



PEACEWATCH

Center for Domestic Peace Newsletter • Fall 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been an honor for me to continue to serve as board chair this year. As I pause and look back, I am deeply moved by the dedication and passion of the board and key staff members during the strategic planning process that C4DP just completed. Their willingness to selflessly give up weekends to come together, think deeply about the long term vision for the organization, and set its direction for the next 5 years is awe inspiring.



It is this caring community that is at the heart of Center for Domestic Peace. In this newsletter, we highlight some of those individuals and programs that make up the fabric of the organization. You will learn about several dedicated staff members who have been with us 15 years and their commitment to our work and community.

When we changed our name in 2010, we had the opportunity to illustrate the full umbrella of the organization and profile programs such as ManKind, our violence prevention program for men. We want to thank all of the people who founded and have helped to maintain and lift up this vital program since 1980. In this issue, we highlight ManKind and share some of the impact it is having on people's lives.

We also want to highlight the work of a very important group, Voces de Cambio (Voices of Change). They are a testament to the power of survivors who, once healed and empowered, have a calling to give back and make change in our community.

And, lastly, to celebrate our work with children and families, please join us on October 24 at 8:15 AM at Phil Lesh's Terrapin Crossroads in San Rafael for a free breakfast event, "Changing the Future for Children." Hear the inspirational stories of children whom C4DP has helped, and witness the multigenerational impact of C4DP's work. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Tracy Kostiuik
Board Chair

Inspire - Engage - Expand Our Strategic Plan

Every day, in every way possible for us, Center for Domestic Peace is hard at work to fulfill our commitment of mobilizing individuals and communities to transform our world so that domestic violence no longer exists. We strive to create greater safety, justice, and equality.

Along the way, we have taken the time as an organization to "get up on the balcony" and reflect on our role as an organization within the context of our community, our nation, and our world. From this vantage point, we have challenged ourselves through our strategic planning efforts to be mindful where opportunity exists to create new partnerships, engage more of our community, and more effectively address user needs.

We have also used the opportunity to dream through a series of "what if" questions. What if we had the resources to engage all of Marin's residents and social institutions (schools, hospitals, police departments, etc.) in understanding domestic violence, owning it, and ending it? What if we could have a bigger impact on the problem by joining with our sister domestic violence shelter programs throughout the Bay Area region in a "hands around the Bay" approach to prevention and intervention? What if we could inspire all young people to step forward as the next generation of leaders to work with their peers to address the problem of teen and youth abuse?

Needless to say, our "what if" questions generated a vision for the future, which has formed the basis for a new strategic plan that will guide us forward over the next 3 to 5 years.

Our priorities are to:

- Explore new ways of providing safety net services and solutions – for example, finding alternative ways of "sheltering" that move beyond traditional shelter and transitional housing.
- Increase our capacity to conduct advocacy work and deepen our leadership roles through training, policy, and protocol development with partner agencies.
- Expand our work with youth and young adults in order to stress primary prevention as a way of reducing domestic violence rates.
- Lead the Bay Area Domestic Violence Shelter Collaboration (comprised of 18 DV shelters in the 9 Bay Area counties) to create and implement a new business model that takes a regional Bay Area approach to addressing and reducing domestic violence.
- Enhance our ability to collect and analyze data and outcomes and to coordinate efforts with other external partners (such as police departments), in order to improve services to victims.
- Build our fundraising efforts in order to grow and sustain revenue over the long-term.

As an organization, we have never been shy or quiet about the work that is left to end domestic violence. We know we need to build, expand, and more fully engage our base of support in order to strengthen our organization and to leverage our vision, leadership, and resources. We continue to seek new avenues for support and funding, and to build strategic partnerships and create opportunities that engage and inspire our community. With supporters and partners like you, we are confident we are changing the future for families and children by ending domestic violence – one individual, one family, one community at a time.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Changing the Future for Children

Free Breakfast Event: Morning of Inspiration at Terrapin Crossroads

You are invited to participate in an inspirational event that will also offer you the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children impacted by domestic violence. Hear from Annette and Leasley, who lived at our housing programs as young children, and who are now both in college and activists to end domestic violence. Program to also include a performance by the Singers Marin youth choruses and much more.

