

Catalyst

FALL 2010

A Child's Courage Saves her Mother's Life

The Impact of Violence on Children

Sounds of thunder and lightning wake a child from her sleep. But, as she becomes more aware of what she is listening to, her little heart begins to pound faster and faster. The sound coming from the other room is growing familiar. She has heard it before. Quietly she walks over to her baby brother and picks him up in her arms. They hide in a closet while she rocks back and forth to put him back to sleep. She is too afraid of what will happen to them if her dad hears her brother crying. She pulls the blanket over their heads and shuts the closet door.

Tears roll down her cheeks and she whispers... *Dear God, please let mommy be okay. Please don't let Daddy hurt us. Please let me go back to sleep.*

A Four Year-old Girl's Story of Courage

This was the last time Aurora would have to experience the terror of her father hurting her mother, her brother, or herself. That night, as she always did, Aurora waited for her mother to come into the room. She would run to her mom and they would all hold each other. But this time after the shouting stopped, her mother didn't call. The front door had slammed and a car had sped away from the driveway and now Aurora was growing afraid of an unsettling quiet.

Somehow Aurora found the courage to do something she had never done before. She opened the closet door and quietly left the bedroom, so fearful that her body trembled as she got closer to where the shouting had come from. As she turned the corner she saw her mother lying on the floor. Fearing that her mommy was dead, Aurora dialed 9-1-1, just as she had been taught.

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**24-Hour
Crisis Line:
1-888-215-5555**

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to introduce you to STAND! for Families Free of Violence. The name of our newly merged agency reflects our understanding that a healthy



family leads to a peaceful home. Choosing a new name involved staff, volunteers and board members from STAND! and the Family Stress Center and evidences our commitment to promoting safe, stable, and strong families in our community.

There are many reasons why the merger of STAND! and the Family Stress Center makes sense.

Although you may think that domestic violence and child abuse are totally distinct issues they often co-occur in families.

While we know that domestic violence has a severe impact on the adult victim, many people mistakenly believe that children, in particular very young children, do not suffer long-term effects of violence or trauma. However, a growing body of research has established that all children, even infants, are affected by trauma. Unfortunately, within families, this trauma often is the result of experiencing or witnessing violent behavior, including physical, sexual, psychological abuse or neglect. Sometimes this behavior is between adults and sometimes it is between parents and their children.

The effects of domestic violence on adult victims and the experience of exposure to domestic violence or child abuse on children share many similarities. Both are traumatic events and the effects can be sobering and long lasting. Responding to child abuse or domestic violence requires significant intervention and education to stop the intergenerational nature of both.

Our staff work with victims daily helping them heal from the trauma. A goal of our treatment services with children is to help them develop protective factors-competencies, psychological resources and resilience that can assist in their healing. Strategies include working with parents/caregivers to improve parenting and nurturing skills, helping them to understand child development and providing them with concrete support systems.

We believe that the merger of the Family Stress Center and STAND! will lead us to examine the complexities of the issues of child abuse and domestic violence and their interrelatedness.

STAND! for Families Free of Violence will maintain our core services for child and adult victims of violence. We will continue to provide services for people who abuse, helping them to develop alternatives to violence when facing conflict. We will continue to focus on safety for all members of the family and on healthy parenting. Finally, we will continue to be a catalyst for change in social norms toward promoting healthy relationships. These services were a mainstay of both agencies, and the community needs these services now more than ever.

Looking boldly into the future, we realize that the merger transition and integration process will be challenging. Among many other endeavors, we will be challenged to integrate the programs, cultures, and philosophies of two agencies. Our commitment to family strength; surrounding families with a broad range of services from promoting positive parenting to counseling and assisting foster and kinship families who nurture vulnerable youth is paramount. We will strive to confront family violence as a single issue with many facets that may require different approaches.

