



Women's Crisis Support ~ Defensa de Mujeres

Celebrating over 31 years of building a safer community in Santa Cruz County

Winter 2008

HOLIDAY GIVING FROM THE HEART

WCS~DdM has had a close-knit group of clients at the Shelter this month, consisting of six women with twelve children. At the shelter group session, the clients informed the Shelter Manager that they preferred to cook together as a group, and then sit down together to eat. One client had a late appointment, and when she returned to the shelter, her children had been fed and there was a plate waiting for her on the table., served and wrapped.

This group was very sad when one of their number was to leave the shelter, and move on to her new life. Although happy for her success, the group dreaded the loss of her company. Also, the residents discovered that, because of a complicated childhood, she had never celebrated Christmas before. So, they requested that the shelter Christmas tree be put up early, and they held an early Christmas celebration, with a small gift for everyone, the day before she left.



This way in which clients can support, nurture and empower each other, when they themselves should, by all accounts, be so drained of resources, is truly awe-inspiring. We at WCS~DdM are proud and grateful to be a part of this giving from the heart.



WCS~DdM is supported by your contributions and the following funders: The California Department of Public Health, the California Office of Emergency Services, the County of Santa Cruz, the Cities of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Capitola and Scotts Valley, the Blue Shield of California Foundation, Verizon Wireless HopeLine Program and the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

WCS~DdM's New Corporate Sponsor Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLC

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips is one of the largest law firms in the U.S., with eight offices nationwide, and over 450 professionals specializing in over 30 practice areas. Some of these areas are pertinent to WCS~DdM needs, including employment law, tenancy and non-profit issues. Manatt attorneys have already provided trainings for WCS~DdM managers, and countless consultation hours to the agency's executive staff.

Manatt is deeply committed to public service and involvement in the community. WCS~DdM is grateful for all of the assistance they have provided us—legal consultations that would otherwise have been out of our reach. Thank you Manatt, and special thanks to John Fox, Esq., who has been tireless in his efforts on the agency's behalf.



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**Welcome to new Board Members,
Elizabeth, Anna and Rita!**

REGALAR DESDE EL CORAZÓN

En el Refugio este mes, WCS~DdM tiene un grupo de clientes muy unido, que consiste de seis mujeres y doce niños. Durante la sesión del grupo, las clientes informaron a la Manejadora del Refugio que ellas prefieren cocinar juntas, y sentarse a comer juntas. Una cliente tuvo una cita muy tarde, y cuando regreso al Refugio sus hijos ya habían comido y había un plato de comida guardado para ella en la mesa.

Este grupo se puso triste cuando una tuvo que dejar el Refugio para seguir con su nueva vida. A pesar de que están felices por sus logros, el grupo extrañara su compañía. Las residentes del Refugio descubrieron que a causa de una complicada niñez, esta cliente nunca celebró la Navidad. Entonces, se hizo la recomendación de celebrar la Navidad antes, y tener un árbol de Navidad con un pequeño regalo para todos, el día antes de que ella se fuera.

De esta manera las clientas se apoyan, cuidan y se fortalecen una a una, cuando ellas pueden hacerlo, a pesar de que están debatidas y sin recursos, es verdaderamente inspirante. Nosotras en WCS~DdM estamos orgullosas y agradecidas de ser parte de regalar desde el corazón.

¡La oficina en Santa Cruz de WCS~DdM estará en una nueva localidad!

¡Nuestro contrato ha terminado y nos estaremos moviendo del centro de Santa Cruz al final del mes! Empezando enero 1 del 2009, nuestra oficina del norte del condado estará temporalmente localizada en 2901 Avenida Park, Suite D3, Soquel.

El número de teléfono seguirá siendo el mismo, 425-4030. Nuestra mudanza no afectara nuestra línea de crisis (685-3737) ni nuestros servicios. La nueva localidad está accesible por autobús, y tiene un amplio espacio de estacionamiento.





