

# HOME MATTERS

Fall, 2016



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

This issue is dedicated to all who have suffered at the hands of a loved one.

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### Georgetown man charged with murder for Conway woman's death

WMBF News (Horry County, SC)  
By Lisa Gresci, Anchor - September 2, 2014

"A 19 Year old Georgetown man has been charged with murder in the death of 21 year old Eboni Drayton from Conway, last Friday. John Rashard Scott was arrested on Friday, August 29 and booked on one count of murder.

Police responded on Friday night in response to a criminal domestic violence call. The officer met with Scott's mother who said that her son had called her and told her that he thought he killed his girlfriend, according to the police report.

When got to the scene, Scott got out of the car with his hands behind his back and told the officer that his girlfriend was inside the house. The officer ran to the house, kicked in the front door and found a woman lying on the ground in a pool of blood with a large cut to her neck, according to the police report. There was a blood spattered axe on the other side of the living room.

Police confirmed the murder weapon was the axe found near Drayton's body. "If you are talking knives, guns, axes", yes that was it, but hands were also used. Autopsy revealed that she died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Scott told police that he and Drayton had been together for about four years, and had a three-year old daughter together but they were not married and did not live together. He had been arguing with Eboni on and off for months.

Scott said that he was supposed to pick up his daughter from Dayton on Friday night, and did so after he got a haircut. He took his daughter to the car, strapped her in, and realized he left his keys in the house. He went back in to get them and Eboni and him started to argue, he lost it, and does not know what happened after that."



**Mr. Scott was found guilty of murder and currently is serving 36 years in prison.**

No one should ever have their son, daughter, mother, father, wife, husband, niece, nephew, cousin, best friend, loved one, neighbor, headlined and broadcast on the local news like this - murdered! The impact of a crime such as this on a community can be devastating, and for the family, an everlasting nightmare.

Eboni Drayton, 21 years old, a life cut too short, was one of us. She was born and raised in Georgetown. Her aunt, Collette Drayton, GHA resident recalls that horrific day.

"It was a usual hot August evening, a basketball game going on, when I got the call. 'Your niece is dead, murdered'. I passed out. Someone had to pick me up. I kept screaming. The feeling I cannot describe, but I know darkness and gloom overwhelmed me. Eboni was like my sister."

"It has been two years and not a day goes by that I do not relive that memory. Holidays are empty. I still live with guilt, what could I have done, if I only had known. Eboni seemed happy and lived her life like nothing was wrong."

Collette wants everyone to know, "If anyone feels threatened, you need to report it. Don't be ashamed.

**"You have to be a voice."**



## The Silent Witness Story – So many suffer in silence.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking during their lifetime. South Carolina ranks No. 1 for deadly violence against women, more than twice the national average. In the past two years, 96 South Carolinians were killed by their intimate partners. As citizens of this state, we have a responsibility to take a stand against this injustice. Therefore, in 1998 our state joined with more than 40 other states in a mission “to promote peace, healing and responsibility in adult relationships.” During the 18th Annual Silent Witness ceremony, usually held every October, wooden silhouettes represent the women and men who have died due to domestic violence in SC and one represents those victims of whom we are unaware and this includes many.

The following are the **39 silent witnesses for SC in 2014, all resulting in deaths**; statistics for SC are yet to be completed for 2015. Nationwide, thirty-one percent of all mass shooting deaths in 2015 were related to domestic violence incidents which resulted in 462 dead and 1,330 injured.



