



## ***CHERIE CASTELLANO, M.A., C.S.W., L.P.C., A.A.E.T.S.***

***Cherie Castellano, MA, CSW, LPC, AAETS*** is the Program Director for Cop 2 Cop, the first legislated law enforcement crisis hotline in the United States. She is a faculty member of the New Jersey Medical School Department of Psychiatry – UMDNJ where she has honed her clinical skills as an expert in law enforcement psychological services. She is also a member of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. As the Director of Cop 2 Cop, Ms. Castellano has facilitated response to over 25,000 calls from police officers in need and subverted 169 suicides. Currently she is also Director of the New Jersey Fire & EMS Lifeline and the New Jersey Veterans Helpline serving first responders and the military with the same concept partnering peers with clinicians for success. Over the last decade Cherie has “answered the call” from New Jersey police, firefighters, EMS and military heroes in need through more than 50,000 calls. The hallmark of our program’s success has been the “peer to peer” component combined with clinical professionals. The American Association of Suicidology certified Cop 2 Cop with the highest score ever awarded by that organization. Cop 2 Cop is the only law enforcement hotline in the United States accredited by the American Association of Suicidology. **The Veterans line is also certified by AAS.**

Ms. Castellano has been recognized internationally as an expert in the field of behavioral healthcare and crisis intervention for Law Enforcement Professionals. Her experience as a lecturer has included international forums such as Australia and Europe as well as prestigious national forums such as the FBI National Academy. As a member of the 9/11 New York Emergency Services Delegation for the Port Authority Police Department she traveled to Ireland, Belfast and England to share “9/11 Lessons Learned”.

Following September 11, Cherie coordinated a critical incident response to over 1,900 first responders in New York and New Jersey. Her crisis intervention services were featured in the New York Times as a “model for the nation.” Utilizing a “Rescuer Victim” concept, more than three million dollars in grant funding was awarded by the Department of Defense Appropriation Act of 2002 for 9/11 victims. In September, 2004, Attorney General Harvey appointed Ms. Castellano to provide civilian 9/11 services to 8

million New Jersey residents impacted as Director of the “For You New Jersey 9/11 Helpline” program.

Various awards include Governors Proclamations, NJ Governors Excellence Award, N.J. Attorney General Recognition Award, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation World Congress Award, Commerce Bank New Jersey Hometown Hero, Unico Woman of the Year, and the New Jersey Interfaith Coalition for the Disabled Lay Person Award for her faith based activity. Ms. Castellano was selected as one of five individuals in New Jersey “People Who Made A Difference in 2005” featured in the Star Ledger. In 2009 she received the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey “Woman of the Year” and was also awarded the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Civilian Commendation Medal.

Ms. Castellano responded to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster First Responders and was awarded FEMA funding and national media coverage for these efforts.

In December 2005, Cherie transitioned her peer model to a “Vet 2 Vet” concept serving veterans and their families throughout New Jersey to cope with the psychological impact of war. Currently she directs that program and coordinated support for over 2,400 soldiers that returned from Iraq in a “Welcome Home” Reconstitution Yellow Ribbon enhancement project. In September 2009, she expanded to facilitate the 60-Day Reintegration program for the same group of soldiers for a full day of mental health support with a focus on military resilience with over 1,400 positive survey results.

Cherie co-authored two books “Psychological Counterterrorism and World War IV” with Dr. George Everly receiving national attention and “Law Enforcement Families; The Ultimate Back-Up” with Dr. Jim Reese. Cherie has authored several book chapters and over 100 articles in the field of law enforcement and military crisis intervention and has a column in The International Association of Counterterrorism & Security Professionals magazine.

Cherie served on Governor Codey’s Mental Health Task Force and recently served on Governor Corzine’s Task Force on Police Suicide.

Cherie’s advocacy as a mother has prompted her to create a faith based group entitled “And A Child Shall Lead Us” to provide support and prayer for mothers with special needs children. In 2008 she successfully testified for legislation to be passed regarding this issue and her fundraising efforts have yielded more than \$100,000 for families struggling with disabled children and line of duty death.

On a personal note, Cherie is an expert in law enforcement families as she is married to Mark, a Detective Supervisor with the Morris County Prosecutors’ Office, has two (2) young sons Louis John and Domenick, and believes her role as a police wife is her greatest achievement.