



Women's Crisis Support ~ Defensa de Mujeres

Celebrating over 30 years of building a safer community for women and children in Santa Cruz County.



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008

18th Annual Auction-Raffle Event

Assembly Member John Laird Honored at WCS~DdM Garden Reception/Auction



Board Secretary Martina O'Sullivan

At the 18th Annual WCS~DdM Auction-Raffle Event, a Garden Reception at the Chaminade Patio, Assembly Member John Laird was honored for his many years of service to our community with a plaque featuring artwork created by children in the WCS~DdM Children and Youth Program.



Assembly Member John Laird

Later, Ari Symons took over to auction a variety of items including our traditional and best-loved auction item, the Gumbo Party, as well as stepping stones created by children at the shelter, original artwork, boat and airplane rides, tooth whitening, acupuncture sessions, a Squaw Valley getaway, magic show and music by SqueezeDaddy. Thank you to our auction donors!

The weather was wonderful and the Chaminade Patio location featured a fantastic view of the ocean. Good music, food and drinks completed the evening. Our special thanks go to Chaminade for donating the use of a beautiful venue, and SqueezeDaddy for donating the music for the event. An enjoyable time was had by all, and the event raised sorely-needed funds to continue WCS-DdM programs.



Executive Director Laura Segura Gallardo introduces WCS~DdM staff

NEW SART ROOM OPENS AT DOMINICAN HOSPITAL

WCS~DdM is grateful to Dominican Hospital for the resources they have devoted to the new exam room dedicated to the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activities, such as evidence examinations in sexual assault cases. The Team provides the victim with special support by a specially-trained nurse-examiner and a WCS~DdM advocate throughout the evidence exam and law enforcement interview.

Dominican Hospital invested \$70,000 in making the new SART room a reality, and has been a corporate sponsor of WCS~DdM for over two decades. On behalf of sexual assault survivors, we thank you!

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED FOR HARBOR PORT DISTRICT

In response to community concerns, WCS~DdM collaborated with the City of Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW) to present three Sexual Assault Prevention and Self-Defense Workshops for women and teens in the Harbor Port area. The three-hour workshops covered such topics as WCS~DdM services, especially our Sexual Assault Program, dispelling myths and providing facts about rape and sexual assault, and the recovery process for sexual assault survivors. The CPVAW presented verbal and physical self-defense techniques, where participants learned ways to keep safe and to have confidence in their own ability to protect themselves.

Workshop participants shared their feelings about the "Harbor Rape" and how it changed their lives, reminding us that the effects of sexual violence spread far beyond the victim. Participants felt that the workshops had given them the tools to overcome the fear generated by the recent incident, to continue walking around the beach, and to feel free.

WCS~DdM provides this type of educational presentation, focusing on domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and/or healthy teen relationships for schools, employers, service providers, law enforcement, health care providers and community groups. Call 722-4532 for more information.

30 Years Ago...

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights sponsors hearings with a focus on the roots of domestic violence in marriage, male domination, and women's subordinate status, legitimizing the needs of battered women as a matter of national concern.

300 Years Ago...

The "Golden Age of the Rod" is used against women and children who are taught that it is their sacred duty to obey the man of the house.

3,000 Years Ago...

Laws permit the husband to beat his wife with a rod or switch as long as its circumference is no greater than the girth of the base of the man's right thumb (the "Rule of Thumb").

Counseling Program in Need

The WCS~DdM Counseling Program is being heavily impacted by the devastating budget cuts for the new fiscal year. You can help by sponsoring counseling services for clients. Simply write "counseling" on your check or envelope, and we will earmark your donation for counseling services for domestic violence or sexual assault victims.



TALLERES DE PREVENCIÓN REFERENTE AL ASALTO SEXUAL CONDUCTIDOS EN DISTRITO DE HARBOR PORT

En respuesta a la preocupación de la comunidad, WCS~DdM en colaboración con la Comisión de Prevención de Violencia en Contra de Mujeres (CPVAW) se presentaron tres Talleres de Prevención Referente al Asalto Sexual y Defensa Personal para mujeres y jóvenes en el área de Harbor Port. Los talleres de tres horas cubrieron los temas como servicios de WCS~DdM, en específico los servicios del Programa Asalto Sexual, se desmintieron mitos y se suministro las realidades acerca de violaciones sexuales, y el proceso de recuperación para los sobrevivientes de asalto sexual. CPVAW presentó una clase de defensa personal que incluyó técnicas verbales y físicas, las participantes aprendieron maneras de estar seguras y tener confianza en sus propias habilidades para protegerse a si mismas.

