

Serving Since
1976

Women's Center of San Joaquin County

2010

30th Annual Luncheon

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at the Stockton Arena

This year the Women's Center will be hosting its 30th Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at the Stockton Arena. We are excited to be partnering with the Stockton Arena and Stockton Thunder Professional Hockey this year to bring you our signature event in a fantastic new venue.

Sponsors and luncheon attendees will have the unique opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for the March 31 Stockton Thunder game – the regular season home finale – with a portion of the proceeds from the ticket packages to be donated to the Women's Center.

Serving as keynote speaker for the

luncheon will be Michael Pritchard, a nationally-acclaimed speaker known for his ability to use humor to inspire and educate his audiences.



Michael Pritchard

Michael's background as a stand-up comic, juvenile counselor, actor, and probation officer gives him a unique perspective and range of abilities.

Funds raised from the luncheon help sustain critical services and shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and the event raises the level of awareness in our community about sexual assault and domestic violence.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and
(See LUNCHEON, page 7)

A League of Our Own:

Financial Analysis Shows Stability and Growth

In June 2009 the Women's Center was selected by the Nonprofit Finance Fund as one of 12 nonprofits statewide to receive customized financial capacity building services. This opportunity was made possible by the Blue Shield of California Foundation's Blue Shield Against Violence's financial capacity building initiative. Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) is a national leader in helping nonprofits strengthen their financial health and improve their capacity to serve their communities.

The Women's Center underwent a Nonprofit Business Analysis (NBA), in-depth financial analysis and consultation on the agency's financial condition and history. Representatives from the NFF met with Executive Director Joelle Gomez and Finance Director Kim Miller, and reviewed the past five years of the agency's financials and audits.

Paula Smith Arrigoni, Manager of the NFF in San Francisco, presented the results of the Nonprofit Business Analysis at the Women's Center's December board meeting. Her report noted that the Women's Center's "year-over-year trends show consistency, fiscal prudence and controlled

(See LEAGUE page 8)

THUNDER HOCKEY

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 7pm

Regular season home finale:
Stockton Arena



****Exclusive offer for
Annual Luncheon attendees****

10 Upper Premium Tickets for only \$100

(\$50 from every ticket package sold will be donated to the Women's Center)

Contact (209) 941-2611

OR:

Individual tickets at \$10 each

(\$4 from every ticket sold will be donated to the Women's Center)

Contact the Thunder (209) 373-1507



The Women's Center Newsletter is an annual publication of the Women's Center of San Joaquin County. The Women's Center's mission is to provide a wide range of supportive, educational and crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, enabling them to regain control of their lives. The agency is a non-profit dedicated to serving women, children and men throughout San Joaquin County by providing emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, 24-hour hospital response, advocacy, referrals and information, and specialized outreach and prevention education in the community. All services are free, confidential, and culturally sensitive, and are available in several languages. The Women's Center of San Joaquin County has three locations:

STOCKTON (209) 941-2611
620 N. San Joaquin St.
Stockton, CA 95202

LODI (209) 368-3406
29 S. Washington St.
Lodi, CA 95240

TRACY (209) 833-0300
(Located in Healthy Connections)
35 East 10th Street - Suite A
Tracy, CA 95376

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Women's Center Founders:

Elizabeth Croker	Ellen Pulleyblank
Sue Harper	Janelle Reinelt
Maria Heffernan	Mary Lois Thompson
Diane Morgali	Bernice Turoff

Lodi Office Founders:

Lois Borchardt	Doris McCaughna
Pat Robison	

Board of Directors:

Mary Bava, President
Donna Anderson, Vice-President
Teresa Mandella, Treasurer
Kelly Stump, Secretary
Mark Gantt, Immediate Past President

Carlos Almanza	Dan Schroeder
David Sant	Janet Smith
Anita Bautista	Libby Gaedtk
Larry Ferrari	Arlene Roberts
Tom Morris	

Women's Center Management Team:

Executive Director: Joelle Gomez
Development Director: Kate Macek
Finance Director: Kimberley Miller
Satellite Program Director: Paula Grech
Director of Programs: Jennifer Lee

Graphic Design:

One-Eleven Advertising & Design

24-hour Help Lines:
Sexual Assault.....465-4997
Domestic Violence...465-4878



Direct Lines

Joelle Gomez, Executive Director

As the Women's Center moves into 2010, we want to take this time to thank you. As an invested community member, your many efforts have helped make the Women's Center stronger than ever before.

This past year was one of many significant challenges and achievements. I would like to share with you some of our highlights from 2009.