Transformation

by Mariana España,
Children and Youth Program Manager

I met “Samuel” (not his real name) over two years ago. His mother had been attending the WCS~DdM domestic violence support groups, and had finally decided that it was safe to bring him along to the concurrent youth group.

Samuel and his mom were then living with his dad, their abuser. Samuel was so full of fear that he found it difficult to leave his mother’s side. Although he was 10 years old, he stood so low and hunched over that I at first imagined he was much younger. As his mother gently pulled herself away from him to introduce him to me, he began to cry.

Fortunately, he was the first to arrive for the children’s group, so I was able to spend some one-on-one time with him. Samuel was deathly afraid that his father would find out they had come and that things at home would get much worse. I validated his feelings, and had to admit that things could get worse, but I reassured him by letting him know that he and his mom were not alone, that they have rights, and that we were in a safe and confidential place. Samuel stayed for the children’s support group that night and met other children with similar experiences and fears.

Samuel and his mom attended group sessions for quite a while before they were ready to schedule some individual counseling sessions. When I began working individually with them, I learned how Samuel’s dad controlled every aspect of their lives. The control was so extreme that his mother had never met his teacher or been to his school because she did not have permission to do so. It was then that I began to truly understand what a feat of courage it was for them to simply show up at our office.

That was two years ago. Now, Samuel’s personality strikes me with a rich sense of humor, rather than paralyzing fear. He is performing well in school, and recently participated in the science fair. His parents are separated, but he still visits his dad often. He came by the office the other day to sell magazine subscriptions to us to raise money for his school. The first thing he said to me was, “Want to hear a joke?”

Holiday Wish List

If you like to know how your donation is used, donate some of these items needed for our programs.

Children and Youth Program:

- ♥ Art supplies, including all kinds of paper, paint brushes, markers, glue sticks, etc.
- ♥ Crafts supplies including glue gun with glue, beads and beading supplies, stickers, stamps and glitter.
- ♥ Gift Certificates to Art & Crafts store

Shelter:

- ♥ Underwear and socks for women (many women enter the shelter with nothing but the clothes on their backs)
- ♥ Gift Certificates for toys (when children enter the shelter close to Christmas, we have not had time to arrange for toy donations for them, and have to shop at the last minute—also, it gives the mothers a lot of joy to be able to choose their own children’s gifts.

Thank You

For your support last year. Private contributors are our second largest source of funding, after government grants.

For a complete list of our generous donors for 2008, see our website at wcs-ddm.org.



Special thanks to David Gorley, Esq.

David is volunteering time to work with our Legal Assistance Program Staff. David attends supervision meetings with staff to provide legal training and consulting on difficult domestic violence restraining order cases. Thank you, David!



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233 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076

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Santa Cruz, CA



Women's Crisis Support ~ Defensa de Mujeres

Domestic violence and sexual assault survivor services. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low-cost.

- 24-Hour crisis line and emergency response
- Emergency Shelter for clients in danger
- Legal assistance and accompaniment to court
- Individual counseling
- Services for children and teens
- Domestic Violence support groups:
 - Watsonville, Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 Spanish
 - Santa Cruz, Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 Spanish
 - Santa Cruz, Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 English
- Community education, workshops and outreach

Servicios para sobrevivientes de asalto sexual ó violencia doméstica. Todos los servicios son disponibles en español e inglés, y son gratis ó a bajo costo.

- Línea de crisis y respuesta de emergencia las 24 horas
- Refugio de emergencia para clientes en peligro
- Asistencia legal y acompañamiento a la corte
- Consejería individual
- Servicios para jóvenes y niños
- Grupos de apoyo para sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica:
 - Watsonville, Martes 5:30-7:00 español
 - Santa Cruz, Martes 6:00-7:30 español
 - Santa Cruz, Miércoles 6:00-7:30 inglés
- Educación, talleres y alcance comunitario

24-Hour Crisis Line 685-3737

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

<http://wcs-ddm.org>

Línea de Crisis 24 Horas 685-3737

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