All of these challenges and opportunities contribute to our sense of excitement as we enter this new phase of our commitment to the families of our community. Please STAND! with us as we move forward into the future of this important work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria J. Sandoval".

Gloria J. Sandoval
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. We have changed the name of our newsletter to "Catalyst", representing that we will provide a variety of "means, channels and vehicles" to help our clients create healthy families. This edition of Catalyst will overview some of our programs and spotlights our work.

JOIN US FOR STAND! for Families Free of Violence's 18th Annual Rebuilding Lives Luncheon Thursday, October 14, 2010

Concord Hilton • 1970 Diamond Boulevard • Concord, CA

Keynote Speaker: Niecy Nash

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, when our community joins together to remember the victims of domestic violence and to honor the continuing effort of the thousands of individuals who have dedicated their lives to ending domestic violence. For 18 years, STAND! has celebrated October with our Rebuilding Lives Luncheon.

At the luncheon we remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence in the last year, and celebrate the families STAND! has touched and their journey to rebuild their lives free of violence.

This year STAND! welcomes Niecy Nash, star of *Reno 911*, *Clean House*, and a recent contestant on *Dancing with the Stars* as our keynote speaker. Ms. Nash will humorously weave together the story of her own life while speaking out against violence in the home and in the community. As a child of an abusive home, Ms. Nash has lived through the terror of knowing that her home was not a safe place to be. In addition, she knows the effect that acceptance of violence by our society has in our schools as her brother was gunned down at his high school when she was just a teenager. Cheryl Jennings, News Anchor from ABC7/KGO-TV, will join us as Mistress of Ceremonies.



Each year STAND! is proud to honor an individual or group whose work champions the cause of ending domestic violence with the prestigious Rollie Mullen Award. Named for the late Rollie Mullen, Executive Director of STAND! for many years, the award honors Rollie's radiant spirit, unwavering commitment to STAND!, and her passionate determination to reach families affected by domestic violence. Past recipients have included Senator Dianne Feinstein, Margaret Leshner, Junior League of Oakland/East Bay, The Faith Community Task Force, Bay Area Legal Aid, and last year's winner, Contra Costa County's DELTA Project "Mentoring Boys into Compassionate Men".

Mark your calendars for October 14th; an afternoon of hope and community not to be missed.

The Rebuilding Lives Luncheon is STAND!'s signature event during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Seats fill rapidly, so please make your reservation today. Event registration begins at 11:30AM with the luncheon programming following from Noon to 1:30PM. For questions (925) 603-0110.

Support STAND! in Domestic Violence Awareness Month by voting for us to win the Pepsi Refresh Grant in the month of October!

REGISTER ONLINE at www.refresheverything.com/

(Search for: STAND!)

VOTE EVERY DAY between 10/1-10/31!

SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



In 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence conceived of a day in October, which would serve as a "Day of Unity". A day to connect advocates across the United States who were working to end violence against women and their children. Over the course of the 1980s, the "Day of Unity" evolved into a week and then more as local, state, and national level organizations conceived of new activities and events that all shared a common set of themes: mourning those who have died due to domestic violence, celebrating survivors, and connecting those who work to end domestic violence.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year, the National Domestic Violence Toll-Free Hotline came into service. A scant two years later, in 1989, Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

There are many ways to honor Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to spread the word that there is an alternative to violence. STAND! looks forward to helping you raise awareness of domestic violence in your company, organization, faith group, or any community group. Here are just a few ideas:

Tabling Event – STAND! volunteers can staff a table supplied with newsletters, flyers, ribbons, and other materials in your lobby, courtyard, or meeting space.

Speaking Engagement – STAND! can provide a volunteer to speak to your employees or members about domestic violence. It is a compelling, personal way to create awareness and educate your group not only about the effects of domestic violence, but also about the many life-saving, and life-changing services that agencies like STAND! provide.

Rebuilding Lives Luncheon – Sponsor the event or become a table captain and bring a group of employees and friends to an inspiring afternoon.