- Successfully secured \$238,000 from Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) through 2009 Federal Appropriations to expand our Child Sexual Assault crisis intervention and prevention services. This funding created four new positions. See page 9 for photos and more details.
- More than 12 businesses and organizations supported the Women's Center through third-party fundraisers, helping the Center to raise more funds as well as community awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault.
- In spite of the elimination of the Department of Public Health funding for our Domestic Violence Program, totaling \$160,000, the Women's Center successfully recovered additional funding and reorganized to maintain quality service delivery countywide.
- Implemented and Integrated Trauma Informed Domestic Violence Services to our service delivery. Trauma Informed Services are designed to better accommodate the vulnerabilities of trauma survivors.
- Participated in a five-year nonprofit business analysis by the Nonprofit Finance Fund which summarized the overall year-over-year trends

which showed consistency, fiscal prudence and controlled organizational growth. For more information see story on the front page and charts on page 8.

- Increased our undisclosed emergency shelter capacity from 40 to 46 beds for battered women and their children.
- Upgraded our Information Technology systems agency-wide. Stay tuned for our website redevelopment. You can now find us at www.womenscentersjc.org.
- Despite the struggling economy of 2009, the Women's Center hired 6 new employees and grew our budget by 8% compared to the 08/09 fiscal year.
- Most importantly, staff was able to respond to the 15% increase in requests for counseling, temporary restraining orders, and emergency shelter.

None of this could have happened without **your** strong commitment and dedication to our mission. Now, the Women's Center staff is looking forward to another banner year. As we move into a new era, your support and participation are increasingly needed.

2010 will be an exciting year for us, although one of many challenges. The reorganization of the Women's Center promises to make us more capable and efficient, enabling us to reach even more women, children, and men in need.

Once again, on behalf of everyone at the Women's Center, thank you for your investment in the Center. Your commitment has given us strength and your dedication has provided encouragement and vision for this coming year.

Sexual Assault

Awareness Month - April

3rd Annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® Men's March - Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Banner Island Ballpark



Courageous men will don women's high-heel shoes and will literally walk a mile to protest rape, sexual assault and gender violence. Last year, more than 160 men

participated, helping to raise funds and awareness, and encouraging more men to speak out against rape and sexual assault.

The purpose of the march is to create community awareness and involve men in ending sexualized violence.

Denim Day – Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Denim Day worldwide campaign began in response to a rape conviction that was overturned by the Italian Supreme Court in 1998 because the victim wore jeans, reasoning that she must have helped her attacker remove them. This caused uproar all over the world, and wearing jeans on this day became an international symbol of protest against misperceptions about sexual assault and disparaging attitudes toward rape victims.

Clothesline Project

Women's Center clients design t-shirts for the clothesline, part of a nation-wide memorial for survivors of violence. The t-shirts are color-coded based on the type of violence the person has experienced. Decorating the shirts provides an outlet for the wide range of emotions victims experience, and once on display, they are a powerful tool for raising community awareness.

Take Back the Night rally and candlelight vigil

This event is designed to empower individuals and give them a chance to speak out against sexual violence, as well as to pay homage to all victims who have suffered from this crime. Date and time TBD.

Teal ribbons will be available through the Women's

Center. Please call (209) 941-2611 or visit www.womenscentersjc.org for information regarding any events or materials related to Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Domestic Violence

Awareness Month - October

Unity Day - Friday October 8, 2010 at the Downtown Stockton Farmers Market, Hunter Square

This day is a time to remember the victims and celebrate the survivors of domestic violence. The Women's Center staff and other representatives from many different social service agencies will be on hand to provide information and give-aways, and answer any questions. This event is free and open to the public. The Women's Center invites the community to come together to take a stand against domestic violence.

Tile Project

The Tile Project gives people affected by domestic violence a chance to convey feelings about their experiences through decorating a tile. We invite anyone interested to come to Unity Day and decorate a tile to show their solidarity with advocates and support for victims of domestic violence. Tiles created in prior years will also be on display.



Silent Witness Exhibit

This powerful exhibit features life-sized red silhouettes representing women and children murdered in acts of domestic violence in San Joaquin County. The Women's Center's exhibit is part of a national Silent Witness Initiative, an organization started in 1990 in Minnesota by a group of women who were out-



(See DOMESTIC on page 11)

How the Women's Center of San Joaquin County Helped Me

In December 1983, after several years of deliberation, I decided to leave an abusive marriage. I had endured physical and verbal abuse for more than ten years. I had to escape somehow, but I had to plan carefully.