Women

1 in 3 - 35.6%



Men

1 in 4 - 25%

### Aiken County

**Dakota Cook (21)** – Shot by his wife at home on April 8, 2014.

**Stephen Morris (63)** – Shot by his wife at home on September 1, 2014.

**Lacey Parker (32)** – Shot by her former live-in boyfriend at her home on March 19, 2014.

**Teresa Brant Tomac (44)** – Shot by her husband at home, he then took his own life on November 22, 2014.

### Anderson County

**Carol Rogenski (39)** – Ran over by her live-in boyfriend at a motel on July 8, 2014.

### Beaufort County

**Jeanette Chinn (80)** – Shot by her husband, who then shot and killed himself, at home on April 10, 2014.

**Rebecca Melton (55)** – Strangled by her live-in boyfriend at home on August 26, 2014.

### Berkeley County

**Tammy Flowers (36)** – Shot by her husband with her two nieces at home on June 4, 2014. The nieces survived.

**Frances Lawrence (60)** – Shot by her live-in boyfriend at home on May 23, 2014.

**William Todd (51)** – Stabbed by his girlfriend at their home on December 21, 2014.

### Charleston County

**Augustina Hernandez-Hernandez** – Stabbed by her husband on November 28, 2014. Found her body in a public area.

### Cherokee County

**Rita Pennington (59)** – Shot by her husband at home on June 21, 2014.

### Chester County

**Angie Small (41)** – Shot by her estranged husband who then shot and killed himself outside of her workplace on November 6, 2014.

### Clarendon County

**Julia Richburg (57)** – Shot by her husband at home on August 9, 2014.

### Dillon County

**Tiana Mendez (30)** – Shot with her friend by her husband, who then turned the gun on himself. All died at their home on November 15, 2014.

### Dorchester County

**Stephanie Taylor (52)** – Shot by her husband at home on December 2, 2014.

### Florence County

**Travis Francis (25)** – Shot by his live-in girlfriend at home on December 4, 2014.

### Georgetown County

**Fermiond Smith (60)** – Shot by his wife at home on August 8, 2014.

### Greenville County

**Lawrence Brass (35)** – Stabbed by his wife at home on July 19, 2014.

**Janice Hackett (42)** – Stabbed by her former live-in boyfriend at her home on March 16, 2014.

**Kimberly Sledge (51)** – Shot by her husband at home on January 29, 2014.

**Jennifer Youngblood (25)** – Stabbed by her former live-in boyfriend at her home on May 23, 2014.

### Horry County

**Eboni Drayton (21)** – Struck with an axe by the father of her child at her home on August 29, 2014.

### Lancaster County

**Quatavia Robinson (18)** – Shot by her live-in boyfriend, Keishawn McManus, at home on December 23, 2014. His whereabouts are still unknown.

### Lexington County

**Susan Wilkes (59)** – Stabbed by her husband, accompanied by her son around June 9, 2014. Her body was found in Little Mountain, SC.

### Orangeburg County

**Samuel Simmons (24)** – Stabbed by the mother of his child at her home on September 27, 2014.

### Pickens County

**Eva Haynie (51)** – Shot by her husband at their vacation home in NC, who then shot and killed himself, on November 24, 2014.

**Shane Williams (38)** – Shot by his wife's friend, who his wife paid, at home on January 26, 2014.

### Richland County

**Akawandlis Byrd (28)** – Shot along with two others, by her former live-in boyfriend at her home on September 3, 2014. The two others survived.

**Diamoney Greene (20)** – Shot by her live-in boyfriend, who then killed himself, at home on November 11, 2014.

**Kia Miller (28)** – Shot by her husband at home along with her two children before turning the gun on himself in early January 2014. Police found Mrs. Miller and her family all deceased.

**Aka Robinson (23)** – Shot by her live-in boyfriend before killing himself in a parking lot of a local business on June 13, 2014.

## Still I Rise – Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may tread me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.  
Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.  
Just like moons and like suns  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.  
Weakened by my soulful cries.  
Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin in my own backyard.  
You may shoot me with your words.  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.  
Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise?  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?  
Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my  
ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the  
hope of the slave.  
I rise, I rise, I rise.

Richland County (continued)

**Theresa Steward (51)** – Struck by a blunt force to the head by her former live-in boyfriend at her home on April 26, 2014.

Spartanburg County

**Lisa James (44)** – Shot by her husband at home, before he killed himself on November 18, 2014. He was a retired sheriff deputy.