Other Ideas – We are always happy to help with any idea you may come up with to celebrate this very important month.

Please call Stephanie Tristan at (925) 603-0138 to find out how STAND! can assist you with your ideas to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October or visit our website at www.standffov.org/materials to download your own awareness materials.

Continued from front page

That call saved her mom's life. Aurora's dad had strangled her mother, left her for dead and abandoned his children. It has been almost a year since that night and Aurora has a new life now.

Sitting at her school desk, Aurora proudly writes her name in her favorite color, lime green. She is in Kindergarten and enthusiastically shares about the new friends she has met, how her teacher is the best teacher in the whole world, and how happy she is when her mom volunteers in the classroom. Watching from afar, this chubby faced little girl seems to be a typical 5 year-old. But the peace and happiness that now exists were not always there. It has taken a lot of time, encouragement, counseling, and nurturing to rebuild the shattered trust of this young child. And while she has responded well through this process, her little brother Ben, still struggles.

Ben plays in the preschool room on the carpet quietly, but happily. At 3 years old, the violence that existed in his home has severely impacted him. Ben acts out and hits others, even his own mother and sister. He has difficulty expressing his feelings. Although Ben's pattern of hitting, screaming, or throwing things has continued, he is slowly becoming less explosive and is beginning to heal.

Healing Families Takes Time

Aurora and Ben came from a home where the violence in their parents' relationship had existed before they were born. The abuse continued while their mother was pregnant and would be the start of the life they would come to know, filled with chaos, pain, fear, and instability. The physical abuse of the children had started when they were only infants and became more frequent for Aurora after her fourth birthday.

It will take time for Ben and Aurora to restore their confidence and to ease their fears. They will continue to participate in counseling and other services offered at STAND! Counseling and play therapy help children overcome the trauma and reduce the behaviors that many child victims exhibit including blaming themselves, acting more as an adult, fearing abandonment, developing speech problems, and having frequent nightmares. The journey for every child is different, as is the healing process.

Their mother Rose has participated in services to help her reach her goals and to start rebuilding her life. One of her primary goals has been to help her children heal. Rose has learned about the psychological and emotional effects that child abuse has on children. Rose's self-esteem has increased from the knowledge she's gained in classes on parenting and healthy relationships. She is taking advan-

tage of resources to support important decisions about her future. Her participation in support groups, individual counseling, and job training programs will also be significant to her success.

The Impact and Moving Forward

Children who are exposed to violence are impacted in a variety of ways. STAND!'s holistic approach to services is significant because it aims to intervene and treat those who have experienced the trauma of violence and abuse.

Facts You Should Know

- A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds
- Children exposed to domestic violence are TWO times more likely to become victims or perpetrators themselves
- Almost five children die everyday as a result of child abuse. More than three out of four are under the age of 4
- 43% of child fatalities occur in families where the mother is being abused
- Between 45-70% of children exposed to domestic violence are also victims of physical abuse
- About 80% of 21 year-olds that were abused as children met criteria for at least one psychological disorder



STAND! for Families Free of Violence understands that the cycle of violence is generational and that in order to break the cycle, solutions for family violence and child abuse must involve treatment for the victims, and programs for the abusers focused on accountability and learning non-violent behaviors and healthy parenting. Ben and Aurora are only two of many children that need help. There is hope and with the support of volunteers and generous donors, STAND! will continue to provide services with a holistic approach in the hope of establishing balance between explicit crisis intervention and the long-term nurturing of healthy family relationships.

If four year-old Aurora was able to save her mother's life through her courage to act during a frightening time, imagine all the lives that we can save through our actions together, as a community dedicated to ending child abuse and inter-generational violence.

A CALL TO MEN Men's Institute

held in San Pablo, California
June 22 – 24, 2010

The 2-day institute examined fatherhood, healthy manhood concepts, and courageous bystander intervention along with the history of the domestic and sexual violence movements; to name a few topics. An opportunity for men to partner with women to address this serious issue: ending violence against women and children, the national institute purpose is to influence change in men's behavior through a training process that promotes healthy manhood.

