

Letter from the Managing Editor

Making a statement, taking a stand

It has been hard to miss domestic violence charges in the media this year—mostly with men reported as abusers and women as victims. According to U.S. statistics shared by **Safe Alliance**, one in four women will be affected by domestic violence at some point in their lives and, each day, three women are killed by their intimate partner.

But *this* media source gives me so many reasons for optimism this month. In every corner of our philanthropic community, I've seen men not using their strength against women, but for women—and for the community at large.

For starters, Jared Yerg and his fellow “Growers” and “FUNrazors” are revamping the mission of Movember (similar to No-Shave November), by switching the focus from men's health to this largely feminine issue of abuse (page 44). Together, the men of **Beards BeCAUSE** are “follicly fighting domestic violence.” Their efforts for their eighth fundraising campaign support Safe Alliance. (See our **Wells**

Fargo Community Spotlight on Safe Alliance services (page 23)).

Beyond the beards, I've seen a lot of men in high heels. During the **Stiletto Sprint** at SouthPark, women fighting ovarian cancer stood tall on stilettos and wore teal wigs, tutus and boas—and so did the men who support them (page 12). Dr. James Hall of **Levine Cancer Institute** and Dr. Robert Higgins of **Carolinas HealthCare System** ditched their white coats for the day, dressed in women's attire and ran a sprint with fellow physicians.

At The Fillmore Charlotte, Tom Lane of Center for Intentional Leadership swaggered in high heels across the stage during **Dress For Success Charlotte's Ultimate Power Lunch** (page 17). He motivated the audience to help outfit and equip women who need a lift along their career paths. Lane and 11 other male leaders—including Charles Bowman of Bank of America, Riley Fields of the Carolina Panthers and Tim Barber of King & Spalding—were photographed in their stilettos

for the nonprofit's Swaggerer of the Month calendar as well.

They aren't the only men in Charlotte who have been making a statement and taking a stand. Dave Cable of **TreesCharlotte** welcomed art-gallery crawlers to the **Tree Party** at Ciel Gallery to join his movement to expand our tree canopy (page 48). **Communities In Schools** Site Coordinator Cory Bennett spoke during **Lowcountry on the Green** about his vision for children and the choices they have (page 36). And artist Lyle Owerko promoted his exhibition at **Mint Museum Uptown** to show the community what boomboxes can do for culture (page 11).

Whether the men in our nonprofit niche balance gracefully in their stilettos, maintain awe-inspiring beards or simply donate an hour of volunteer time, they set a fine example of the giving spirit that *SOCIETY Charlotte* celebrates. Now it's your turn: we present to you our special **Holiday Giving Section** (pages 29-35). Shop



through our pages for ways to get involved—through **The Salvation Army's Angel Trees, Operation Homefront's** programs for military families and more—and ways to spoil yourself with snacks from Suárez Bakery (hint: chocolate chip pumpkin bread). It's that perfect time of year to treat ourselves—and our city—to something sweet.

Katie Toussaint



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