My mother suggested I call the Women's Center. I did not know much about the Women's Center, but I called and made an appointment. I left work early and met with a kind lady named Judith. She listened as I told her all the things I had experienced over the last decade. She told me that I did not deserve this treatment, and that the Women's Center could shelter me at a secret location. There, my children and I would be safe until I could find my own apartment.

At last, I had hope! There was light at the end of the tunnel! However, I knew my spouse would not allow me to just pack my bags and take my babies. He did not know I had contacted the Women's Center. One night, my husband came home drunk and angry. He hit my five-year-old son with a belt repeatedly for no reason, and then beat me when I intervened. I was able to call the sheriff, and luckily the authorities took him to jail. Here was my chance to get away!

My parents helped me move out that night. I stayed at my sister's house, but I feared for her safety, so I called the Women's Center first thing the next morning. They directed me to a phone booth, where I was met by a lady who took my three children and me to the DAWN House.

At last, I had hope! There was light at the end of the tunnel!

Cooperative Parenting and Divorce Classes

As you know, during the divorce process parents struggle to restructure their family. Parenting skills are compromised, children's needs are overlooked, and the parents' personal issues become blurred with their children's. Effective parenting during and after divorce/separation is a skill difficult for most divorcing parents to navigate on their own. Their struggle has become our mission.



Cooperative Parenting and Divorce is a video-based, psychoeducational approach focusing on the enhancement of the child's functioning within the family. It is designed to improve the quality of the parental relationship by reducing conflict. It explores the issues associated with divorce through two different formats.

The program is designed for those parents exhibiting mild to moderate conflict. This innovative program strives to put children first while creating promising solutions that focus on intervention, prevention and the reduction of parental conflict.

Once it is recognized that divorcing parents are in conflict, professionals should strongly recommend a program that will meet the needs of family. Since 1994 the Cooperative Parenting and Divorce program has been receiving referrals from judges, attorneys, custody evaluators, physicians, guardian's ad litem, and social service agencies, as well as from the parents themselves. Many judges have mandated the Cooperative Parenting and Divorce program via court order. See page 9 for more information. 🌸

At the DAWN House, I learned, to my great surprise, that there were many women who had experienced trauma and abuse, just as I had. We had counseling sessions, where we talked and talked, and learned how to avoid abusive relationships in the future. I felt a tremendous relief. There really was hope for my future!

The staff even helped me connect with a local organization that bought my children clothes and toys for

Christmas! After two weeks, I found an apartment, and was able to move in a week before the holiday. The DAWN House staff actually had tears in their eyes as they helped me

with my boxes and hugged me goodbye!

Now those little children I had with me at the DAWN House are grown men and women, with children of their own. The older ones remember staying at the DAWN House. They know that violence is not the answer to disputes. They have grown up to be fine, hard-working adults. I have gone on to lead a healthy, happy life after much counseling and effort.

I am sure there are thousands of women just like me, with stories to tell about how the Women's Center has helped them. I am so grateful for this opportunity to tell my story.

~ Former DAWN House resident 🌸

Why Advocacy?

Advocates “Speak in Support” of Hundreds of Women, Children and Men

A small, dark-eyed woman arrives at our shelter with bruises on her face and a barely-healed red gash across her cheek, put there when her boyfriend came after her with a knife. Her one-year-old baby is cradled in her arms. Because the woman is unable to speak English, a Spanish-speaking advocate listens as she quietly tells her story.

Dressed in a t-shirt and jeans, a young woman walks into the Women’s Center with a troubled look on her face. Her stepfather sexually molested her throughout most of her childhood. She has never told anyone of her abuse. But now her four-year-old sister has become quiet and withdrawn, visibly afraid to be with the man she calls father. The young woman recognizes her sister’s fear and begs to know how she can help her.

Accompanied by two police officers, a teenage girl arrives at the hospital emergency room late one night. She is wrapped in a gray blanket, wearing a

look of shock and fear on her badly beaten face. Three men have brutally raped her and left her naked in a ditch. A sexual assault advocate is there to provide support.

Advocacy is the foundation upon which the Women’s Center was built. By definition advocacy means “speaking in support”, but it goes

**A plea for help,
whether openly asked for,
or silently reflected
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is a call to action...**

far beyond words or definition. A plea for help, whether openly asked for, or silently reflected in a survivor’s eyes, is a call to action for the advocates at the Women’s Center. Whether that means giving a stuffed animal to comfort a child in the shelter or staying up all night with a rape victim, the advocates respond.

Day in and day out, our advocates “speak in support” of the hundreds of women, children, and men who reach out to us for help each year. We are their voice.