**Mitzi Larson (42)** – Shot by her husband at home on May 17, 2014.

**Mariann O'Shields (55)** – Shot by her husband on the side of a road on April 30, 2014.

Sumter County

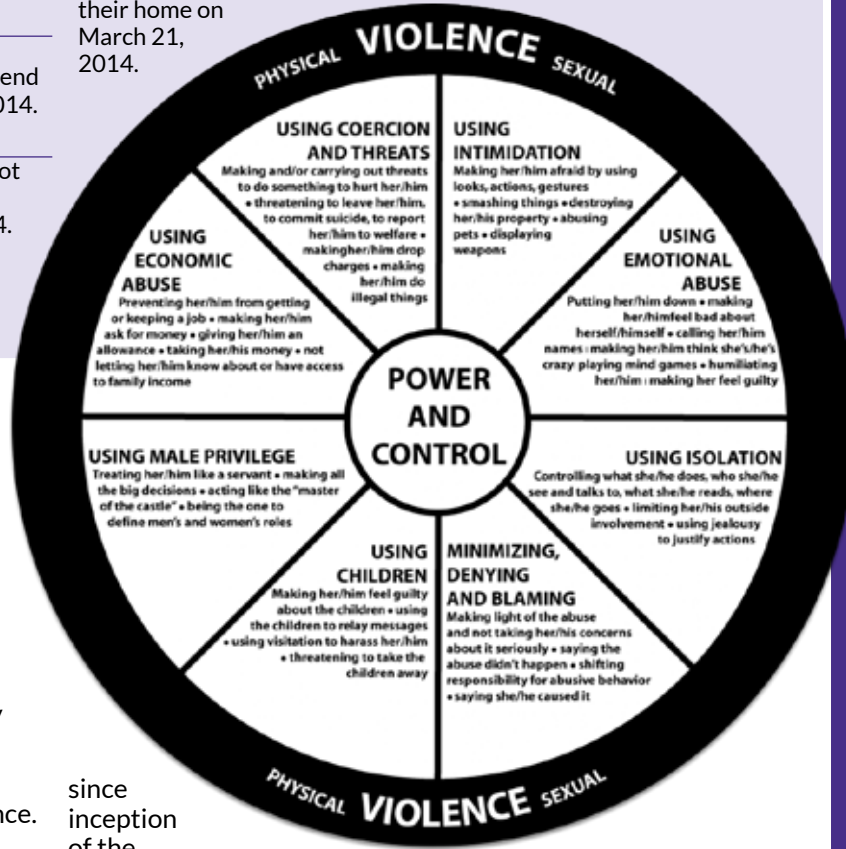
**Mallory Richardson (22)** – Stabbed by his live-in girlfriend at their home on July 26, 2014.

Williamsburg County

**Charles Burroughs (39)** – Shot by his live-in girlfriend at their home on July 11, 2014.

York County

**Barbara Gregory (71)** – Shot with her minor granddaughter, neither survived, by her husband at their home on March 21, 2014.



### From the Desk of the Executive Director, Mrs. Christina S. Woodruff, CPM

Many years ago, when I first began working at Georgetown Housing Authority (GHA), many clients began telling their stories. I quickly realized there was a severe problem with domestic violence in the community. After experiencing three domestic violence related deaths in housing, it became clear as a housing authority, we needed to do something different. Then another personal experience with a dear friend and her child made it painfully clear that it was urgent for us to address this heinous crime that was occurring in every community across the U.S.

My friend and her child died as a result of domestic violence. Unfortunately, it could never be proven that her husband did it, but there were always suspicions. You see he was a retired federal marshal who knew how to cover his tracks, making it very difficult for law enforcement to make a case.

With the blessings of the GHA Board of Commissioners and the now retired Executive Director, Anne Hartsell, we began the journey to bring full-time shelter services to the citizens of Georgetown County.

We were successful in making that dream come true. In the early days, as many as 1/3 to 1/2 of the housing authority population were victims of domestic violence. In the years

since inception of the program, hundreds of women have walked through the shelter doors and the doors of GHA and went on to have a violent free life.

Unfortunately, everyone knows someone who has experienced domestic violence.

