



A New Day

QUANADA's Newsletter • Voices Of Change

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Quanada Receives Grant from Charitable Foundation

In October, Quanada was chosen to receive a \$20,000 grant one of 150 awarded by a leading national anti-domestic violence organization, the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation. This gives us much-needed cash at a time of fiscal uncertainty at the state level. The problem of domestic violence isn't going away, and neither is the need for funding. Programs that help battered women and their children require a lot of resources. We're grateful that the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation is stepping up to the plate in helping us serve families in West Central Illinois. To help make sure needs are met, the foundation started by the late Mary Kay Ash is donating a total of \$3 million in grants to shelters in all 50 states.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year Quanada participates in several events to bring awareness to the issue of domestic abuse and Quanada services. This year, Quanada began the month with our annual lawn display at 2707 Maine. The placards that you see displayed in our front lawn represent the 6,500 domestic violence victims we've worked with since our inception in 1983. Quincy Mayor John Spring proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at a City Council meeting on October 6. We then invited area clergy to a Clergy Breakfast at Sprouts on October 8. On October 15, Quanada collaborated with the YWCA, The Advocacy Network for Children and the Adams County Family Violence Coordinating Council to hold a Community Walk Against Violence. This effort really focused on the scope and complexity of domestic violence by bringing together many area service providers that work with victims on a regular basis. We held a Clergy Training on October 22 at Union United Methodist Church, and our annual Project 100 occurred at 4:00 pm on the same day. It was a busy month. Join us next year at one of our many events if you can.

Holiday Generosity Brings Joy

Did you know that Quanada gives out over 100 Christmas boxes to current and past clients each and every year? These boxes are sometimes the only gifts children and adults may receive for Christmas. We are able to provide this meaningful service due to the generosity of you, the community. Each year we get donations from area churches like St.. Peters and Union United Methodist Church, as well as toy donations from the Toys for Tots program. This generosity allows many area families to experience the joy of the holidays, that so many of us take for granted. If you would like to help, you can donate new toys, new clothes, or cash directly to Quanada for this purpose. Don't hesitate to contact us for more information!

Rock Against Rape

On Friday, April 17, Backwaters will host Rock Against Rape with all proceeds benefiting Quanada. Make plans now to join us and listen to four local bands playing throughout the evening. Advanced tickets will be available. Look for more information as the event nears.

From the Executive Director

I hope this edition of A New Day finds you well. The holidays are upon us, and along with that comes the “hustle and bustle” associated with this busy season. Things have certainly been hopping at Quanada. Our domestic violence shelter has been at, or near, peak capacity for an entire year. We can house up to 21 women and children, and they can stay for up to 45 days in shelter. Extensions can even be granted after that 45 days if necessary. Historically, our shelter is full during the summer months, and then slows down some after school begins. We generally see our lowest census around the holidays, but that never occurred last year. We simply got busy two summers ago and never slowed down. In fact, we have experienced a 30% increase in clients needing shelter through the first quarter of FY09 when compared to the same quarter the previous

Why are we experiencing this change? That’s a good question, and one that I’ve asked myself many times. Other domestic violence programs in Illinois have experienced similar trends. Some say that it’s the faltering economy that is causing the increase in need. In fact, a recent Associated Press report linked increases in the use of domestic violence services directly to the economy. Quanada has also been actively and aggressively advertising services for almost a year now. That has likely played a role.

Whatever the explanation is, the reality is that this increase in need is occurring at the very time that the state of Illinois is reducing funding for many service providers like Quanada. Cut-backs in state budgets are generally absorbed by social service programs

first. This has certainly been the case in Illinois this year.

The good news is that currently, Quanada does not have to make any cuts in services due to reduced funding. A solid fiscal plan for the agency last year left us in a position to “weather this storm.” But we won’t be able to weather it forever.

Like many non-profits, Quanada has traditionally mailed out an appeal letter towards the end of the calendar year. Obviously, this is a fundraising effort, intended to catch generous donors at a time when they may be looking for a tax write off. This year, we’ve decided to blend the appeal letter process into this newsletter as a means of saving expenses. After all, the money we generate is best used to directly provide service to the populations we work with.

I ask you to please consider a contribution to Quanada this holiday season. We are in the business of helping people recover from the trauma associated with being physically and sexually victimized. But our work does not end there. Your gift helps to keep individuals and families safe, which translates into a better community for all of us.

Thank you for supporting Quanada. Happy Holidays!

Jerry Gille, Executive Director



Sturhahn Jewelers Supports Quanada

On Thursday, November 6, Sturhahn Jewelers hosted a “Toast a Good Cause!” event with the proceeds benefiting Quanada. This wonderful event gave participants the opportunity to see Sturhahn’s quality jewelry and legendary service, while benefiting Quanada at the same time. Participants that made a \$25 donation to Quanada, received a \$25 gift certificate plus a wine glass that contained a gem stone from Sturhahns. One of the wine glasses contained a stone that won a fabulous Amythest Ring designed by Philip Zahn too! Look for future Sturhahn Jewelers events that will benefit other important area programs and services.



Sarah Stegeman, Carol Sturhahn, Steve Sturhahn, Jerry Gille, and Susan Pierson

CROP Walk

What is a CROP Hunger Walk? According to the Church World Service, it is “Neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.”

Each year, area churches get together and host a CROP Walk in Quincy. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds that are raised go to a local food pantry, while the remaining funds are sent to help with international hunger. A representative from Union United Methodist Church in Quincy contacted Quanada this year to inform us that we’d receive the local portion of funds raised.

