Like many clients, Susan came to our Restraining Order Clinic because someone told her she “needed to get a restraining order.” Susan’s husband, also the father of her two children, had recently assaulted her. Susan fled to a domestic violence shelter with her children. Susan felt scared, overwhelmed, and angry. But when Susan met with a CCS attorney, she also seemed conflicted.

Susan and the CCS attorney spent significant time together exploring Susan’s goals and trepidation about pursuing a Restraining Order. Susan was adamant that she wanted the physical abuse to end. However, she also saw her husband’s abuse in the context of his mental illness. Susan desperately wanted her husband to get help, and she was reluctant to participate in the court’s adversarial system, fearing that its harshness would only undermine her husband’s ability to be successful in treatment.

...Continued on Page 2
Susan’s experience, prior to coming to the Clinic, was fraught with misinformation and bad advice. She was frustrated that “the system” wanted her to punish her husband while, through her eyes, there was no way to punish him without also punishing her children. Susan and her children moved to an emergency shelter because she was told that she didn’t have the right to stay in her home because her husband legally owned it. Susan was also misinformed when she was told that continuing to speak with her husband would jeopardize her chances of getting a restraining order.

The assault by her husband left Susan feeling she had no control over her body or her choices. As a victim seeking assistance, she felt she was being pushed through a system that didn’t consider who she was or what she wanted. Once in possession of accurate information about her rights and options, Susan and her CCS attorney formulated a plan that balanced Susan’s need for safety with her desire to help her husband get treatment.

Although it was a difficult decision, Susan untimely decided to pursue a Restraining Order. The Judge granted the Order, gave Susan and her children the right to stay in their home, ordered Susan’s husband to pay child support and the monthly mortgage payments, and ordered mental health treatment for her husband. To Susan’s great relief, she and her husband were able to maintain peaceful and productive negotiations throughout the court proceedings.

Susan’s story exemplifies that each survivor’s path must be of their own making. At CCS, we empower women by giving them the choices that will lead towards their own desired destination. ☺
‘Tis (almost) the season for our favorite holiday campaign – Bridging Hearts. Bridging Hearts partners individual and corporate donors with CCS clients and their families to provide the gifts on their holiday wish lists. Last year, your support helped us reach over 100 families with food, toys, clothes, bikes, and so much more!

Please contact Heather Wilson at hwilson@ccssd.org or at 858-272-5777 ext. 151 for more information on how you can get involved and sponsor a family this holiday season.
YEAR-END GIVING

Year End Giving is your opportunity to say, “I see what Center for Community Solutions is doing to empower families whose voices are silenced because of abuse and violence, and I want to help you keep on doing it.”

GIFTS OF CASH

We all know we can give cash and if we itemize on our tax return, we can receive a nice tax deduction. For $1,000 cash gift, you may actually receive a tax benefit of over 40% of your gift, thus allowing the charity to benefit far more that your actual cash out of pocket.

However, cash is only one way of supporting CCS.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED ASSETS?

Did you purchase or inherit stock that you have held for over one year? If you did, consider a gift of appreciated stock. You will receive a tax deduction for the full current value of the stock and avoid any capital gains tax. CCS can sell the stock and as a non-profit, get the full benefit and no capital gains tax will be paid. A win-win and extra win for the survivors we serve.

This also works for other types of appreciated assets, such as bonds, real estate, etc.

ARE YOU 70 ½ OR OLDER?

If you have IRA accounts where you are required to take minimum distributions each year, would you like to avoid the income tax due on these distributions? If you make a direct gift to CCS from your IRA, then CCS would receive the full value of the gift and you would not pay income tax on the donations.

We know you give to CCS because you support our mission and want to help. We are here to assist you in best helping us save lives and provide a path to healing for so many. Please contact Edith Glassey, Associate Executive Director at 858-272-5777 ext. 123 or eglassey@ccssd.org if you would like to discuss any of these giving strategies further.

As always, please consult a tax or estate planning professional to make sure you get the most accurate advice.

And don’t forget, providing for CCS in your estate plan is also an excellent way of providing sustainability and strength for CCS to continue its mission well into the future.