Thursday, October 24
8:15AM - 9:15AM
100 Yacht Club Dr.
San Rafael, CA
RSVP 415.457.2464

Our Community Supporting Us ~ Thank you!

Center for Domestic Peace honors the hundreds of individuals, families, corporations, foundations and community organizations who invest in the work that we do. We acknowledge our partners who contributed over \$5,000 from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. For a complete list of donors, please download our Annual Report online after December 31st.

\$50,000 and above

Anonymous
Blue Shield of California Foundation
Charles Maurice

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Five Bridges Foundation
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Verizon Foundation

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Peter and Ginnie Haas, Jr.
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Sunshine Lady Foundation Inc.
The Barstow Foundation
The Nightingale Fund
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Town of San Anselmo
Verizon Wireless HopeLine
W. Bradley Electric, Inc.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SHELTER SUPPORTERS!

With the success of our shelter rehabilitation project and campaign, The House that Love Built, we have so many individuals, foundations, organizations, and businesses to thank. This includes those who supported us with our capital improvements, architecture, landscape, and household supplies, to list a few. We thought that perhaps the most meaningful way to show our gratitude, would be for you to hear in their own words, how moved the women and children were when they entered the shelter that very first day. It was a beautiful moment and a blessing for staff to witness this emotional event.

Women started crying and said, “I just can’t believe that people would care so much about us to provide a beautiful place like this.”

“I have never lived in such an amazing place, didn’t know I would ever live in one.”

One woman, who was screened and approved to come to shelter that afternoon, came in and said, “I thank God for allowing me to be part of this blessing. I was very afraid during my ride here, because although my husband almost killed me, for a moment I had doubts about leaving. I didn’t know where my children and I would end up; never did I imagine such beauty, warmth, and love. Thank you.”

For the children, of course, their only focus was to go directly to the amazing new playground and get busy!



Graciela – Division Manager of Emergency and Educational Services

Graciela Rodriguez came to Center for Domestic Peace almost 20 years ago with her four children, when she left her abusive marriage to save her life and the lives of her children. When she called the hotline that night, all they had were the clothes on their

backs. Yet this call would transform her life forever. “I was provided not only with a safe refuge where I could begin to heal my wounded heart, but also with the invaluable knowledge that I had a right to safety, justice, and equality.”

Today Graciela has found her calling, working for C4DP as the Division Manager of Emergency and Educational Services. With grace and compassion she manages the very shelter she called home, as well as three 24 hour hotlines, community support groups, C4DP’s violence prevention programs (ManKind and WomanKind), three staff members, and scores of volunteers.

In her role at C4DP, Graciela is on the front lines of domestic violence. While she says it is still quite grim on a global scale, she has seen an increase in victims reporting the crime and seeking help in Marin County. She has witnessed progress in the response to domestic violence; no longer is it treated as a “private family matter” by responding police officers but instead as the serious crime that it is. “We at C4DP listen to what victims and survivors are telling us and strive to make changes and improve our services to continue our focus on victim safety, batterer accountability, and social transformation.” Graciela has personally witnessed thousands of women and children seek help through Center for Domestic Peace, and she has seen firsthand how the support of the community can change lives.

Nowhere is this support more evident than in the recent remodel of C4DP’s shelter, with community members donating bedding, furniture, household items, and toys, as well as thousands of dollars toward the overall project. When shelter guests moved back into the newly renovated home, they were overcome with the outpouring of love and generosity that welcomed them. They couldn’t believe that there were so many people who cared enough to provide them with such a beautiful and safe place to call home. Looking back on that day Graciela remembers, “At that moment, and many, many moments throughout the years that I have worked for C4DP, I felt pride, honor, and great privilege to work for such a wonderful organization.”

