

The Impact of Domestic Violence on Our Community



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Domestic Violence

Most people think that domestic violence is a private, family matter and choose not to get involved. However, domestic violence impacts a community in surprising ways. October is domestic violence awareness month and a perfect time to bring it out of the shadows.

Domestic violence tears the very fabric of a community by dismantling family units and causing a ripple effect of repercussions that are felt for many years. One of the most lasting consequences of domestic violence is the harm it does to family bonds. Children witnessing violence committed against their parent can find it difficult to trust adults in the future. It compromises their attachment to the person that should love and protect them, weakening the family unit. An estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence against their mother or a female caretaker. These kids have higher levels of anger, hostility, disobedience, and withdrawal. They have similar health issues as adults: anxiety, sleep disorders, mental health and behavior health issues. One can imagine the ef-

fect this has on school performance.

Adult victims suffer from a host of long-term health problems like heart disease, chronic pain, stress disorders, and arthritis, increasing health care costs for everyone. The effects of domestic violence cut across a wide range of issues and some studies estimate the total annual cost in the U.S. exceeds \$12 billion. This includes health care costs for the victim's body and mind for conditions such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and dissociation.

The effects of domestic violence don't stop at the front door. Too often, it spills into our community; into places that are supposed to be safe havens on their own. If a person is in an abusive relationship, we encourage her or him to strategically make others aware of their situation; particularly their children's school and their own workplace. The aggressor may show up and harass the children and their teachers or the victim and their colleagues correspondingly. This puts people who have no direct link to the family's "private" issue in a potentially harmful situation, but if they are informed and they are prepared, they can be pro-active and have safety parameters in place.

It can negatively affect a company's bottom line too. A national study

found that work productivity net loss annually was \$1.14 billion and 7.9 million work days. This is the exact reason why companies have started addressing domestic violence within their policies and have encouraged human relations departments to seek connections with agencies, like Su Casa, to address the needs of their employees. An employee who knows that the company she works for not only supports her efforts to live a safe life, but can also help her find resources to do so, increases loyalty and productivity in the long run.

So, how much does this really impact us locally? The National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted a

census of services for victims/survivors on September 10, 2014 and found that agencies in California sheltered over 5,700 people and provided outreach counseling to over 2,800 people on just that day alone. Over 1,900 people called a hotline. Each person was seeking safety, seeking their next right step towards a safer life. Each person was seeking to no longer be a victim, but to be a survivor.

Over 2,600 people attended educational presentations to learn more about domestic violence and how to help someone who may be in an abusive relationship. The community is engaged and with good reason.

Here, in our home of Long Beach, in 2014, our police department received 2,057 calls to 9-1-1 for domestic violence. That's more than 5 calls per day and it's the most dangerous call for a police officer to respond to. It's an emotional situation. Sometimes no one is willing to cooperate with the police. Not the aggressor, nor the victim. Most of the time, it's the neighbors who are calling for help because what was a "private" issue is spilling over into their home, affecting their children, and they fear for the safety of themselves and their neighbors. They know what we all must learn: that ending domestic violence is not one person's responsibility or within one family's power, but rather it is up to all of us to create a community that is aware of the issue, that will no longer look the other way, and that will respond to the needs of our citizens. For aren't we all neighbors?

If we work together, we can bring an end to domestic violence and this "private issue" will truly be out of the shadows and eradicated from our community.

Su Casa empowers individuals and families to live free from domestic violence.

NONPROFIT NEWS

Congratulations to...

Power 4 Youth is pleased to welcome Samana Budhathoki as Match Supervisor to the mentoring program.

YWCA of the Harbor Area & South Bay for receiving a California State Preschool Program grant to serve 3- and 4-year-old children from qualifying families due to financial need, homelessness or DPSS supervision.

All 15 members of the Class of 2015 Southeast Asian high school graduates who were selected to receive KPA Scholarship this summer.

Domestic Violence – did you know?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation. Domestic Violence can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, income, or other factors.

Every 9 seconds in the US, a woman is assaulted or beaten.12

1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.

1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.1

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families.

7 million children live in families in which severe partner violence occurred.

More than 3 million children witness domestic violence in their homes every year.

Domestic violence costs more than \$37 billion a year in law enforcement involvement, legal work, medical and mental health treatment, and lost productivity at companies.

On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.9

Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.2

From the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Capacity Corner: Upcoming Calendar of Events

From the Nonprofit Partnership

The Case Statement: Essential Elements for Fundraising Success

Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 9am-Noon

Defined by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as one of the essential elements required for fundraising success, the case for support is a written document that explains why an organization both needs and merits philanthropic support. Gain understanding of the process involved in building a case statement including what to include and what to do with it once you have it while receiving peer-to-peer support and feedback.

Volunteer Recruitment, Effective Training and Orientation

Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 9am-4pm

This workshop is designed to help you through all of the steps of designing and implementing a quality recruitment strategy and volunteer orientation as well as the necessary training to have an effective volunteer program.

How to Design and Implement a Survey

Thursday, November 5, 2015, 9am-Noon

Surveys can be a powerful tool for any nonprofit. Collecting accurate and useful information can help you better understand the needs of your community, improve your services, and show the impact of your efforts. Through the lens of a fictionalized nonprofit, we will cover each step in planning, designing, and implementing a customer survey and using the results. Participants will also have an opportunity to work in small groups to plan and design a short survey.

Tesoro Foundation Nonprofit Partnership Leadership Institute:

Board Leadership Series – Purposeful Boards, Powerful Fundraising

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 9am-4pm

Join us for a full-day intensive workshop designed for executive/board teams to uncover best practices in governance and fundraising. This highly engaged workshop will help your organization gain tips and tools on board recruitment, structure, operations, and culture to understand the correlation between effective boards and successful fundraising.

From our Partners

Using Collective Impact for Community Change

Thursday, October 30, 2015, Noon EST – Webinar

Understand how government, philanthropy, corporations, and social sector organizations of all types, acting in diverse settings, are implementing a collective impact approach to solve large-scale social problems, together. For more info, visit: boardsource.org.

CalNonprofits 2015 Policy Convention

November 3-4, 2015 – Oakland, California

Focusing on the economic and political forecast for California's nonprofit sector. Join experts from the economic and political fields for a discussion of what 2016 will bring. For more info, visit: calnonprofits.org.



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