Without advocacy, the sexually-abused child would go unheard, the Spanish-speaking client might be misunderstood, and the rape victim remains silent. It is our job to ensure that each and every one of these survivors is heard. From finding an attorney to act on a client’s behalf, translating in court, speaking with a police officer, or talking to a social worker, our advocates give voice to the pain, fear, and confusion experienced by our clients.

The journey of healing often begins with knowing that someone is in your corner. Advocacy can be the foundation to rebuilding a life that has been torn apart by violence and abuse; the first step toward a new beginning. 🌸

Senator Lois Wolk Honors Women’s Center



*Photo, from L to R:
Assemblymember
Alyson Huber,
Senator Lois Wolk,
Women’s Center
Board President
Mary Bava,
Assemblymember
Joan Buchanan, and
Executive Director
Joelle Gomez*


On October 21, 2009, State Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) honored the Women’s Center with a reception in her office at the Capitol in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Women’s Center Board President Mary Bava, Executive Director Joelle Gomez, and several Women’s Center staff attended this special event. Senator Wolk hosted the Women’s Center’s Tile Project which was displayed in the Redwood Room of the Capitol. The Women’s Center was presented a framed resolution signed by all our representatives. We met with the Senator, her staff, State Assemblymember Alyson Huber and State Assemblymember Joan Buchanan about our successes, challenges and needs. The Women’s Center would like to thank the Senator for her generosity in hosting this event to recognize our work. 🌸



Adopt-A-Family Makes the Holidays Bright For Our Clients

Thank you all to individuals, businesses and organizations who participated in the 2009 Adopt-A-Family program at the Women's Center. This year 111 moms and 248 children were adopted!

Your gifts provided more than holiday joy for Women's Center clients; they offered hope and showed the committed generosity of our community.



The Pines Mobile Home Park- Senior Program
Stockton Firefighters Union-Local 456
DeGregorri, Gormsem, and Ringer
Dr. Melrose
Snells Pre-Kindergarten School
U.O.P. Parents Groups- Moms, Pops, and Tots
Kaiser - Spanish Call Center
Untame Dames Social Club
New Life Worship Center-CGIC*
U.O.P. - First Generation Student Club
First Unitarian Church of Stockton
Central Valley Training Center
Grupe Commercial Co.
Lakeside Christian School*
Ambiance Interiors
Simpson Strong-Tie Company*
The GAP, Inc. & Employees*
Law Office of Joseph Barlupo
Elizabeth Trevino
Jessica Reyes
Jackie and Tom Sahargun
Mable Barron School*
Advanced H2O
Kroloff, Belcher, Smart, Perry & Christopherson Law Firm*
Lota Tau Tau Lamda
Insurance Professionals of San Joaquin County
Kristyn and Mike Migliori
York Insurance Services Group*
Pacific Recreation
Human Resources of Stockton Unified*
Lita Wallach & Associates and F&M Bank
Shackelford Family
Deborah Wolfe and Bunco Group
Bath and Body Works - Weberstown Mall
Snells Pre-Kindergarten School

Special Thanks—

The Women's Center would also like to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals who hosted donation drives collecting toys, food, stuffed animals and Wish List items.

Humphreys College
SSA/Office of Disability Adjudication
Caroline Freno
Social Security
Medline Industry
Talbots
Trefox Reality
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Carson Oaks Community Church
Stockton Kiwanis Club

Quail Lakes Baptist Church - Children Ministry
Van De Pol Enterprise, Inc.
San Tomo Group
Marquez Family
San Joaquin Human Resources - Entertainment Committee*
Health Benefits Insurance Brokers*
Tawnya Ansley
Victoria's Secret - Weberstown Mall
Victoria's Secret - Sherwood Mall
Stockton Fire Dept. - Engine #14
Buhler Sortex Inc.*
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Heidi Linscheid & Friends
Corkern Family*
Allied Waste*
Mader Family
Allstate Insurance
Van De Pol Company
Old Republic Title
Sherri Riley
Esquivias Family
Old Republic Title
Consol
JP Morgan Chase - Legacy Team
Alvarez Family
The Burke Family
Rivera's Family (The Headband Gang)
Simoncic Family*
JR Simplot Co.
Aerotek*
Stockton Fire Dept. - Company 10
Dobales Family
Lorraine Pilkington

** Denotes a donor who adopted multiple families*

Capitol Network
JoAnn Dean
Kristyn Migliori
Carol Steele
Deborah Wolfe
Chase Chrysler
Greg Vitz
Pacific Medical
KHKK Radio "104.1 The HAWK"