The co-founder of *A CALL TO MEN*, Tony Porter, led the institute. Porter, an educator, author, and activist has worked in the social justice arena for over 20 years. *A CALL TO MEN* is committed to maintaining strong partnerships with women's organizations and challenges men to reconsider many of the social norms that define manhood, in an effort to create a more just society. www.acalltomen.org

At the end of the institute, men were called to the front of the room to publicly share their commitment to end violence against women and children and to commit to being a courageous bystander.

This national institute facilitated an outstanding gathering of over over a hundred participants from Oregon to Missouri. It is our hope that the *movement* to engage men and boys to prevent domestic and sexual violence continues with local activists joining the DELTA Project or West County Committee Action Team. If you like more information on joining other men in this crucial work contact Terrence Ivory at 925.603.0103, or email at terrencei@standagainstdv.org.

This event was a collaborative project by Contra Costa College, STAND! Against Domestic Violence (now STAND! for Families Free of Violence) Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence, the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, CALCASA, Community Violence Solutions, The DELTA project, Contra Costa County Violence Prevention Coalition and *A CALL TO MEN*.



With a Little Help from our Community Friends

STAND!'s New Technology Center Shines!

On May 6th, a beautiful new technology center was revealed to staff, including STAND!'s Chief Executive Officer, Gloria Sandoval, and Director of Intervention and Housing Services, Stacy Baird. The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. announced a 3-year partnership with STAND! for Families Free of Violence, as a part of celebrating their 75th Anniversary year. And in year one of this partnership, the Junior League worked towards completing the goal of delivering a Technology Resource Center for the Rollie Mullen Center.

Junior League members spent several hours creating a total transformation of the room, including replacing carpet, painting, installing blinds, and setting up 12 computer stations and 2 printers. On Tuesday,



May 18th, the Resource Center officially opened its doors and the opportunity to learn new skills, search for employment, or prepare a resume, has become a reality for STAND! clients. The positive impact this new technology center will have for our clients is tremendous and we share a deep appreciation for the hard work that has been completed by the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay.

Working with STAND!, the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay will be providing enhanced resources and vocational training programs, starting with a computer lab. For many victims of domestic violence, the need to learn job skills and prepare for entering the workforce is critical to their future success. The new Resource Center and the Junior League volunteers will provide STAND! clients with the gift of empowerment and the ability to gain financial independence. It is amazing what can be done with a little help from our community friends. From all of us at STAND!, we send a big "Thank You" to our Junior League allies.

**24-Hour Crisis Line:
1-888-215-5555**

STAND! for Families Free of Violence

is excited to introduce our wide array of support services. These services will allow us to work with entire families to end the cycles of violence and neglect, and to ensure that the children who are most vulnerable receive the services they need to thrive. Our services are divided into three main categories: Prevention, Intervention and Treatment, each with its own vision and guiding philosophy that contribute to the underlying goal of safe, strong and healthy families.

PREVENTION

Our Prevention services aim to pre-empt violence and other problems in the home, in our schools and in the community by focusing on providing supportive and educational services to empower parents, strengthen families, engage men in ending violence against women and becoming caring fathers, nourish children, and educate our community.

Post Adoption Services work with families who have adopted children in Contra Costa County. Services provide these special families with support in building strong and loving relationships while also addressing the unique needs of adopted families.

Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) aims to build and strengthen positive attachments between parents and children with workshops on parenting skills appropriate to each child's age, parental training on positive parenting skills, and a practice model illustrated and adapted to each participant's home.

Proud Fathers is a series of support groups, parenting skills workshops and individualized programs, including vocational support, for fathers seeking to become better parents. Primarily reaching out to young men, ages 16-24, this program aims to help young fathers be supportive, nurturing parents.

