

# MAWS Watch

## Marin ABUSED WOMEN'S SERVICES

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Marin Abused Women's Services is a project of Marin N.O.W.

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### WORLD PEACE BEGINS AT HOME

The violence in our world seems overwhelming. Nuclear holocaust threatens to destroy us. Crime in the streets immobilizes us. And abuse of women makes the home the most dangerous place for women in Marin.

- The battering of women is the number one category of violent crime in Marin County.
- One-third of all female homicide victims in California are murdered by their husbands.
- Thirty percent of the women treated in Marin County hospital emergency rooms are battered women.
- The Marin Abused Women's Services crisis line received 2500 calls last year.

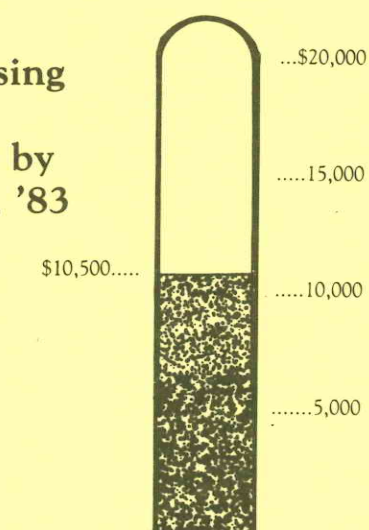
Abuse of women creates a cycle that makes the home the training ground for violence. Seventy percent of the men who abuse women and more than half of the men convicted of violent crimes experienced violence as children.

**You can help stop the cycle of violence and build a world free of fear for battered women and their children**

**This year Marin Abused Women's Services will . . .**

- Provide emergency shelter for 250 women and children
- Respond to any victim of abuse needing help
- Train volunteers to provide services for battered women
- Inform community groups and students about violence against women
- Improve services for battered women by training police officers, health care workers, and other service providers
- Offer a 24 hour crisis line and re-education program for men who abuse women and want to end their violence.

**MAWS Fundraising Goal: \$20,000 by June 30, '83**



### Second Step Housing Program to Begin

Marin Abused Women's Services has launched an exciting new Second Step Housing Program with the purchase of a 10 unit apartment building in central San Rafael.



"The goal of the program, the first of its kind in the country, is to provide battered women and their children with breathing space to gain stability in their lives and develop skills toward becoming economically and emotionally independent," Executive Director Donna Garske said.

The Marin Abused Women's Services shelter provides emergency safe housing for 250 battered women and their children every year. Research at the shelter indicates that lack of affordable housing is a major barrier preventing women from leaving violent relationships. Economic, emotional, and social factors combine to trap battered women in dangerous situations.

The Second Step Housing Program will provide affordable housing and individually tailored programs to help residents enhance their self reliance skills. "Participants will reside at the Second Step facility for six months to two years.

"To be accepted into the program, each woman must identify specific self-improvement goals. Second Step staff will assist her in developing a plan of action to achieve her goals, a feasible time frame for accomplishment, and agreed upon time periods

for reviewing progress," Garske said. "Residents will also learn to rely on each other and provide each other with encouragement and information."

Marin Abused Women's Services Board of Directors Treasurer Cristy Maska explained financial arrangements for the Second Step Housing Program. Residents will pay rent on a sliding scale based on ability to pay with some subsidies from the Housing Authority Moderate Rehabilitation Program.

In order to purchase the \$650,000 facility, MAWS received a \$100,000 Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant; a \$100,000 donation from the building's previous owner; a \$171,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation; \$50,000 from the James Irvine Foundation; and an \$8,000 private contribution.

"We have assumed a \$250,000 mortgage and during the next nine months we will seek capital funding from foundations and individuals to pay off the loans," Maska said. "When the mortgage is paid, income from rent will make the Second Step Housing and self help program financially self sufficient."

### Legislative Watch



As a result of the united, statewide effort of shelter programs throughout California, some critical pieces of legislation were signed into law during 1982.

