



Crisis Center **North**

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Dora McQuaid, Renowned Poet, Activist and Speaker to Unveil Commemorative Poem at Crisis Center North's 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Sharing A Story of Strength, Hope, and Celebration

Pittsburgh, PA - November 5, 2018 Crisis Center North (CCN), a local Domestic Violence Counseling and Resource Center, announced today that renowned poet, activist, and speaker, Dora E. McQuaid, will unveil a commemorative poem at their 40th anniversary Annual Meeting on November 14th, at the DoubleTree in Cranberry, PA.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Crisis Center North; during which time, CCN has provided more than 80,000 victims of domestic violence with free, life-saving advocacy, counseling, and educational services.

McQuaid, who performs and speaks around the globe, is the author of the book, ***the scorched earth***, which documents her journey from victimization to survivorship. She serves on the Advisory Board of the award winning Paws for Empowerment Program with Crisis Center North, as a board member with two other non-profits, and as a consultant and expert witness in sexual violence legal cases.

McQuaid's works have been published widely and are used nationally as tools for training, instruction and healing. Her numerous literary and service awards include the 2003 PA Governor's Pathfinder Award and a Pushcart Prize nomination for poetry. To honor her activism

addressing domestic and sexual violence, Dora's image replaced that of convicted pedophile Jerry Sandusky in the *Inspiration* mural near Penn State.

McQuaid has been involved with CCN for almost 18 years. "My connection to CCN has evolved since my first involvement with the program in 2000. Being asked to write this original poem to commemorate the 40th anniversary is an incredible honor. During CCN's 40 years, the program has impacted the lives of over 80,000 people and created groundbreaking innovations as the needs of victims have continued to change. CCN's impact is truly immeasurable," said McQuaid.

Festivities at the Annual Meeting will include a book signing with the poet, a panel discussion with past and present CCN leaders, and the presentation of the Center's annual Northern Star Awards.

The Northern Star Awards recognize individuals and groups committed to addressing the issue of domestic violence. Awards for 2018 are: Mendes Consulting, LLC, for the Community Award for their outstanding contributions and financial guidance, not only to CCN, but many nonprofits in Pittsburgh; Sandy Faulkner for the Individual Award for her commitment to training and educating volunteers on the intricacies and responsibilities of domestic violence work; and, Jeannie Friedlander for the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 35 years of service on behalf of victims at CCN.

The Annual Meeting seeks to "commemorate the past and look towards a brighter future for victims." Attendees will enjoy free admission, light hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar to enjoy while networking and mingling. The event is open to the public.

"Reaching our 40th anniversary is a significant organizational milestone for Crisis Center North. Having an original poem by Dora McQuaid to commemorate the significance of that milestone will be breathtaking," said Grace Coleman, Executive Director of CCN.

Crisis Center North is a non-profit counseling and resource center that provides services to victims of domestic violence and their loved ones in northern and western Allegheny County via counseling, legal and medical advocacy, and economic empowerment services. Those who are struggling with domestic abuse can call the CCN Hotline at: (412) 364-5556 or 1 (866) 782-0911.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Michael Brayack at 412-364-6728, or email MBrayack@crisiscenternorth.org.