The **DELTA Project** is a coordinated community response focusing on men and boys. The committee works on developing and implementing activities designed to engage men in preventing domestic violence before it happens.

Youth Education Support Services (YESS) is a school and community-based prevention project including education, youth leadership development, and training on teen dating violence prevention, shifting attitudes, and increasing healthy relationships.

First 5 Bay Point Center provides free programs and classes for parents and children under 5 encouraging early childhood development and school readiness by promoting healthy child-parent relationships, social support to reduce family isolation, and positive parenting practices.

The **Speaker's Bureau & Community Trainings** are our greatest educational and advocacy tool in the community. Through presentations and trainings with community groups, corporations, local businesses, governmental agencies, and individuals, STAND! works to educate our community about the causes, effects, and signs of domestic violence and child abuse. In addition, STAND! regularly offers the state-mandated 40-hour Domestic Violence Training for individuals interested in working with victims and their children.

INTERVENTION

STAND!'s intervention programming provides vital support to women, children, and families in crisis. Intervention programs address a broad spectrum of immediate and urgent needs by providing services that range from life-saving crisis line and emergency shelter to working with vulnerable at risk families.

Kinship Programming provides supportive services to relative caregivers (primarily grandparents) in the East Contra Costa County community so children can remain with their families and avoid placement in general foster care.

Domestic Violence Liaisons are housed in EHSD offices in East, West, and Central County, the Richmond Police Department, and the Pittsburg Health Clinic. Liaisons provide on-site services to DV victims and their children as they work with the legal, health, and human services entities.

Support Groups are tailored to individual clients' needs. Meeting topics include self-esteem, DV dynamics, boundaries and limit setting, assertiveness training, safety planning, and other topics.

Legal Advocacy assists clients with navigating the legal system, including application for Temporary Restraining Orders (in conjunction with Bay Area Legal Aid), court accompaniment services, and follow-up with the police and the District Attorney regarding the filing of charges and the progress of a case through the court.

For more information, please call (925) 676-2845.

The Rollie Mullen Center

The **Crisis Line** is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Qualified staff and volunteers offer multilingual crisis counseling, safety planning and domestic violence information.

In addition clients are screened for entrance into the emergency shelter, domestic violence support groups or a restraining order clinic and are provided referrals to many other services.

Our 24-bed **Emergency Shelter** for women and children is a safe place where families can stay for up to 12 weeks. Women participate in daily meetings and on-going case management with access to housing referrals, legal advocacy, vocational services and job readiness training, ongoing workshops on a variety of topics, including budgeting, and positive parenting skills.

The **Emergency Response Team** responds to police and hospital calls to work with victims in the first hours after an incident providing support and informing them of our services and their options.

Therapeutic Child Care is a free onsite program at the Rollie Mullen Center to offer children who have witnessed domestic violence and/or have been abused, a stable daily environment with caring professional staff and conjoint therapeutic treatment.

Transitional Housing can accommodate up to 9 families and 4 single women, including on-site peer counseling and comprehensive case management and support groups, children's programming and recreational activities for the family, as well as ongoing workshops on a range of topics relating to financial, parental, and life skills for a period of up to two years.

Our **Vocational Services** specialist works with clients on individualized self-sufficiency plans to facilitate (re)entry into education or the work force and skill-specific training workshops and classes, providing job readiness training and job development.

TREATMENT

Our treatment services support individuals and groups in establishing violence-free lives and becoming healthy, resilient people. In addition parents and families are given the support and tools needed to heal, break the intergenerational cycle of violence and abuse, and become better parents/caregivers to children.

Our **Clinical Parenting Program** works with parents in (or having recently completed) a substance abuse treatment program as well as with parents whose children have been referred by a therapist or school to our **Mentor Program**. The program teaches parents to recognize their children's emotional needs as well as build the parenting skills necessary to nurture, support, and effectively discipline their children, and to provide parents with support.