In Memoriam

A Sad Farewell To Ann Rogers

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of longtime Lodi Women's Center volunteer Ann Rogers. Ann passed away on December 16. She had been a volunteer counselor for the Lodi Women's Center for almost 20 years and has touched the lives of countless women, children and men with her understanding, kindness, and wisdom. Ann had a sharp mind and keen sense of human behavior. As a retired child psychologist, she was often looked to for her expertise and was a mentor to many of us. Her tireless dedication, compassion, and commitment to helping those in need will be greatly missed. It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to our dear friend. She was one-of-a-kind and her contributions to the Women's Center and those we serve will never be forgotten. 🌸



Ann Rogers

(LUNCHEON from cover)

the program will start promptly at 11:30 a.m. Individual lunches are \$35.00 and sponsorship opportunities are available. Deadline for tickets and sponsorships is Friday, March 19, 2010. For more information please visit www.womenscentersjc.org or call (209) 941-2611. Please join us in solidarity against domestic violence and sexual assault as we celebrate three decades of inspirational and education luncheons. 🌸

Lodi Women's Center Celebrates Twenty Years

By Doris McCaughna and Pat Robison

We began in 1989, when a small group of ambitious, dedicated women in the Lodi branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) wanted to develop a project that would benefit the Lodi community. A representative from the Women's Center was invited to speak at one of our meetings. She stirred our enthusiasm and the Lodi Women's Center was born.

After a year of brainstorming and with the help of Church Women United and Soroptimist International, a decision was made to affiliate with the Women's Center and help them to serve the northern part of the county. A public appeal for volunteers went out and about 22 women responded. After receiving training from the Women's Center, we were ready to move forward.

We received a grant from AAUW for \$4,000 and "opened shop" in the old Lincoln School building in 1990. We knew we needed support from the community to be successful. Hundreds of letters were sent out and a Speakers Bureau was organized. The response from the community was amazing! Lodi service clubs, businesses, city officials, churches, municipal judges, Lodi Memorial Hospital, General Mills, Lodi News Sentinel, youth and theater groups, and private individuals lent their support to organize fundraisers and promote community awareness.

In 1993 we were able to purchase the house at 29 S. Washington St. with the help of a city block grant, General Mills funding, an anonymous donor, and the generosity of the home owners and realtor. With the aid of Soroptimist International, our own fundraising events, and a lot of volunteer work, we made our center an attractive and pleasant place for clients and staff.



Direction and encouragement from the Women's Center Directors, and especially our own Program Director, has helped us to become a team; a family. We miss those who've had to leave us and have felt sorrow for those who have died. Over the years some of us have won recognition and awards. Most notably, Lois Borchardt was recognized as the State Woman of the Year and had a Lodi elementary school named after her because of her dedication to making families stronger and safer.

Today the Lodi Women's Center serves over 1,400 women, children, and men a year. Our volunteers continue to be the heart and soul of our center. Many have been with us since we began. Last year they contributed over 1,200 hours of service. In retrospect, those of us who helped start the Lodi Women's Center consider the last 20 years a very successful adventure. A reception to celebrate this momentous milestone will held in late spring of 2010. 🌸

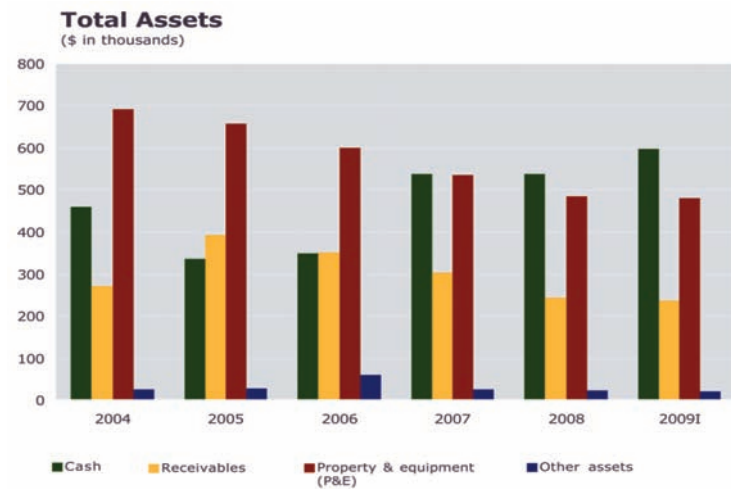
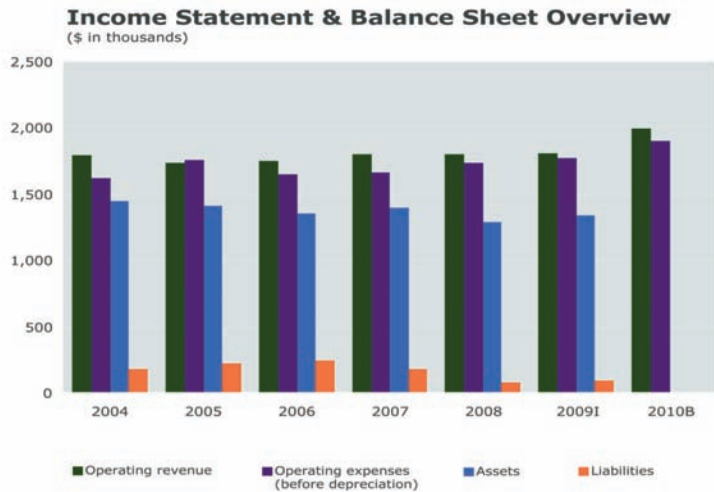
(LEAGUE OF OUR OWN from cover)

