

On September 26, 2009 our Fourth Annual Man and Woman of the Year Awards Event was hosted by Crossroads Counseling Center at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. This year, the nominees consisted of two wonderful people who are continually helping to make a change in our community; Butch Langhorn and Deanna Marshall.

Both have possessed qualities of leadership and dedication, and have made outstanding contributions that deserve to be acknowledged. As individuals, they have connected themselves with similar visions and goals as those of Crossroads Counseling Center.

Butch Langhorn, Assistant to Sheriff in Suffolk County, was elected the position of Democratic Chairman in 1999. He has been served his community in various ways. After serving three years in the Army and 28 years in the Air Force, he became Chief Master Sergeant. In previous years, he has been a valued member of the Riverhead Central School Board. His experience also includes working with Congressman Michael Forbes and Congressman Tim Bishop.

Deanna Marshall, director of Suffolk County Office of Women's Services, had first been an Executive Account Manager in the banks and brokerage financial market. Her major concern is for women, and is involved with setting up informative conferences and workshops. One of her favorite ways to reach out to women is by praise dancing, and is the instructor of the Sanna Movement Praise Dance Ministry.

Along with the thoughtful speeches made by the nominees, stories, testimonies, and dances were also performed throughout the afternoon. Two women from the Sanaa Movement Praise Dance Ministry performed mime dances, one being dedicated to Deanna Marshall. The dedication was performed to the song "Still (In Control)", by Kirk Franklin, and the women ministered by dance to all who watched.

Pastor Helen Wilk, the President of Crossroads, shared a story of two sisters who were terribly abused during their younger years, first by their drunk father, then by their mother. Her account helped to explain the distortion some families experience, and the pain that lies behind them.

One young lady shared her testimony of overcoming depression with the help of a program held at CCC, called Teen Recovery. Teen Recovery, is an eight step program for teens overcoming hurts and addictions, helped to bring about the healing process needed in her life.

The afternoon program concluded with an opportunity for attendees to make a sponsorship for a counseling session for an individual or a family. Offerings of any amount were accepted, to be used towards helping those who are in need of counseling, but can't afford it. As one speaker explained; "... all someone may need is that one session to save their life."

Written by Kathleen DiMartino