



Project Sanctuary

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

2016—The ugly, the bad, and...the good!

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The end of the year is a natural place to reflect back on the prior 365 days and assess. In 2016, we saw the good, the bad, and the ugly. Let's just get the bad and the ugly over with...**2016 was a mixed bag for sexual assault justice.** This year we saw a convicted sexual predator, a former swimmer at Stanford University, receive what many viewed as a very short and unjust sentence. But his victim spoke truth to power and enlightened the world with her truly amazing sentencing statement on the realities of being victimized and the ensuing attempt to receive justice. Her statement was so impactful and empowering that we paid for full paid ads in county newspapers to run her comments. In 2016, we saw a young man receive no jail time for a truly vicious act of sodomy against a disabled teammate, left bullied and battered by some of his high school peers on his football team. In both cases, the judges seemed to exhibit a lot more concern for the futures of the perps vs justice for the victims. And sadly, 2016 was also the year we heard audio tape of a presidential candidate bragging about sexual assault. On behalf of victims and those who advocate for victims, 2016 left a lot us feeling like we had been punched in the gut.

So that's the bad and that's ugly...but here's the good. Project Sanctuary joins rape crisis centers around the country in a unified voice to **continue the fight for justice for victims of sexual assault.** We also continue pushing for legislation that protects victim of domestic violence, both from current abuse and future abuse. That work is where hope lives, when sometimes hope is not so abundant.

Here's more good news for 2016. This year, through federal funding and local contributions, Project Sanctuary was able to **expand services to geographically underserved victims** in **Laytonville** at the Long Valley Health Clinic and **Point Arena** at the RCMS Dental Clinic. Isolated victims have historically been challenged to get help simply due to distance to our counseling centers. Through these funds, we can shelter, counsel, and assist victims of abuse with their justice pursuits, right in their hometowns.

This year we also **expanded our transitional housing program both inland and on the coast.** Housing, housing, housing! It's often the biggest barrier to a life free of violence for our clients in particular. With occupancy rates hovering around 2%, Mendocino County is a uniquely hard place to procure housing. Through this program we can shelter several more families on a non-emergency, long term basis (18 months), to give them time to heal, save money, and get their affairs in order to get into their own permanent housing. It is not an exaggeration to say that most of the clients we put into this program, burst into tears upon approval. It's just such a relief to have the housing piece sorted. Most of our TH clients have jobs and have taken some pretty courageous and challenging steps to get to this place so we are thrilled that we've been able to help with the housing piece. Our landlord partners have been so understanding and cooperative and we can't thank them enough.

Looking forward, in 2017 we have pledged to focus on the good, on justice for victims, and working towards reducing and eliminating intimate partner violence in our community. **But we can use some help.** In the spring we begin training sessions for new **crisis line volunteers.** After becoming a certified peer counselor specific to DV and sexual assault, volunteers are on call typically 1-night a month to take calls. Most victims just need someone to talk to and we provide all the tools necessary to walk people in crisis through those calls. Email [mary@projectsanctuary.org](mailto:mary@projectsanctuary.org) for questions regarding the inland volunteer program, or [teanna@projectsanctuary.org](mailto:teanna@projectsanctuary.org) for the coast program.

*Continued*

## Project Sanctuary

[www.projectsanctuary.org](http://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  
Crisis Line—707.964.HELP



Your tax-deductible,  
year-end gift will help  
victims of abuse throughout  
Mendocino County.

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## 2016—The ugly, the bad, and...the good! - con't

We could also use a few **more board members**, especially folks from law enforcement, the courts, social services and education. If your interested email our ED at [dina@projectsanctuary.org](mailto:dina@projectsanctuary.org). We always have a need for **in-kind household items** including twin bedding, new bed pillows & non-foam or down filled bedspreads, bath towels/washcloths, laundry and cleaning supplies, toilet paper/paper towels, feminine products, coffee, powdered creamer, sugar, filters and grocery gift cards. And finally, we always need help with **cash contributions**. Grant money is great, but it's restrictive. Contributions help bridge funding gaps & provide much needed resources to client needs outside of grants. PayPal donation link at [www.projectsanctuary.org](http://www.projectsanctuary.org).

**To all our supporters & clients—we wish you a peaceful and safe 2017!**

## Project Sanctuary offers...

### 24 HOUR CRISIS LINE

Immediate, supportive information and services to victim, families and concerned friends. (707) 463-HELP & (707) 964-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 group counseling 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

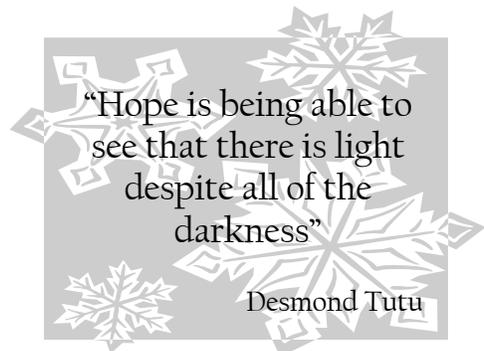
Project Sanctuary offers a sensitive, age-appropriate curriculum designed for students from pre-kindergarten through college. The program addresses safety, healthy dating relationships, and who to ask for help and how.

### 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.



## PS We Love YOU! - 2017

We have some exciting changes this year coming to our annual fundraising event, "Ps We Love YOU!...including a cheaper ticket price! See you Sat 7-29-17 at Nelson Family Vineyards!

Rather get our newsletter electronically?  
Let us know at [info@projectsanctuary.org](mailto:info@projectsanctuary.org)

PS is on twitter at [p\\_sanctuary](https://twitter.com/p_sanctuary)

