



WINTER NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors 2009—The Year of the Good, The Bad, and the Ugly

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The Ugly

Who possibly could have imagined that the collapse of Wall Street would trickle down to a small, non-profit agency in rural Mendocino County in such a profound way as it did this year for PS?

As you all know by now, **the Governor line-item vetoed all allocations for the Battered Women's Shelter Program**, a small, State program that funded 94 domestic violence shelters in California. In terms of an efficient use of tax dollars, the Battered Women's Shelter Program (BWSP) was top notch. For not very much money, these shelters provided a safe landing for tens of thousands of victims of domestic violence throughout the state...many of whom are children.

I often hear from non-victims that they can't understand why victims stay in abusive situations. The truth is that for many it comes down to economics. They simply cannot afford to leave their homes and so they put up with the abuse rather than be homeless. That's why a short term, confidential, and safe place to stay is vital to the overall health of the community. So since we, the public, put a priority on the need for victims to "get out of the house," many would argue that there should then be a public safety net available to them when they do. When the BWSP was cut, some shelters closed their doors forever and the safety net was left in tatters, which leads me to...

The Bad

The cut of the BWSP represented **a loss of approx 1/4 of our revenues for Project Sanctuary**. We had to re-prioritize ourselves in a way that kept the shelter open and met the shortfall. It forced us to cut all staff hours including lay-offs, take away all paid holidays, cut back some programs and reduce our already bare-to-the bones operational budget. But out of all this badness came...

The Good

Words cannot express the profound gratitude I have for the **PS Staff**. Given all this negativity they pulled through with few complaints and with continued dedication to our cause. Sure, there were days that seemed tougher than others, but on the whole everyone worked through the gut-wrenching cuts with grace and professionalism. I cannot thank you enough.

The **PS Board**, who in the end had to make the final call on how we'd proceed with our staff cuts, deliberated these tough decisions with thoughtfulness and heart ache. My thanks to all of you for your continued support.

As part of our solution to cover the needs of the shelter, we turned to our beloved **PS Volunteers** more than ever in our history. Thanks to all of you for hanging in their with us and working such unprecedented, long shifts on the crisis line. You are the unsung heroes in this drama, some of whom have been with us for almost two decades!

The **community in general** has been remarkably supportive, both financially and emotionally and we will never forget your kindness. Ever. A special thanks to Nelson Family Vineyards, Mendocino County Democratic Central Committee, Frey Vineyards, Chuck and Liz Heath, K-Wine and the Ukiah Daily Journal, First 5 Mendocino, The Bradford Foundation, Ukiah Main Street Program, Mendocino Masonic Lodge, Soroptimists groups throughout the County, the Harmon Family, Redwood Empire Lions Club, TR Eriksen Foundation, Little River Inn, Soul Café, The Conorman Family, UPD, FBPD, and WPD, Wes Chesbro and his aid Ruth Valenzuela, and all the many individual supporters of PS. I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone associated with Project Sanctuary when I say how much your support has meant to all of us, especially since the economy has taken a toll on just about everyone—it makes your generosity even more remarkable.

Thanks also to the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, and the Calif. Legislation for eventually getting partial funding temporarily restored for this year. With one more budget year left in his term, the Governor has indicated through his budget office that **domestic violence funding will again be vulnerable next year**. Please check our website for action alerts and updates as we get closer to next year's budget talks in Sacramento.

On behalf of all of us at PS, we wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season and here's to a hopefully brighter 2010! -

Dina P.



Project Sanctuary

www.projectsanctuary.org

UKIAH:

PO Box 450 / 564 S. Dora St. Ukiah 95482
Phone—707.462.9196 Fax—707.462.5869
Crisis Line—707.463.HELP

FORT BRAGG:

461 N. Franklin St., FB, 95437
Phone—707.961.1507 Fax—707.961.1539
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Dine for a Change Big Success!

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this past October, “Dine for a Change” allowed people to dine out at participating restaurants and a portion of the tab was donated to Project Sanctuary to help fund services for domestic violence victims.

Without question this has been a tough year for everyone economically, which makes all the support we received even more admirable, not just from the people who chose to “Dine for a Change”, but also the following local restaurants for making this event happen; Taco Loco, Mi Cocina, O’Haru, Windmill Café, Marino’s Pizza, The Maple, Patrona, Las Palmas, and Kilkenny Kitchen, all in Ukiah; Silvers at the Wharf, V’Canto, Cliff House, Denny’s, T.W.’s Grille & Bar, North Coast Brewing Company, and Mendo Bistro in Fort Bragg, and the Purple Thistle in Willits. Great thanks also to Conrado Vineyards, The Crushed Grape, The Purple Rose, Perko’s, Al Azteca, and K-Wine for underwriting “Dine for a Change”.



PS Says Goodbye to Staff and Board Member



After ten years, Coast Services Director **Lucille Garcia** is leaving PS to move out of state to be near her grandson.

Thank you Lucille for all your hard work and dedication to PS. We will surely miss you! **Jennifer Johnston**, our Volunteer Coordinator in Fort Bragg has taken on a new opportunity and we wish her the best in her new position.

Board member **Stephanie Rodriguez** said a fond farewell to PS this December— Good luck with your PhD Stephanie!

Project Sanctuary offers...

24 HOUR CRISIS LINE

Immediate, supportive information and services to victim, families and concerned friends. Collect calls are always accepted. 1 800 575-HELP

SAFE SHELTER

Project Sanctuary offers women and their children a safe and supportive environment to leave an abusive relationship and a starting place to restructure their lives. A staffed residence in a confidential location offers sanctuary for women and their children who are at risk of domestic violence. Shelter residents get help from staff to find housing, employment, education or legal and social services. Counselors and in-shelter support groups are provided. Children get help as well with on-site family therapy. Men needing shelter are also supported.

COUNSELING

Project Sanctuary provides no cost, one-to-one counseling for anyone who has experienced sexual abuse or violence in their lives no matter how long ago the assault occurred.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Project Sanctuary offers support groups in Ukiah, Willits, Covelo, and

Fort Bragg for those who would like the support of others in a safe and positive environment. Groups include: “Women’s Empowerment,” “Anger Management,” and “Adult Survivors of Sexual Molestation.”

LEGAL SERVICES

Project Sanctuary’s legal advocates provide assistance with domestic violence restraining orders and sexual harassment, as well as advocacy and support in court for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

PREVENTION EDUCATION

Project Sanctuary offers a sensitive, age-appropriate curriculum designed for students from pre-kindergarten through college. The program addresses safety, healthy dating relationships and who to ask for help and how.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Project Sanctuary staff provide information and presentations about domestic violence and sexual abuse for community members and organizations.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing is available for up to a year for a limited number of clients. This program provides support to victims who are transitioning to a life free of violence, allowing the time and shelter to work towards being independent.