Las participantes en los talleres expresaron sus inquietudes acerca del "Harbor Rape," y como eso les cambio las vidas, reafirmando de que los efectos de asalto sexual se expandieron mas allá que solo a la sobreviviente. Sintieron que los talleres les dieron herramientas para sobrepasar sus temores generados por el reciente incidente, y poder continuar caminado alrededor de la playa y sentirse libre.

WCS~DdM provee presentaciones educacionales con el enfoque en violencia domestica, asalto sexual, hostigamiento sexual, y/o noviazgos jóvenes violentos en las escuelas, empleadores, proveedores, departamento de policía, grupos médicos y grupos en la comunidad. Llame al 722-4532 para más información.

A Very Special Advocate: Josephine

One of WCS~DdM's busiest staff members, Josephine has worked for the agency for over eight years. She started working in the Santa Cruz office as an office assistant and was promoted to the Legal Program within a year. She was inspired to work for the agency because of our mission of helping women, especially working with Latinas.



Josephine was born and raised in Watsonville, and has always had an interest in improving the quality of life in our community. What she likes the most about her job is "working with clients and seeing their needs met, especially receiving favorable outcomes on restraining orders." Josie, as she is fondly called by her colleagues and clients, also values working with a good team of co-workers, law enforcement and court staff. "If it weren't for them," she says, "there wouldn't be favorable outcomes."

Josie spends most of her week providing clients with crisis counseling and assisting with them with filing restraining order applications. She also prepares clients for court hearings, and accompanies them to the hearings, which can be very intimidating for clients. "It's hard to be in front of a judge," she says knowingly. Josie finds pleasure in how her work changes lives, empowers women, and gives them confidence.

When Josie isn't working she enjoys traveling with her husband of 25 years and her four sons, as they did this summer, when they all went to Las Vegas for the first time. Her family is very close and she looks to them for strength.

WCS~DdM is very proud of Josephine and all the wonderful work she has done for women in our community!

It is better to give than to receive ...

Please help! Our clients need the following items:

- ♥ New car seats for children at the shelter (safety requirements do not allow us to accept used car seats)
- ♥ Gift cards to grocery stores for clients and children
- ♥ Bus passes for clients needing transportation to seek work or to court appearances
- ♥ Gift Cards to local book stores for the shelter library

Please call 425-4030 or 722-4532 for more information.
Donations are tax-deductible.

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Services

All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low-cost.

- 24-hour crisis line: peer counseling, advocacy, information and referrals for women, teens and children.
- 24-hour in-person hospital emergency response to domestic violence and rape survivors.
- Emergency Shelter.
- Temporary Restraining Order assistance and court accompaniment.
- Counseling for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Community Education trainings and presentations for schools, professionals and community groups.
- Neighborhood outreach.
- Workshops for families.
- Domestic Violence support groups:
 Watsonville, Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 Spanish
 Santa Cruz, Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 Spanish
 Santa Cruz, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 English

24-Hour Crisis Line 685-3737 (M-U-J-E-R-E-S)

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00
425-4030 or 722-4532

Servicios

Todos los servicios son disponibles en español e inglés, y son gratis ó a bajo costo.

- Línea de crisis las 24 horas: consejería individual, abogacía, información y referencias para mujeres, jóvenes y niños.
- Respuesta de emergencia en persona las 24 horas en hospitales para sobrevivientes de asalto sexual ó violencia doméstica.
- Refugio de emergencia.
- Asistencia con ordenes de restricción temporal, y acompañamiento a la corte.
- Consejería para sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica ó asalto sexual.
- Entrenamientos y presentaciones en escuelas, para profesionales y grupos comunitarios.
- Alcance comunitario.
- Talleres educacionales para familias.
- Grupos de apoyo para sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica:
 Watsonville, Martes 6:00-7:30 español
 Santa Cruz, Martes 6:00-7:30 español
 Santa Cruz, Miércoles 6:30-7:30 inglés.

Línea de Crisis 24 Horas 685-3737 (M-U-J-E-R-E-S)

Horario de Oficina:
Lunes-Viernes 9:00-5:00
425-4030 o 722-4532



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Crisis Line: (831) 685-3737

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