organizational growth.”

The results of the analysis showed steady modest growth over the past 5 years, a well-managed organization with liabilities consistently decreasing and revenue that continues to exceed expenses (see Income Statement & Balance Sheet Overview chart). Ms. Smith Arrigoni also noted that while many nonprofits struggle with cash flow, the Women’s Center’s cash continues to steadily increase each year (see Total Assets chart).

“Women’s Center of San Joaquin County demonstrates that an organization that has both strong leadership from senior management and the Board, and fiscal prudence, can weather bad economic storms,” said Ms. Smith Arrigoni.

The Women’s Center plans to publish more details of the Nonprofit Business Analysis on its web site. Many thanks to the Nonprofit Finance Fund and Blue Shield of California Foundation for this opportunity. We plan to use the results of this analysis to inform our decisions as we work to ensure the long-term financial stability of the agency. 🌸



San Joaquin County Establishes Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Lengthy stays in the emergency room appeal to no one. This visit would be unimaginable if you are there for an examination as a victim of sexual assault. Until recently, this type of exam was conducted in the Emergency Room at San Joaquin General Hospital. Members of the county Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) for Child Abuse felt a change to this process was necessary to provide a more efficient and less distracting environment for the victims. An effective Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) was needed to promote justice, protect the community, and ensure proper examinations were conducted in these cases.

A medical examination is often conducted upon adolescent and adult victims of sexual assault. In certain circumstances, this examination is conducted in an acute time frame, essentially closer to the time of the reported incidents. This examination is conducted at the request of law enforcement officers in an effort to collect evi-

dence for potential prosecution of sexual assault.

A SART is a multi-disciplinary, interagency sexual assault intervention system composed of public and private partners who form a team to employ a coordinated, collaborative response to sexual assault. Many California counties have had Sexual Assault Response Teams in place for years. As a result of coordinated efforts over the last two years between members of the MDT for child abuse, San Joaquin County now has a SART.

The team consists of the County’s law enforcement agencies, specifically, the Stockton Police Department, the Sheriff’s Department, the Manteca Police Department, the Tracy Police Department, the Ripon Police Department, the Lodi Police Department, and the Escalon Police Department; San Joaquin General Hospital; District Attorney’s Office; Women’s Center of San Joaquin County; Victim Witness Program; and the Human Services Agency Child Advocacy Center and Child Protective Services. Key members of the team are the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), who will now conduct the examinations. The SANE program is supervised by San Joaquin General Hospital’s Chief Medical Officer and coordinated by the Deputy Director of Nursing Services.

(See SART page 11)

Congressman Jerry McNerney Presents Federal Funding to Women's Center

Women's Center board members, staff, supporters and local dignitaries were on hand Monday, January 11, 2010 as Congressman Jerry McNerney visited the Women's Center's Stockton office for a special presentation of funding. Congressman McNerney secured \$238,000 in federal funding for the Women's Center, which is being used to create four new full-time positions to expand the agency's services for child and teen victims of sexual assault.

Sexual Assault Prevention Specialists Jill Solari and Lisa Jordan, and Sexual Assault Children's Counselor Julie Phillips have already been hired, with one position remaining to be filled. The funding will allow the Center to expand its work preventing the victimization of children and teens, and provide more child victims and their families with counseling and other supportive services.

