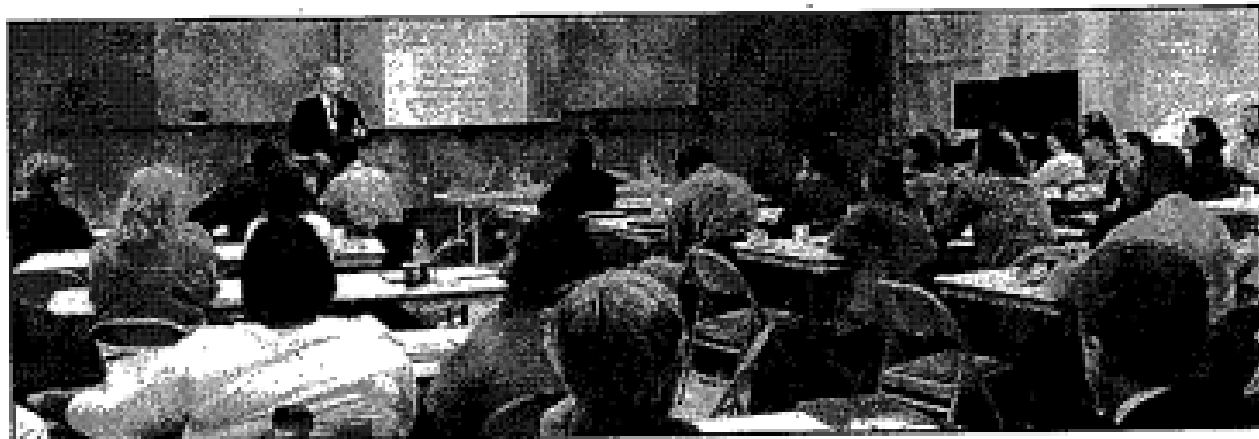


Conference promotes peace in the home

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Domestic violence conference . . .

The Coalition for Family Peace will hold its 7th annual Domestic Violence Conference 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, in Building 2 of the Central Carolina Community Campus in Pittsboro. The keynote speaker was retired detective Lt. Mark Wynn, who spent 20 years with the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, including as Lieutenant to the Domestic Violence Division and as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for 15 years.

The Coalition for Family Peace...

Conference promotes peace in the home

The Coalition for Family Peace held its 7th annual Domestic Violence Conference Friday at CCC in Pittsboro, bringing together a range of law enforcement and community groups.

The "Working Together to Keep Families Safe" conference focused on improving the community's response to domestic and sexual violence.

There was a well-attended pre-conference training for law enforcement on Thursday, Dec. 1. Mark Wynn spoke with about 30 Chatham County officers from 10:30 to 3 p.m. His two presentations were "The Dynamics of Domestic Violence for Law Enforcement: Understanding the Victim, Understanding the Batterer," and "Investigation and Evidence Collection in Domestic Violence Cases."

Friday's conference featured a keynote and two break-out

sessions by Mark Wynn, and various other trainings ranging from bullying and gang prevention to the effects of violence on brain development in children. About 70 community members from all sectors, including the health, justice and education systems, business and non-profit, and individuals attended Friday's conference.

Wynn's address was particularly effective, according to organizers.

"When Mark speaks, light bulbs go off," said Kathy Hodges, co-director of Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services and coordinator with the Coalition for Family Peace. "As a victim of domestic abuse at the hands of his stepfather, and as a 20-year member of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, he brings the perspectives of law enforcement, victim and survivor into one. His presenta-

tions focus on the hardships of the victim, and he is equally attuned to the complexity of domestic violence cases from an officer's standpoint."

The Working Together to Keep Families Safe Conference was planned by the Community Awareness and Peace Training Taskforce of the Coalition for Family Peace. The Coalition, sponsored by Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services, is Chatham County's coordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence.

Since 1982, Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) has provided services to battered women and sexual assault victims in Chatham County, N.C. FVRC assists victims and their families through services such as a 24-hour crisis intervention line, a shelter, court advocacy, support groups, counseling and education programs.