Mankato, Minn.

When

May 17, 2017
8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Registration – 7:30 a.m.

Admission

\$20 per person
Visit www.cadaMN.org for more details.

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