The walk occurred on October 19 at the Illinois Veterans Home, and drew more than 100 walkers. The walk brought in over \$4,000 with Quanada receiving \$1,000 of those proceeds to be used in support of food pantry services. Quanada’s food pantry was accessed by 9,372 individuals last year. This generous contribution will go a long way towards helping Quanada feed the hungry in our community. Thanks to all the coordinators and walkers with the 2008 CROP Hunger Walk!

Pictured right is Team Quanada at the 2008 CROP Walk.



Quanada receives grant from the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area

Our domestic violence shelter was originally built in 1893 as the orphanage for Woodland Home. Although it is the perfect setting for a shelter, it requires constant maintenance and upkeep to remain functional. Our main water pump that circulates hot water throughout the building recently quit working leaving us to rely on a reserve pump. If this pump were to go bad too, we'd be forced to shut the shelter down until it is fixed. Fortunately, we were able to replace the damaged pump with a \$1,305.73 grant from the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area's Paul H. and Anne B. Gardner Memorial Fund. We cannot thank them enough for their assistance with this project!

Pictured right is Bruce Johnston, Quanada Fiscal Manager receiving a check for \$1,305.73 from the Community Foundation of Quincy.



Annual Appeal

Terror and terrorist attacks dominate the news these days. Did you feel scared when you heard about the attacks on 9/11? Vulnerable? I think that was a typical reaction for most of us. Now imagine how you would feel if you were experiencing a similar terror at home on a regular basis – being controlled, dominated and abused by an intimate partner. Or how about the feeling you would have walking to your car at night after work, just months after being sexually assaulted by a stranger?

Fortunately, most of us never have to deal with feelings like these. Or do we? National statistics paint a different picture. One in three women is physically abused by an intimate partner in their lifetime, while one in four women is sexually abused. In fact, statistically, the most dangerous place for a woman to be is in her own home. She's actually more likely to be harmed in her home, than on the streets of a large city in the U.S.

The good news is that Quanada is here to help with an array of comprehensive services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. We provided services to 627 victims of domestic abuse and 178 victims of sexual assault last year alone. We also conducted prevention education presentations to 7,697 area youth last year, and had 9,372 individuals access our food pantry in the same year.

Quanada is unique in this community as we maintain the only domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center in the five counties we serve: Adams, Brown, Pike, Schuyler and Hancock. Our clients receive professional counseling, advocacy and casework services completely free of charge. But this doesn't even come close to highlighting all we do for the victims we serve.

Volunteer Spotlight



Sandy Fluent

My name is Sandy Fluent, and I have served on the Quanada Board for 5 years, currently as the President. We have many challenges at Quanada in continuing to provide free services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The public is all too willing to pretend these issues are not prevalent in our society, and we need to do whatever is necessary to help victims become free of abuse.

My professional life has been in Human Resources. For the past 20 years, my husband, Bob, and I have owned and operated the franchise territories of Adecco Employment Services in West Central Illinois. We retired a year ago, and enjoy activities with Quanada, Network Knowledge, St. John's Anglican Church and traveling. We particularly enjoy beach vacations with our children and granddaughters.

Maria Elena Castiglione

Hello! I am Maria Elena Castiglione and I am a Domestic Violence Counselor and the Transitional Housing Advocate with Quanada. I facilitate group, individual, and family counseling sessions. I am originally from California, but have been living in the Midwest for almost 7 years. I did my undergraduate education at Quincy University and my masters at Western Illinois University. I am going on 8 months of working at Quanada and thoroughly enjoy the joys and challenges that arise in my daily work.



Now imagine what it would be like if programs like Quanada didn't exist. Where would victims go to get services? How would they ever escape an abusive relationship? How would they keep themselves and their children safe? How many of them would be killed as a result of a lack of options? How many children would grow up thinking violence in the home is normal?

Unfortunately, the need for Quanada services continues to increase at a time when the state of Illinois is reducing funding for those services due to a challenging fiscal environment. But you can help. Your contribution, no matter what size it may be, can make all the difference in providing service to victims, while helping them remain safe. When you help families provide for their safety, you positively impact the entire community.

Thank you for considering a donation to Quanada this holiday season!

Quanada Domestic Violence Program Announces Used Cell Phone Collection Drive – “Cell Phones for Hope”

On November 17, Quanada kicked off our used cell phone collection drive at First Choice Physical Therapy. Quanada collects used cell phones and ships them to a company in Florida for recycling and refurbishment purposes. Proceeds from the collection benefit the agency. Donating a used, unwanted cell phone allows community members a way to donate to an important cause without

reaching into their wallets to do so. Quanada wishes to thank the many area businesses that have agreed to be collection sites for this phone drive: A Cut Above, Adams Electric Coop, Blessing Hospital, First Choice Physical Therapy, Gem City Gymnastics, Madison Park Christian Church, Simmetry, TNT Harley Davidson, Vatterott College and Wal-mart.

Grandview Baptist Church Food Drive Benefits Quanada



In November, youth at the Grandview Baptist Church conducted a food drive to fill Quanada’s food pantry. Their goal was to collect 1000 pounds of food. Their efforts paid off better than they imagined as they ultimately collected 2000 pounds of food for Quanada. In addition to the food, the group collected several bags of diapers which are always needed and in short supply around the shelter.

Pictured left is Jerry Gille, Quanada Executive Director and Brian Hutchinson, Grandview Baptist Church Youth Minister standing next to a truck containing some of the food collected by youth at the church.

From QUANADA, Quincy Area Network Against Domestic Abuse

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