Women's Center Executive Director Joelle Gomez thanked the Congressman for his assistance in securing the funding, noting that for the hundreds of children served by the agency, there are hundreds more suffering in silence. A former client of the Women's Center spoke, telling those present how the agency helped her family through a "very dark time" after her son was molested by a family friend. Stockton Mayor Ann Johnson thanked the Congressman for bringing funding to the community, and thanked the Women's Center for providing critical services for victims.



L to R: Congressman Jerry McNerney, Women's Center Executive Director Joelle Gomez, Mayor Ann Johnson and Women's Center Board President Mary Bava.



L to R: Women's Center staff Julie Phillips and Lisa Jordan, Congressman Jerry McNerney and Women's Center staff Jill Solari.

Parenting Classes and Support Groups

PARENTING CLASSES – STOCKTON*

Mondays, 9 am to 11 am
Dorothy Jones Community Center
2044 Fair Street, Stockton

CO-PARENTING CLASSES – STOCKTON*

Tuesdays, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Women's Center
620 N. San Joaquin Street, Stockton

CLASS FOR TEEN PARENTS - STOCKTON*

Wednesdays, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Adolescent Family Life Program
2233 Grand Canal Blvd., Ste. 105A, Stockton

PARENTING CLASSES - LODI*

Fridays, 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Hope Harbor Shelter
622 North Sacramento Street, Lodi

*Please call Lori Thompson, Family Violence Specialist/Parenting Instructor, at (209) 467-2336, to let her know you will be attending.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT GROUP – STOCKTON

- Sexual Assault Survivor Support Group
 - Adults Molested as Children Support Group
 - Parents of Sexually Abused Children/Teens Support Group
- For meeting times, contact Brenda Rocha,
Sexual Assault Program Coordinator: (209) 941-2611 x 323

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP – STOCKTON (Adults or Teens)

For meeting times, contact Hack Xiong,
Domestic Violence Program Coordinator: (209) 941-2611 x 326

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENGLISH-SPEAKING SUPPORT GROUP – LODI

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
For more information contact Paula Grech,
Satellite Program Director: (209) 368-3406

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SPANISH-SPEAKING SUPPORT GROUP – TRACY

For meeting times, contact Grace Hernandez,
Domestic Violence Coordinator: (209) 833-0300

LGBT Community Outreach

“It Takes a Rainbow” Event to be held at UOP

The Women’s Center of San Joaquin County is excited and proud to be establishing new contacts within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community concerning outreach on domestic violence and sexual assault issues. The Women’s Center is working with Christopher Goff, Associate Professor of Mathematics at University of the Pacific, who is on the programming committee for an LGBT conference “It Takes a Rainbow: Bridging the Mountains to the Bay.” The event will be held at UOP on February 20, 2010, and the Women’s Center will not only have a booth at the event, but the Sexual Assault prevention team will also present on sexual assault and domestic violence issues as they relate to the LGBT community. Additionally, the Women’s Center reached out to Mike Martinez and David Bishop, CEO and Vice President of Queer Networks, Inc., a series of blog websites in which people can post on issues catering to the LGBT community all over the state of California. Currently, the Women’s Center of San Joaquin County is posting on Queer Networks’ Queer Stockton website about domestic violence and sexual assault subject matters that are LGBT specific. To access these posts, visit www.queerstockton.com. 🌸

Leadership Stockton Class Renovates DAWN House Yard

The Women’s Center was honored to be selected by the Leadership Stockton Class of 2009-2010 for its Community Project. The group raised money and secured in-kind donations in order to complete their ambitious project. The class held a dinner fundraiser in November 2009 in conjunction with DaVinci’s Restaurant in Stockton and collected donations from the community, raising over \$5,800.



The class cleaned the yard behind DAWN House, our undisclosed emergency shelter for battered women and their children. With the funds they raised, they turned the empty lot into a tranquil garden space where the women at the shelter can relax and the children can play. Durable synthetic turf was put down where there had been only dirt, a mulched bed was created around the perimeter of the yard, and small trees shrubs were planted. A drip irrigation system was installed and an existing tree was trimmed. The class plans to purchase outdoor patio furniture and playground equipment for the children.

DAWN (Directions for Abused Women in Need) House, located in Stockton, is the agency’s oldest and largest shelter, with the capacity to house up to 38 women and children at a time. Each year more than 450 women and children seek refuge and services at DAWN House. 🌸

Victim Assistance Training

The Women’s Center’s Victim Assistance Training is held twice a year, during the spring and fall. The 67.5 hour training is designed to prepare volunteers to provide direct services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, as set by the California Emergency Management Agency. Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming training, scheduled to begin in late spring. For additional information, please contact the Women’s Center at (209) 941-2611 or visit our website at www.womenscentersjc.org. Applications are available at our main business office located in Stockton at 620 North San Joaquin Street.