#### S.B. 1330, sponsored by Senator Presley

Beginning January 1, 1983, marriage license fees were increased \$5, with the resulting revenue being specified for domestic violence programs. This means that Marin Abused Women's Services and other shelters which have been receiving funds from marriage license fees since 1981 can now receive 63 percent more revenue.

#### A.B. 3569, sponsored by Assembly Member Moore

This bill extends domestic violence temporary restraining orders, that make it illegal for an abuser to contact, harass, or threaten a woman, from 90 days to one year.

#### A.B. 3607, sponsored by Assembly Member Moorhead

This legislation authorizes courts to order that defendants pay restitution to any individual or agency which provides services to the family as a direct result of domestic violence. Additionally, family members can be paid for mental health care expenses which are incurred as a direct result of abuse.

#### S.B. 2047, sponsored by Senator Marks

The law authorizes a \$5 increase in the filing fee paid by a defendant responding to a protective order and specifies that the resulting revenue fund domestic violence programs.

### Fundraising Watch

Last year marked Marin Abused Women's Services first community fundraising campaign. Thanks to your generous contributions, it was a significant success. We raised \$19,700 in community donations!

This year's campaign began December 1st, 1982. Marin Abused Women's Services must raise \$20,000 in community contributions. During the first six weeks of the campaign, we received \$6,600 from community donors. A gift from Denny's Restaurant helped make the holidays special at the shelter. The San Rafael Police Officers Association and Police Activities League, Deputy Sheriffs Association, and Novato Police Officers Association have made contributions.

We want to thank all of you for your generous contributions. Every dollar contributed supports important lifesaving services and makes a public statement that Marin residents support efforts to end violence against women.

By June 30, 1983, Marin Abused Women's Services must raise another \$9,850. We'll be holding a phonathon, direct mail and a raffle this Spring. The success of the fundraising campaign and of our work to prevent violence against women and provide quality services for battered women and their children depends on you.



## MAWS/Police Work on Response to Family Violence

An active committee of law enforcement officials is working with Marin Abused Women's Services to improve police response to domestic violence calls in Marin County.

"The police departments in Marin County have clearly recognized violence against women in the home as a crime. Their attitude is reflected in reports from crisis line callers and shelter residents," Women's Program Coordinator Kay Brunt said. "The police are informing women of their legal rights, making more arrests, and referring more women to MAWS."

Sheriff's Deputy Richard Shelden explained, "The shelter is a great resource for the patrol officer. We can offer a battered woman an option, a way to get out of the abusive situation. She can be safe at the shelter during criminal justice proceedings."

In 1982, Marin Abused Women's Services made it a priority to provide police officers information about violence against women in the home. Volunteers participated in police field training exercises; rode along with Sheriff's Office deputies; and presented training briefings for over 300 police officers from seven Marin County police departments and the Sheriff's Office.

In field training exercises last spring, volunteers simulated family disputes and evaluated officers' responses to the situations. Police training officers and volunteers provided officers information about family violence laws and Marin Abused Women's Services programs.

Since April 1982 Marin Abused Women's Services, Marin Community Video (MCV), and representatives from every level of the criminal justice system have been working on a training videotape for police officers. The tape, funded by a San Francisco Foundation grant to MCV, includes information on myths about family violence, legal procedures, and resources for battered women.

"Police are often the first community service providers a battered woman turns to for assistance. They need to know their response can determine whether a woman gets out of the situation and cooperates with the criminal justice system," Officer David Griffis of the San Rafael Police Department said. "Police officers need more information, particularly about the shelter and other options for battered women."

"As the liaison between Marin Abused Women's Services and police departments, I've seen significant changes in the way police officers approach family violence calls," Community Development Coordinator Tricia Donahue said. "Police officers are making a real effort to understand violence against women in the home. They are more sensitive and, as a result, more effective, in working with battered women."



## Men Say "No to Male Violence"

Mark, a 34 year old attorney, contacted the MAWS Men's Hotline because he wanted his wife to come home. His first conversation with a hotline volunteer was short and almost business-like. His wife, Katy, had left home after "an argument" and would consider returning if he attended the MAWS Men's Drop-in Group. Where and when was the group?

