



February Newsletter

Black History Month



February is Black History Month. A month to honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout history.

EAC Network is paying tribute to the valiant women and men who through their actions, dedication, and courage shaped the trajectory of this country.

While we proudly serve all, we want to take time to salute all black women and men whom we empower, assist, and care for through our different programs.

Newsletter Highlights

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

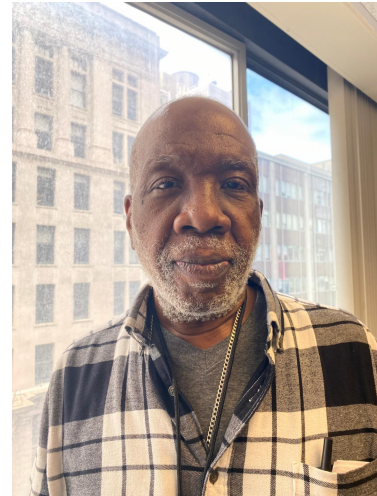
OPTIMISM

HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
CONFERENCE

IDENTIFYING CHILD
ABUSE TRAINING

COHALAN CARES
FOR KIDS

**Help support our
programs!**



At EAC Network we ensure that all are equally served through our five pillars which are: Children and Youth Services, Family and Community Services, Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Services, Senior and Nutrition Services, and Vocational Services.

We invite you to see a few faces among the African American population that we empower, assist, and care for on a daily basis.

The different success stories of our clients are a testimony of the hard work that we put in making sure that all of those that we serve have a fair chance in life.

Optimism





Optimism is defined as "hopefulness and confidence about the future or the successful outcome of something."

In this challenging world that we live in, at EAC we are hopeful for a better society. We work hard to help our clients overcome life's obstacles. We are confident that through our different programs and diligent services, all of our clients, from children to seniors, will get the chance they deserve.

The hard work and dedication of all at EAC to serve our 65,000-plus clients are done with optimism. We know that you share such optimism, and that's why we can count on your support so we can continue to strengthen our communities on Long Island, New York City, and Rockland County.

Human Trafficking Conference



EAC STAFF. From left to right: Davaun Monteith, Tais Juarez, Liz Wilk, Jacqueline Romero, Nathalie Marino, Stephanie Muller, Andrea Ramos-Topper, Keryn Lemp, Paige Clements



Dawn Lazarus, Suffolk County Department of Social Services Bureau Director



Detective James Johnson, Suffolk County Human Trafficking Unit and FBI Long Island Human Trafficking Task Force

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. [EAC Network's Safe Harbour program](#) organized a public conference on January 25, 2023, at the Suffolk County Bar Association to raise awareness.

Many experts educated a large audience about the resources available to protect children of Suffolk County from human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Among the panelists were the EAC Network Safe Harbor program staff, Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, and Child Protective Services. Safe Harbour advocates for and supports children that have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited in Suffolk County. Our goal is to provide the education, skills, and support needed for these children to lead safe and meaningful lives.

Identifying Child Abuse



*Neela Mukherjee Lockel,
EAC Network's President and CEO*



Dr. Gillian Hopgood, board-certified Child Abuse Pediatrician at Stony Brook Children's Hospital and the Medical Director of the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center.



Law Enforcement Officers from East Hampton Town, Southampton Town, East Hampton Village, Riverhead and Southold Police Departments and *Dr. Gillian Hopgood, board-certified Child Abuse Pediatrician at Stony Brook Children's Hospital and the Medical Director of the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center.*

A two-hour training on “Identifying Child Abuse” took place at [EAC's East End Child Advocacy Center \(EECAC\)](#), 940 Roanoke Avenue, Riverhead, on January 27th, 2023.

The training was organized to provide the East End law enforcement partners with comprehensive information related to the medical diagnosis of all forms of child maltreatment including child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, and neglect. The aim of this education is to enhance police investigations of child abuse and neglect and to encourage collaboration through the services offered at the Child Advocacy Center.

“EAC’s Child Advocacy Center protects children from both the short and long-term effects of trauma from sexual abuse. While providing a path towards emotional healing and recovery, we work closely with Suffolk County’s Police Department and Eastern Long Island Police Departments to coordinate forensic interviews by utilizing evidence-based practices that facilitate better outcomes when cases reach prosecution.” said Neela Mukherjee Lockel, EAC Network’s President and CEO.

The Identifying Child Abuse Training was conducted by Dr. Gillian Hopgood, board-certified Child Abuse Pediatrician at Stony Brook Children’s Hospital and the Medical Director of the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center.

“Child abuse is a generally trivialized and misunderstood societal issue that unfortunately represents a significant public health problem that can have lasting effects on children and their families,” said Dr. Gillian Hopgood. ”

Cohalan Cares for Kids



EAC Network's Annual Cohalan Cares for Kids event will take place on Thursday, March 16th at the Suffolk County Bar Association.

The Suffolk County Children's Center at Cohalan Court offers an alternative to crowded courtrooms and waiting areas and enables parents who may not be able to pay for childcare to attend to their court business.

There is no fee for families to utilize the center. EAC relies on private donations to help supplement the cost of operating the center.

Thank you for your support of this event. [Click here to register!](#)



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