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Saturday, March 6, 2010
801 S. Lower Sacramento Road
(Temple Baptist Church)**

Speakers:
Sister Caritas of "Sisters of the Holy Family"
&
Nola Brantley of MISSEY, Inc.

**9:30 – 11:00 am
\$10 per person**

For more information, contact Kim Williams
(209) 369-5896
or email humantraffickingworkshop@yahoo.com

Co-sponsored by Soroptimist International of Lodi, Soroptimist International of Lodi-Sunrise, American Association of University Women - Lodi Branch, the Salvation Army, Women's Center of San Joaquin, and Lodi Business & Professional Women

(DOMESTIC from page 3)

raged by a rash of domestic violence homicides. It provides a powerful visual testimonial to the sad reality of domestic violence. The silhouettes also serve as a memorial for the women, children and men who have murdered in acts of domestic violence. For Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the silhouettes are displayed in various public spaces such as medical facilities, police stations, health fairs and other community events. Since 1994 the Women's Center has created over 40 Silent Witnesses.

Purple Light Nights

Members of the community are invited to shine a purple light on their front porches to raise awareness about the effects domestic violence has on the community.

Purple ribbons will be available through the Women's Center. Please call (209) 941-2611 or visit www.womenscentersjc.org for information regarding any events or materials related to Domestic Violence Awareness Month. 🌸

(SART from page 8)

In late 2009, several nurses were sent to training at the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center in Sacramento and Madera. The nurses were trained in performing the elements of the adult and pediatric medical examinations, and complying with statewide standardized protocols for the examinations.

The collection of evidence during the examination can be extremely valuable in prosecuting cases involving sexual assault. If charges are filed against the suspect, the nurses will be called to provide testimony regarding the medical and forensic findings from the examination.

The SANE will meet monthly to discuss the cases involving the examinations conducted by the nurse examiners, to ensure a team approach to quality, and maintain the future effectiveness of the SANE process. The development of the SART for San Joaquin County has been a long time in the making and would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Kim Tomasi, RN, MSN, Dr. Jerry Royer of San Joaquin General Hospital, Christine Reed, Supervising Deputy District Attorney for the Child Abuse Sexual Assault Unit, and the members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.

It is anticipated the new team effort will go a long way towards assisting victims in San Joaquin County during their initial contacts with law enforcement, medical professionals, and others involved in the investigation of sexual assault cases. 🌸

SART Team Wish List

New towels

New journals

New wash cloths

New crayons

New coloring books

**Snacks (for children
after exams)**

Items can be dropped off at the
Women's Center's Stockton
Office, 620 N. San Joaquin Street



620 N. San Joaquin St.
Stockton, CA 95202



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Stockton, CA
Permit No. 154



Wish List

Clothes and Shoes

Kid's Pants (sizes 6 to 30)
Kid's Shirts/Sweaters (sizes 6 to 14)
Kid's Pajamas (sizes 6 to 12)
Kid's Gloves & Hats

Women's Shirts/Sweaters (sizes small to XL)
Women's Shirts/Sweaters (sizes 1x, 2x, 3x)
Women's Pajamas (sizes small to XL)
Women's Pajamas (sizes 1x, 2x, 3x)
Women's Underwear & Socks (NEW - all sizes)

Children's Shoes - Winter (all sizes)
Women's Shoes - Winter (all sizes)

Furniture

Bunk Beds
Dressers
Conference Table & Chairs (small)
Twin Bed

Gift Cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Food-4-Less, etc.)

Toiletries

Shampoo & Conditioner (full-size bottles)
Toothpaste & Tooth brushes
Hair Brushes
Deodorant
Razors
Lotion
Baby Shampoo, Wash & Lotion
Hairspray
Hair-bands

Cleaning Supplies

Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent (fragrance-free)
Dish Soap
Sanitizing Wipes
Kleenex®
Bleach
Lysol®

Office Supplies

Planners
Correction Tape
File Folders - Letter Size
File Folders with Fasteners - Letter Size
Pens - Blue
Permanent Markers
Kitchen Trash Bags

Program Materials

New Journals for Male/Female Clients
New Inspirational Books for Adults/Teens
Children's Arts & Crafts
Games
Movies
New Children's Books (coloring & story)
Color Crayons
Washable Markers
New Small to Medium-sized Stuffed Animals
for Male/Female Clients
New Small Games/Puzzles for Pre-teen/Teen
Male/Female Clients

Please bring donated items to any of the three Women's Center business office locations.
Business hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.