Marin Abused Women's Services developed the Men's Program because women like Katy requested services for their violent partners. Katy wanted to continue in her marriage and she wanted Mark to stop abusing her. Mark knew the beating had to stop.

An average of 30 abusive men call the MAWS Men's Program 24-hour hotline every month. Calls come from all over Marin, from professionals, blue collar workers, students, and retirees. Three to five men attend the Men's Drop-in Groups held weekly.

Mark attended the Drop-in Group for the first time last month. He later told the other men in the group he wanted them to understand he was not a wifebeater. "Katy and I had an argument. I pushed her, but it was no big deal."

When the group leader asked him to describe the incident in detail, Mark was reluctant. Like many abusive men, he did not want to admit the extent of his violence, even to himself. Eventually, his story came out. He had pushed Katy—and punched and kicked her. She had cracked ribs, bruises and a black eye.

The group leaders and the other men explained methods of avoiding violence to Katy. He agreed to watch for warning signals that he knew indicated he was getting angry and to take a time out and leave the house before he became violent. And he agreed to call the Men's Hotline whenever he thought he might be becoming violent. He made an agreement with the other men in the group, who had also been abusive, not to be violent during the next week.

"Men like Mark can stop their violence," Men's Program coordinator Kit Bricca said. "We believe that violence is a learned response. Men can learn other ways to express their feelings once they accept responsibility for the violence."

Bricca, new to the MAWS Men's Program this Fall, and 14 men volunteers staff the MAWS Men's Program. Bricca, who was born in Marin, brings 15 years of community organizing and a lifelong commitment to nonviolence to the program.

In 1982, shelters around the country recognized the Men's Program as a model. Executive Director Donna Garske was invited to speak on abuser services at the National Conference Against Domestic Violence.

## A Safe Place



Last year, 250 battered women and their children came to the Marin Abused Women's Services shelter needing a secure, confidential place to stay. They came from every community in Marin. Children ranged in age from three days to 17 years. They were White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic. This is the story of one of those families.

Maureen arrived at the shelter at four o'clock on a Tuesday morning with her three children and a suitcase. She was bruised and uneasy but determined. Matthew, 6; Vicky, 3; and Jennifer, 18 months, were frightened and confused.

They had just left their home in southern Marin. Maureen's husband, a physician with a successful practice in Marin, had been abusing her since early in her first pregnancy. She had suffered black eyes, a broken nose, and even a miscarriage as a result of the beatings.

"I couldn't talk to anyone about it. I tried occasionally but people thought I was crazy or lying," Maureen told a Marin Abused Women's Services volunteer. "Nobody could believe a successful prominent doctor who loved his kids could be a wifebeater. I kept trying to make the relationship work because for a long time I thought the kids needed him."

Her husband had never abused the children physically. In fact, he took pride in being a good, active parent. But Maureen knew the children were aware of the violence.

She was beginning to notice startling changes in their behavior. Matthew's teacher had told Maureen Matthew was hitting and cursing at other children. The teacher recounted threats he had made to other children—the same threats Jack had made recently to kill Maureen.

The night Maureen came to the shelter neighbors had called the police when they overheard a violent argument. Maureen told the police she was worried about her children and sometimes afraid for her life.

When she called the crisis line, at a police officer's suggestion, she realized for the first time that she wasn't alone. There was a safe place for her and her children.

Maureen was determined to make a better life for herself and the children.

Today, Maureen and her children share a house in central Marin with another former shelter family. She attends job training classes. The children go to school and day care.

In a recent phone call, Maureen told a Marin Abused Women's Services volunteer, "Adjusting to our new life is hard but I feel better every day. I know I made the right decision for myself and my kids. I really appreciate the opportunity the shelter gave me to think and plan. I'm making my own decisions for the first time in my life."

(Names and other identifying characteristics have been changed.)

## Marin ABUSED WOMEN'S SERVICES

1717 5TH AVENUE  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901



24-hour hotline for women (415) 924-6616  
24-hour hotline for men (415) 924-1070

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