**Our motto is "Love Should Never Hurt!"**

**If you are in need of service, you can contact the 24-Hour Crisis Toll Free Hotline at 844-208-0161. All services are free of charge. For immediate help, do not hesitate, call 911.**

**Violence is against the law.**

### Children & Parenting Baby Net

A part of South Carolina First Steps Program, BabyNet provides services for infants and toddlers birth to three years of age who have developmental delays or have conditions associated with developmental delays. Upon referral, someone from BabyNet will be meeting at the Drayton Community

Center, 1 Lincoln Street, every Wednesday. If you have concerns about your child, don't wait, call 1-877-621-0865 for an appointment.

### After School Program

Kick-off for the after school program started in August with participant sign-ups and distribution of school supplies. Children are looking forward to a fun filled year of school

activities, snacks, and completing homework. Many thanks to all local organizations for their donations.

### Summer Camp Program

The Summer Camp Program was a success! The children had a summer full of activities, such as arts and crafts, science experiments, computer exercises, and reading.

### Bike Club

The Bike Club is up and riding. If interested in participating, please call Giany Guedjo, Executive Director of Carolina Human Reinvestment, at 843-359-3143.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 11th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 20th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 27th – GHA office closed to the public

## NOVEMBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 7th-10th – Resident Advisory Board elections
- 8th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 10th – Veterans Day Observance, GHA office closed
- 11th – Veterans Day Event
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 14th-30th – Housekeeping / Pest Control Inspections
- 17th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 23rd-24th – Thanksgiving Holiday, GHA office closed

## DECEMBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 1st – Housekeeping / Pest Control Inspections
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 13th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 15th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 22nd-26th – Christmas Holiday, GHA office closed

## JANUARY

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 2nd – New Year Observance, GHA office closed
- 10th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 16th – MLK Observance Day, GHA office closed
- 19th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.

## GHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Richard Smith, Board Chair     | Mr. Kalib Moyer  |
| Mr. Tomas Langley, Vice Chair      | Ms. Betty Wilson |
| Mrs. Christina Woodruff, Secretary |                  |

## GHA MAIN OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 6 p.m.

## PHONE DIRECTORY: (843) 546-9621

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Christina S. Woodruff, Executive Director:        | ext. 227       |
| Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP1: | ext. 230       |
| Alissa Collington, Public Housing Manager - AMP2: | ext. 222       |
| Kiara Logan, HCV Coordinator:                     | ext. 223       |
| Joe Geathers, Maintenance Director:               | ext. 228       |
| Elaine Adesso, Administrative Assistant:          | ext. 224       |
| Lois Parsons, Front Desk                          | ext. 221       |
| After hours emergency work orders:                | (843) 946-0908 |
| TTY / TDD:  | (843) 461-3910 |

## Did You Know...

- GHA had the first comprehensive in-house program in a housing authority to assist victims of domestic violence in South Carolina.
- GHA was the first housing authority in the country to have a domestic violence policy as part of their lease.
- GHA has provided these services since 2002.
- GHA pays for law enforcement protection for victims that move into housing.
- GHA was/is the first and only housing authority in the state of South Carolina to provide property for the use of Domestic Violence Shelter Services.
- GHA has a trained victim's advocate on staff.
- GHA has worked hand in hand since 2002 with local agencies that provide services to victims of Domestic Violence.



## Upcoming Events

### 3rd Annual Veteran's Day Celebration

Friday, November 11th, join local veterans and GHA employees as we salute those who have served in the armed forces. Enjoy free food, games, music, entertainment, and giveaways. All GHA residents are invited.



### Resident Advisory Board Election

The week of November 7th, Resident Advisory Board Elections will take place. Notices will be sent out in your monthly rent statements.

## Learn a Skill - Community Service

Community service can not only teach you a skill, but land you a job. Ask Willette Bowman, GHA resident. Since January, Willette, has been volunteering her time as well as satisfying her Community Service requirements at the Georgetown Senior Citizens Center. Her hard work and enthusiasm have paid off. In August, she was hired as a full time employee. She loves what she is doing. Congratulations Willette!



Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 by December 1st for the next issue. You may also fax or email Elaine Adesso: (843) 527-7536 / customersvc1@gtownhousing.org. Material is subject to approval at editing.