

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Crisis Center North and Verizon present:

An Evening with Dora E. McQuaid: Poet. Activist. Speaker. Teacher.

PITTSBURGH: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month! Help Crisis Center North highlight DVAM with Dora E. McQuaid, their Keynote Speaker. **Crisis Center North and Verizon present An Evening with Dora E. McQuaid: Poet. Activist. Speaker. Teacher.** On Wednesday, October 28th beginning with a VIP Reception at 6 PM. The Keynote presentation will be at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to attend this event to be held at the historic Andrew Carnegie Library and Music Hall in Carnegie, PA.

Tickets for this event are available at www.crisiscenternorth.org. VIP tickets are \$75 and limited to the first 30 individuals. Doors for the VIP event open at 6 PM. This will give you an opportunity to interact with Ms. McQuaid, reserved parking, a pre-event reception and a special one of a kind gift to remember the evening. General attendance is \$50 and includes the Keynote presentation, refreshments afterward and a book signing. The doors will open at 6:45 for General admission tickets.

Dora E. McQuaid is the Keynote Speaker for Crisis Center North on Wednesday, October 28th. Dora is an award-winning poet, activist, speaker and teacher whose work embodies the intersections of arts and activism, service and empowerment.

Her unique blend of art, emotion and service has earned numerous awards and honors. Dora's activism addressing sexual and domestic violence led to her portrait replacing that of former football coach and convicted pedophile Jerry Sandusky in 2012 in the Inspirations Mural near Penn State. She was honored with a Pushcart Prize nomination for poetry in 2014, as a 2012 Remarkable Woman of Taos, New Mexico, won the 2011 New Mexico Woman Writer's Fellowship from A Room of Her Own Foundation and a 2003 Pennsylvania Governor's Pathfinder Award, among others.

Dora performs, speaks and teaches internationally, works collaboratively with a wide array of artists and activists and publishes widely. She is the author of the groundbreaking collection of poems, ***the scorched earth***, which Eve Ensler, author of ***The Vagina Monologues***, calls "...startling and visionary."

For more information about Dora, please visit www.doramcquaid.com.

This exciting presentation is underwritten by a grant from Hopeline® from Verizon. Through Hopeline, Verizon collects no-longer-used wireless phones, batteries, chargers and accessories in any condition, from any service provider and turn them into financial support for domestic violence awareness and prevention initiatives. Verizon also donates wireless phones through the HopeLine program, complete with service and data, to domestic violence shelters and non-profit organizations for use by victims and survivors.

Since 2001, HopeLine has collected more than 11.4 million phones, donated more than \$29 million in cash grants, and provided more than 190,000 phones with wireless service and data to domestic violence organizations nationwide.

For additional information please visit www.crisiscenternorth.org/events or contact Bridget at 412.364.6728 x15. Tickets are available for both VIP and general admission.

Additional Crisis Center North Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities include:

Purple River Project on Saturday, October 3rd
Hearing the Whispers and Roars, October 9th
Witch's Ball, October 29th

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About Crisis Center North:

Since 1978, Crisis Center North has provided assistance to victims of domestic violence through a variety of confidential resources and services. Each year, the Center provides free empowerment counseling and advocacy to nearly 2,000 adults, teens, and child victims of domestic violence in the northern and western communities of Allegheny County. Crisis Center North also provides nearly 20,000 community members and students with educational programming regarding the dynamics of domestic violence. The Center's services are free of charge and provided to individuals regardless of race, age, gender, disability, economic status, or sexual orientation. Please visit www.crisiscenternorth.org for more information.

Keynote Speaker Dora E. McQuaid is available for interviews:

Arrangements can be made through:

Crisis Center North by contacting Bridget Ferris at bferris@crisiscenternorth.org or 412.364.6728, ext. 15. OR

Contacting Dora directly at doramcquaid@gmail.com