Our **Mentor Program** works with families who have been referred by a child's therapist or school for mild to moderate behavioral problems. Mentors work with children in their homes and/or community helping them learn how to understand their emotions, manage their behavior, and positively interact with others.

The **Differential Response** team of clinical caseworkers assist Children & Family Services (CFS) identified families to address family problems. These families are referred to us because a child abuse report has been made to CFS. CFS may not have had enough evidence to open a formal case, but they recognize there is a problem. The program helps families learn to cope with and work through familial problems in healthy ways so as to prevent another incident which would require CFS to open a case.

Our **Children's Counseling Program** has supervised clinical staff that provide intensive therapeutic services to child victims of abuse. Children who witness or are the focus of abuse must work through feelings and behaviors they don't yet understand. By utilizing play therapy, and other age-appropriate therapeutic methods, our staff validates these children's experiences and helps them learn to understand their own feelings and heal.

Therapeutic Behavioral Services therapists work intensively with children and young adults (up to age 21) with severe emotional problems to help them cope and thrive in everyday situations that would otherwise trigger serious behavioral and mental health issues and breakdowns which could lead to the child being placed in foster care or a group home.

Individual, peer and group counseling is provided for adult victims of violence. With services in English or Spanish, counseling allows clients to address their past trauma and learn to mitigate the effects and occurrence in the future.

The **Domestic Violence Treatment Program** is a court-mandated 52-week class with individual assessment and evaluation. For perpetrators of violence, STAND! has two programs to help them overcome their anger and violence.

Our **Anger Management Program** is a 16-week program for individuals who recognize they have a problem and want to change their behavior. The aim of these classes is to teach perpetrators to constructively recognize their feelings and to learn positive alternatives to express anger.

For more information, please call (925) 676-2845.

STAND! *and* Celebrate

CHARD-N-HAY 2010

Spring got a revamp this year as STAND! pulled on its cowboy boots and kicked off its new spring event *STAND! and Celebrate* with great success. More than 100 guests and 20+ volunteers helped make *STAND! and Celebrate* "Chard-N-Hay" a rollicking success, raising more than \$50,000 for STAND! services. A pair of gorgeous San Francisco 49ers Gold Rush Girls helped rope in attendees to buy tickets for our Grand Raffle. This year's prize was a case of private reserve Cabernet from our supporters, Chuck and Betty Rathgen's own vineyard. Guests sipped wine from Viano Vineyards, Wenté Family Estates, and Wilson-Fleming Estates Winery, and listened to the country-western sounds of The Michael Paul Band as they perused a selection of art, wine, and experiences at our silent auction. This year's silent auction items included a 49ers football signed by Mike Singletary, wine-tastings galore, a painting and book by Brad Perks. The live auctions were filled with 5 delicious cakes from Katrina Rozelle, Le Gateau Elegant, Torino Baking Company, Montclair Baking Company, The French Bakery, The Old Towne Danville Bakery, Club Level Tickets for the Oakland A's, an instant wine cellar filled with magnums and various wines from the STAND! Board of Directors and more. A big thank you to all the volunteers, including Anne Mendenhall who created the beautiful centerpieces, for all the hard work that made this a fantastic inaugural event.



Event Cash Donations—STAND! and Celebrate

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Lisa Evans Portrait Design

Richard and Susan Rainey

Wenté Family Estates

Sponsors (\$500.00 +)

Brad Perks Lightscapes

Studio Gallery

D & D Jewelers

Golf N Games

Hagafen Cellars

Simply Organized

Southwest Airlines

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Patrons (\$250.00 +)

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Cline Cellars

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Fit N Me In

J. Hettinger Interiors

Ledson Winery & Vineyards

Livermore Ranch Kennels

Nadia and Bill Lockyer

Lone Tree Golf Course

Judy Malespino

Marin Symphony

Mueller Excavating

Napa Valley Wine Train, Inc.