ManKind – Men Helping Men Create Peace

In 1980, several years after its founding, Center for Domestic Peace recognized the need for, and developed, one of the nation’s first batterer intervention programs, ManKind, as an innovative approach to stop domestic violence and abuse. Under the direction of a trained facilitator, ManKind classes provide a supportive environment in which men gain concrete tools to end their violence towards their partners. They explore how they came to adopt a belief system (known as the Male Role Belief System) in which they expect to have authority over their partner and how this belief system has led them to their violent behavior.



Since its founding 33 years ago, ManKind has worked with more than 28,500 men to stop their violence toward their partner. For many years, there was an active class in San Quentin, as well as in the county jail. Currently ManKind has more than 90 participants – men of all ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. About half of the men in the program come from a court referral and the other half from positive word of mouth in the county and among current or past participants. Many of the men finish the mandated 52 weeks and continue to attend because they find that changing a belief system, a way of living, is an ongoing process that needs to be a daily part of their lives. As one participant put it, “ManKind has had a profound impact on my life. It has improved my family life significantly. My relationship with my wife is the best it’s been in years, and I am relating with my kids on a much better level - they are no longer afraid of me. ”



Some current participants and facilitator for ManKind

the belief system they have been taught, and they learn tools to move away from their hit man and instead be their authentic selves. “This program is crucial to all men of all ages. It is necessary to understand how we’ve been raised from an early age to live in the male role belief system. The skills to be learned here are life changing.”

Here is a letter we recently received from a ManKind graduate. Thank you, Matt, for sharing your story:

In ManKind classes, men are required to participate on several levels. They must disclose their violence – physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional – and be honest about what brought them to ManKind. They are also asked to identify their “hit man,” the part of them that uses violence and becomes abusive, as well as their “authentic self,” how they see themselves in times of peace. In this self-reflection, men realize that they don’t have to live in



Encarny – Second Step Manager

In January of 1995, Encarny Aguado-Amsems was walking down a side street in central San Rafael when she passed a building that would change her life. A sign on the door read “Marin Abused Women’s Services,” and she instinctively walked in. “As a child victim of domestic violence, the sign hit a nerve. I wanted to find out if I could help in some way, and at a deeper level, I wanted to know if they could help me.” She was hired that same day on a per-need basis to assist with English-Spanish translations.

Almost 20 years later, Encarny is an integral part of Center for Domestic Peace as manager of Second Step, C4DP’s transitional housing program. With her compassion, creativity, and energy, she oversees 21 housing units made up of 2 and 3 bedrooms. She also runs a variety of programs and trainings for the residents.

To Encarny, Second Step is more than just housing for the women who move in; it is a transition to a better life for them and their children. “At Second Step, not only do we give families the opportunity to heal by providing a place to live; we also provide education so residents broaden their vision of the great potential they have and make action plans to achieve what they want for themselves.” She works closely with the residents, and passionately manages the economic empowerment program, where women learn how to budget and start building a savings, prepare to re-enter the work force, and secure permanent housing. Recently she also coached the residents to create a child care co-op and a resident’s council. The women who move on from Second Step are very successful in locating permanent housing, supporting themselves, and providing a safe and secure home for their children.

Encarny deeply believes Center for Domestic Peace is a “symbol promoting change in the community.” She has no doubt that the work C4DP is doing brings both safety and equality to the community. “I can see how the work we have done and are currently doing has had a ripple effect, changing the attitude, beliefs, and behaviors not only of those we serve, but of members in our community.” It has been a rewarding journey for Encarny. She knows without a doubt that working with survivors has given her the opportunity to gain greater awareness, create positive outcomes, and meet the most resilient people who have enriched her life in untold ways.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matt. I was referred to ManKind as I moved to Marin from Sonoma County. Upon entry into the program I was under the impression that I had already known many of the “answers.” I could not have been more wrong. I learned so much about my part in my relationship issues.

