

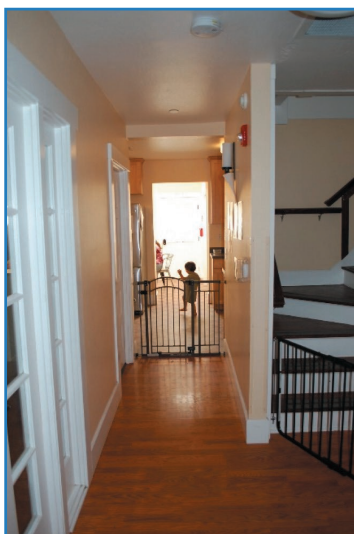


NEWSGRAM SPRING 2016

DID YOU KNOW?

Center for Domestic Peace assisted 4,991 individuals impacted by domestic violence in 2014/2015:

- ❖ 100% of Second Step transitional housing residents who exited secured permanent housing, and 100% chose to remain independent from their abusers.
- ❖ The number of youth and young adults reached through outreach and education events increased by 188% in just this past year.
- ❖ Answered **4,014 hotline calls** (in both English and Spanish), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We provided crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, referrals, and information.
- ❖ Provided **emergency shelter and transitional housing for 144 women and 199 children** for a total of 28,406 bed nights. Personal and economic empowerment activities were provided along with food, clothing, transportation, accompaniment, group therapy, childcare, art classes, and help securing permanent housing.
- ❖ Provided **advocacy within the civil and criminal justice system to 371** individuals through 2,498 sessions, improving victims' ability to achieve effective results with restraining orders, police reports, and more.
- ❖ Through Marin Youth Services, provided age appropriate services **to 50 youth, teens, and young adults.**
- ❖ Provided **support groups to 141 participants.**
- ❖ Educated **108 men** through ManKind **and 27 women** through WomanKind to teach them skills **to stop their violent behavior.**
- ❖ Trained **1,377** professionals, community members, youth service providers, and prevention specialists.
- ❖ **88 volunteers** donated **29,492 hours** of their time, the equivalent of **14 full-time paid staff.**



THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT FINAL PHASE

In the summer of 2013, Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) finished the first phase of our shelter rehabilitation project, The House That Love Built. With help from our generous donors, a government grant, and foundation support, the shelter is now an upgraded, ADA-compliant beautiful home with 20 beds for women and children in emergency situations.

Phase 2 was launched this past summer with generous support from the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. By converting existing office space into 3 more bedrooms and adding a studio to house the hotline and advocate staff, 10 more beds will become available. Five Rotary Clubs in Marin have stepped up to help with the project. Once completed, the shelter will provide 30 beds, almost 50% more than we started with. To donate to the final phase, please call the number listed below.

SECOND STEP'S SPECIAL STARTUP FUND

Moving out of a domestic violence situation can be scary, especially when financial security is at risk. Many who come to C4DP's Second Step transitional housing face being the head of the household for the first time, along with barriers, such as: inability to use past work reference for safety concerns; lack of money to pay for completion of schooling; poor credit ruined by the abuser; etc.

Over the years, Second Step has significantly bolstered its economic empowerment program. Last year, the Peter E. Haas Jr. Family Fund donated \$10,000 toward the StartUP Fund to help these families remove barriers to furthering their education and careers when no other resources can be found. To date, survivors have used these funds to start or improve a business, pay for final costs toward a university degree, and go back to school.



Violence in Affluent Families and the Veil of Silence

It is fairly well-known that domestic violence is a prevalent crime in the United States. What is less well-known is that it is the number one violent crime in Marin County – last year, according to the DA's office, while there were 15 gang-related crimes, 38 incidents of child abuse, and 54 sexual assaults, there were 761 incidents of domestic violence.

But in Marin, the phenomenon least reported and discussed may be domestic violence among the affluent. And while most survivors share common experiences around domestic violence abuse – such as shame, isolation, denial and fear – these feelings may be intensified for women of affluence. Compounding the fear and denial for many is the isolation of living in large residences with fences, gates, and acreage separating them from their closest neighbors. This reinforces

the common myth that no one else in their neighborhood is being threatened, controlled, belittled, bullied, or economically abused by their husbands.

Many affluent abusers are charming and successful in their business and professional lives, making it hard for others to believe they are violent. And while many victims worry about the financial ramifications of reaching out for help, this can be especially threatening for affluent women; they know that along with money can come powerful connections that their abusers may use to disgrace, disinherit, and disempower them.

The more class standing a woman has, the more difficult it may be to accept that help is needed because domestic violence is mistakenly viewed as something that only happens to people of lower economic means, rather than a crime that women in upscale, educated communities also face. Affluent women may also perceive they have the resources needed to solve their problem, i.e. an attorney or therapist, and that organizations like C4DP are for those with fewer resources.

Like all individuals who have been impacted by domestic violence, C4DP can help affluent women know that they are not alone and that others have successfully left abusive relationships behind and made safe and comfortable lives for themselves and their children. As a culture, we need to tear away the veil of silence trapping women in abusive situations and speak the unspoken for all women, including the affluent.

Center for Domestic Peace can help. Call our hotline or visit our website: www.c4dp.org

C4DP'S 24-HOUR HOTLINES

English 415-924-6616
Spanish 415-924-3456
ManKind 415-924-1070
Youth Services, 9AM-5 PM . . . 415-526-2557

