



## He Loves Me...He Loves Me Not Domestic Violence Awareness

During Donna Harrelson's presentation about her years spent in domestic violence, someone knocked at the back door of Greensboro Housing Authority's Claremont Courts Community Building. Since the door is usually locked for security reasons, the knock didn't cause concern. After persistent knocking, an attendee of the *He Love Me...He Loves Me Not... 2014 Domestic Violence Awareness Program* opened the door and was confronted by a very angry man. Questions and accusations for Donna Harrelson started flying as the atmosphere in the room became very uncomfortable for everyone. "Why was she there?" "Who was the man with her?" "Why didn't he know anything about this?" As we all questioned whether this was real or just part of the program, police officers took the man away in handcuffs.

The performance was part of Transforming Souls Performing Arts Ministry which travels from city to city and state to state, educating and teaching prevention of Domestic Violence. George Galbreath, better known as G Man, was the abuser in the dramatic performance. One of George's earliest memories at age 8 was his mom being thrown out in



A domestic violence scenerio was played out for those attending the *He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not 2014 Domestic Violence Awareness Program* at Claremont Courts.

the yard by her boyfriend. He started drinking at age 10 and his life continued filled with

selfishness, violence, drugs and alcohol. He blamed it all on his mom and dad until he found himself at Moses Cone Hospital having a stroke at 43. His life was changed at that point and he now speaks on topics that he hopes will transform the lives of others.

Donalja James gave a dramatic reading of "But He Loves Me" which gave all the reasons domestic violence victims stay in abusive relationships as they try to convince others that their abusers "Really, really loves me" despite the hits, isolation and humiliation they endure. Donalja spoke from experience as she went from one abuser to another for 16 years. She has now been free of the violence for 7 years.



Officer Clements-Lyons lights candles for those lost locally to domestic violence.

Though the personal stories shared by presenters had happy endings, the Greensboro Police Officers gave a different view of the tragic ending for many domestic violence victims. Names of victims whose lives were lost were placed on the center table and candles were lit in their memory.

Motivational speaker Bettye Young Stewart of the Sebastian Health Center at NC A&T State University was also a guest speaker. Her topic was “He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not”, which was the theme of the event.

The evening, hosted by Greensboro Police Department, was designed to empower people in abusive relationships to reach out and learn about the resources available for domestic

violence victims.

Family Service of the Piedmont offers victim advocate services, including crisis intervention, victim support through legal and medical proceedings, a 24-hour crisis line, shelters for battered women and their children (Clara House & Carpenter House), a women’s domestic violence support group and a children’s treatment group. In addition, groups for male and female batterers, and individual and family counseling are also available. Call **336-387-6161** in Greensboro or **336-889-6161** in High Point to request services.