Steve, the program facilitator, ran my 52 classes with patience, kindness, understanding, and concern. He diligently worked with all of us on a weekly basis, asking us to become responsible and accountable. Of the many things I learned, some of the most important issues were:

It is not about the partner. It is about me. I cannot be responsible for others’ actions, but I am directly responsible for my own.

I also learned that violence is not necessarily physical in nature. I have never been a physically violent man, but the class showed that I was completely unfair in respects to emotional, financial, and sexual treatment toward my partners. I had no idea.

I have learned many tools in the class, which enable me to deal with “fatal peril” as it presents itself to me from many directions on many days.

My favorite tools to use are taking time out and practicing empathy.

I have been married to my wife for six years. During my 52 week program, my wife gave birth to my third daughter. The class gave me an opportunity to bring significant real life stressors in a safe environment for prominent solutions.

Steve made this class much more than I had expected it to be. He is one of those men that you cross paths with and walk away feeling so blessed to have shared a part of your life with. A man whose authentic concern projects itself each week in class values, concepts, and the overall execution of **peace as a moment-to-moment decision**. It was obvious that Steve not only taught the class, but he also “walked the walk” and lives by the principles he asks us to practice. This made me want to be a better man myself.

Emily ran the clerical part of ManKind for me with attention, kindness, and professional grace. She promptly returned phone calls and answered any and all questions with patience, understanding, and a solid knowledge of any concern I may have regarding the clerical helm of the ship. I know she does a ton for our groups.

I want to sincerely thank Steve, Emily, and the men and women whom I have not met who run ManKind with the greatest of thanks.

The tools and knowledge I have learned will not only help my current relationship, but will also shine through as I am a role model for my daughters. This was a very healthy and valuable experience for me.

THANK YOU ALL,

Matt

ACT NOW!

Challenge Attitudes that support violence. Learn New Behaviors to support safe, strong, and violence-free relationships.

ABUSE IS UNACCEPTABLE. Say it loud. Say it everywhere. Say it in your home, at your work place, in a letter to the editor, in a postcard to the President. Say it with your pocketbook: “I will no longer buy your sexist magazines.” Say it over and over and over.

CHALLENGE SEXISM. Challenge degrading jokes, comments and actions. Be non-sexist role models to your children. Support sons to respect and value women as equals. Support your daughters to be self-loving and powerful.

TEACH CHILDREN EARLY. Insist that education on healthy relationships be an ongoing part of the school’s curriculum. Put this on next month’s PTA agenda as an ACTION item. Teach your children that they have a right to be safe and live free of abuse and violence in their lives.

NO MORE MALE VIOLENCE AS A FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT. Create a policy in your home that no TV shows or movies depicting men’s violence will be watched. Refuse to attend movies that glorify this violence and/or stereotype women.

ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE. Believe you can make a difference in creating a violence free world for women and girls. Find five others who believe the same. Share your vision with youth and encourage their activism. Be creative. Be outrageous. Be persistent, direct, and determined.

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN. Identify three women you can talk with about your own experience of abuse within relationships. Check with them if your current relationship is abusive. Attend together a support group at Center for Domestic Peace or educational forum to learn more about the issue. Spread the word in your neighborhood. Tell them you believe abuse is unacceptable and that you are a resource if they ever need to talk. Volunteer your time to the organization to support other women who are abused or at risk of abuse. Do all of the ACT NOW steps in support of women.

**AWARENESS + COMMUNITY ACTION =
CHANGE. GET INVOLVED.**

24-HOUR HOTLINES

English	415.924.6616
Spanish	415.924.3456
Men’s	415.924.1070
Marin Youth Services	415.526.2557 M-F, 9am-5pm

Voces de Cambio – Voices of Change

It all started over a decade ago, with a small, intimate celebration - a table at the emergency shelter where women from Center for Domestic Peace’s (C4DP) two housing programs (shelter and the transitional housing program) came together in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Blending the Latin tradition of *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), they sat together, had a meal, and honored the victims of domestic violence and those killed that year at the hands of loved ones. It was private, secret, and sacred.

