

## Gloria J. Sandoval Executive Director



With a long-standing commitment to human rights and social change, Gloria Sandoval has dedicated her life to serving others. Since 1997 Gloria has served as Executive Director of STAND! For Families Free of Violence (formerly STAND! Against Domestic Violence). STAND!, one of the largest family violence agencies in Northern California, has a distinguished history of designing, developing and implementing innovative and effective programs and has been the recipient of local, statewide and national recognition. Gloria's leadership, dedication and talents have guided STAND! to its present level of community service, assisting more than 11,000 clients per year in Contra Costa County.

Because Gloria overcame domestic violence in her own life, she understands the vital importance in a community of making available a broad range of services to those who have suffered abuse; to children who have witnessed abuse, and to those who have inflicted abuse on others. She understands that violence in the home has a causal relationship to violence in our communities and in the world. Helping to educate others about how to resolve conflict without violence is a subject that is very close to her heart.

Prior to her work at STAND!, Gloria was the Executive Director of Shanti in San Francisco, providing life-saving services to people with HIV/AIDS. During her tenure she was responsible for restoring community credibility in the agency following a fiscal crisis. She was also responsible for expanding Shanti's services to include minorities and women, who at that time were contracting the disease in epidemic numbers.

Gloria also served as the Executive Director of the Rape Crisis Center of Contra Costa and Marin Counties for fifteen years. During this time she expanded the services of the agency to include prevention efforts and clinical services for women and children.

Gloria has been the recipient of many awards honoring her service throughout the years, including the 2005 Connors Family R.O.S.E. Achievement Award, an annual national award that recognizes a woman who has broken the cycle of domestic violence and determined to persevere despite the harsh reality of her transition, and to help others as a result of her experience.