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Peju Province Winery

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Plaza Park Salon

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Bette's Oceanview Diner

Central Works Theater Ensemble

Chevy's Mexican Restaurant -

Pleasant Hill

Dallas & Company

East Bay Nature

El Tapatio

Freight & Salvage Coffee House

Hahn Family Wineries

Kenwood Vineyards

Landmark Theatres

Mr. Lucky's of Pleasant Hill

Museum of the African Diaspora

Oakland East Bay Symphony

Scandia Family Center

Scott's Seafood Grill

Shoreline Amphitheatre

Specialtee's Boutique

Susan Foord Catering

V. Sattui Winery

VJB Vineyards and Cellars

Le Gateau Elegant

Torino Baking Co

Montclair Baking Co

The French Bakery

Katrina Rozelle

The Old Towne Danville Bakery

Thank you to Bank of America and Wells Fargo for sponsoring the event, as well as to Wells Fargo for matching the money raised during Fund-A-Need!

Touch A Heart Luncheon

The Heart of Courage Award is Given to the Women who Helped to Free Jaycee Dugard

At the 2nd Annual Touch of Heart Luncheon, the Heart of Courage award was presented to Officer Allison Jacobs and Event Manager Lisa Campbell of the University of California Berkeley Police Department for their quick actions that identified and freed Jaycee Dugard and her children. This story brought widespread media attention to the Bay area and the issue of child abuse. Recognizing these two women for their courage was an inspiring moment.

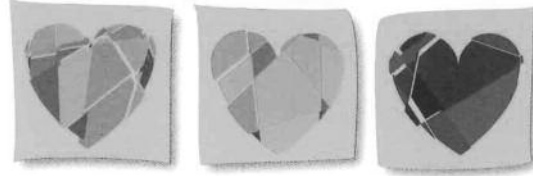


In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and also to celebrate the great success of former Family Stress Center programs, more than 130 guests gathered for the 2nd Annual Touch of Heart Luncheon. The event was held on Friday, April 23rd

at Bridges Golf Club and was an overwhelming success! The celebration kicked off with a lively dance performance by East County Kids N Motion. This set the stage for the luncheon's program, focused on honoring individuals and organizations that have made a difference in the lives of children and families.

The Touch a Heart award was presented to Families Helping Families of the Alamo Women's Club for their generous support of Family Stress Center's Kinship Program and the Heart of Gold Award honored Mike's Auto Body for its Benevolence Program for refurbishing and donating automobiles to needy families in Contra Costa County. The Healing Heart Award went to the O'Malley Family including William O'Malley, Dan O'Malley, Nancy O'Malley, and Mary Ann O'Malley, for their public and volunteer service that has changed lives through public policy, public service and nonprofit leadership.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and donors and the hard work of the Event committee along with Ellen's Guild volunteers who helped at the event, more than \$30,000 was raised to support the programs for children and families that STAND! for Families Free of Violence will continue to provide.



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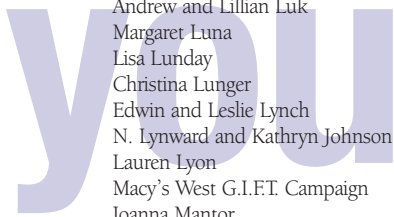
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STAND! Against Domestic Violence and Family Stress Center merged July 1. Our new name represents our shared commitment.



STAND! promotes healthy relationships and parenting, advances safety and self-determination for victims of family violence, child abuse and neglect, and is a voice for vulnerable families.

STAND! is a multicultural organization focused on preventing, intervening and treating the devastating impact of violence within families.

STAND! leads the community in building safe and strong families. Violence is a learned behavior and can be unlearned.

STAND! strives to:

- Serve as a model to increase service impact within vulnerable families
- Stimulate innovative solutions to child abuse and domestic violence
- Promote healthy families
- Advocate on behalf of victims and families



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