Fast forward to 2012. C4DP’s annual Day of the Dead celebration, hosted by Voces de Cambio, has grown into a compassionate day of remembrance, with more than 40 guests, including survivors, community members, law enforcement, and Marin’s Assistant District Attorney. It is one of the many community awareness activities this group is responsible for.



Who are they? Voces de Cambio is made up of past participants from the Community Advocacy Program or CAP, C4DP’s largest program helping individuals navigate the legal/criminal systems through counseling, civil and criminal court accompaniment, help with restraining orders, and other supportive services. Voces works to promote social justice and community accountability around the problem of domestic violence. Voces has been instrumental in developing and distributing our culturally-appropriate booklet, “Are You in an Unhealthy Relationship? You’re Not Alone!” as well as creating a Spanish-language CD, “Healthy and Equal Relating for All,” to promote help-seeking behavior. To date, Voces has helped distribute more than 10,000 copies of the CD and 4,000 copies of the booklet.

More than any other population in Marin, Voces has embraced and forwarded its role as agents of change with great gusto and is seriously committed to doing just that – making change. Along the way, Voces offers leadership, mentoring, and public speaking opportunities for these amazing survivors, as well as a sense of community and positive impacts for its members.

Here are a few of the many faces of Voces de Cambio today:

Reyna: I lived in an abusive relationship for years and in constant fear for my life. On August 16, 2008, he put his hands around my neck and tried to kill me. This is when I found C4DP and my life changed forever, and I realized I could live a life of peace. I joined Voces for that reason. In this group, I learned that I have a commitment to myself to really make a change toward a better life, one without violence. I am now a woman with self-confidence who wishes to live and is ready to be a positive example for my daughters.

Damaris: I am 10 years old and my mom’s name is Reyna. From watching her, I saw a big difference. She inspired me. I finally feel safe from nightmares. So I decided I wanted to help and do what she was doing. Now as the youngest volunteer at Voces, I can help children so that they do not suffer, so they can have a better childhood like I have now.

Maria: My life changed when I found C4DP on December 6, 2011, after having been a victim of abuse for years. Because of their support, I decided to turn my life around, to transform the negative into something positive. That is why I became a member of Voces. Today I am a survivor, with self-confidence and the clarity to know I can have a life free from violence. I joined Voces to help other women realize the same thing.



Erika: I was emotionally destroyed by the relationship. Then, in January of 2007, my life changed forever - I made a call and heard the voice of hope on the other side, offering me support and guidance to come out of the profound pain I was living in. That voice was a group of people who offered to help me and keep me safe. That group was C4DP. I joined Voces, because only together can we end domestic violence.

Ramona: I came to C4DP for help on February 28, 2007. I had escaped the abuse of my ex-husband who had kidnapped me and my children and tried

to kill me. I chose to join Voces for what it stands for. The name to me means that if enough of us speak out we will be able to reduce the amount of people and children who get abused.

To hear all the voices of Voces de Cambio and in more detail, please visit: www.c4dp.org/voces-de-cambio

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changing the future for children

Free Breakfast Event: Morning of Inspiration

Thursday, October 24 from 8:15AM - 9:15AM
Terrapin Crossroads, San Rafael

You are invited to participate in an inspirational event that will also offer you the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children impacted by domestic violence.

Special guests include Mary Jane Burke, Dana King, Doug McConnell, and more.

For more information and to RSVP, please call (415) 457-2464.

Save the Date: In Celebration of Mothers 11th Annual Luncheon

Friday, May 9, 2014 🌿 Peacock Gap, San Rafael
For information, please call (415) 457-2464.



‘In Celebration of Mothers’
Annual Luncheon
Celebrating women’s role in nurturing
the growth of children, families,
communities and nations

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC
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Home of Marin Abused Women’s Services

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