



PEACEWATCH

Center for Domestic Peace Newsletter • Fall 2022

Dear Supporters,

The year 2022 marks 45 years of Center for Domestic Peace's dedication to the eradication of domestic violence in Marin County and beyond. In 1977, the founders of Marin Abused Women's Services (our former name) reported that when they investigated domestic violence in Marin, there was no record of family violence. Yet, women were dying at an alarming rate at the hands of their abusers. The social movement and passion of the time fueled them to organize, strategize, and mobilize to create Marin's first hotline and emergency shelter.

We have had many firsts along the way: one of the first programs for men to unlearn their violent behavior (ManKind), one of the first transitional housing programs in the country (Second Step), and the first Spanish-speaking hotline in California.

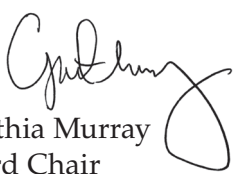
And now we have another first: Marin County is the only county in California to see a significant decrease in calls to law enforcement for domestic violence assistance.

In this issue of PeaceWatch, we highlight the success of our collaboration with law enforcement in addition to the incredible results of one of our programs that helps families and children experiencing domestic violence. You will also meet two remarkable members of our organization who are well deserving of this recognition.

Reflecting on our 45 years, it takes all of us – across every community, gender, age group, social class, and ethnicity – actively working together as a united community to end domestic violence.

As you think about your philanthropy goals for this year, please remember that your financial support is an act of generosity and compassion for the women, children, and men who benefit from our services. We are grateful to each and every one of you who support our work by contributing to C4DP – no amount is too small to make a difference. Thank you!

Yours in peace and unity,


Cynthia Murray
Board Chair



GREAT NEWS!

**There's been a 32% decrease over eight years
in domestic violence-related calls to Marin law enforcement!
This trend is not seen anywhere else in California!**

Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) is excited to share highlights from a recent study that tells us why this is happening only in Marin.

When we enlisted Dr. Bill Granados, Ph.D., a nationally recognized criminologist, to study whether there was a link between the decline in calls and C4DP's work with law enforcement, we discovered that Marin's rate of calls for assistance has declined steadily since 2013. This drop is statistically significant, meaning the decline is likely not due to random variation or chance.

Why the drop?

The decline in calls began with the introduction of the *Pocket Card*, a simple tool designed by C4DP with the District Attorney and local law enforcement to create a uniform response to domestic violence. The Pocket Card reduced a laborious 55-page manual to a single card officers could tuck into their pocket so a victim would have the same police response regardless of their location.

The Pocket Card includes three key steps for officers to follow. These steps represent best practices proven in the domestic violence field to reduce further victimization.

1. Lethality risk assessment:

Serious assault is reduced by 60% when survivors are asked the same 11 risk assessment questions and informed of potential danger. When an officer tells a survivor they are in danger, it validates what the survivor might already know, encouraging them to get help.

2. Connection to C4DP's hotline:

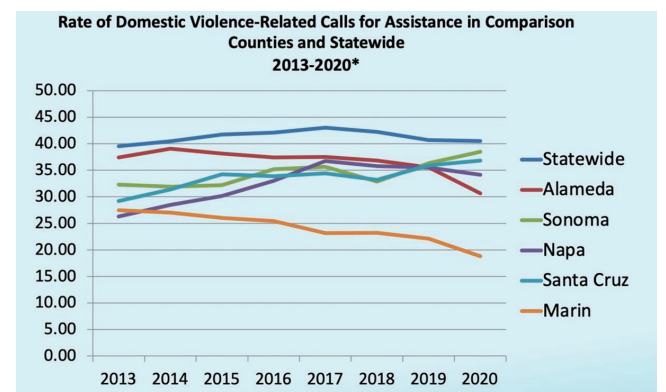
When officers make a rapid connection to C4DP on the scene, survivors receive immediate assistance and learn about options to increase their safety. In C4DP's own Impact Survey conducted with 98 survivors who C4DP assisted in the prior year, 94% reported not being physically hurt by an intimate partner in the last year.

3. Establishment of the dominant aggressor:

Officers are trained to assess wounds as defensive vs. offensive. Domestic violence calls can be confusing: sometimes the abuser will play victim, and sometimes the victim will be too scared to say anything. Knowing which wounds are caused by self-defense informs the officers whom to arrest - the person who poses the most serious, ongoing threat.

First introduced in 2012, the *Pocket Card Project* also includes a data component. It began to take hold with law enforcement in 2014 when the domestic violence liaison started randomly sampling and coding police reports. Every time an officer asked a question on the Pocket Card, it was given a point generating a score that determined actual change. With the use of the Pocket Card, police report threat assessments increased dramatically. As the use of the card was institutionalized, the rate of calls continued to decline.

The Pocket Card has proven to have a great impact here in Marin and can be a model for other law enforcement agencies nationwide.



As Dr. Granados stated, "When we input all the data, the most impressive result is that the domestic violence crime rate is going down in Marin County like nowhere else in California."

While there is still much room for improvement in law enforcement responses, this strategic achievement brings us closer to ending domestic violence, now and forever.

As C4DP celebrates 45 years of work to end domestic violence, this documented success illustrates our progress toward that goal with the steadfast support of our community, collaborators, and donors. Every supporter is important to us, with a special thank you to the County of Marin and the Marin Community Foundation for their substantial investment in our work. *We believe that one day, with your continued support, we will have domestic peace in our community. Thank you!*

Presentation slides available at centerfordomesticpeace.org/PCStudy

Our Community Supporting Us ~ Thank You!

Investing in the work of Center for Domestic Peace benefits all of us. We could not accomplish our goals without the support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our most generous supporters. A special thank you to our donors, listed below, who gave \$5,000 or more from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. A complete list of donors will be published in our annual report.

\$100,000+

- Administration for Children and Families
- Buck Family Fund of MCF
- CA Dept of Housing and Community Development
- CA Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
- County of Marin
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Office on Violence Against Women

\$50,000 - \$99,999

- Ginnie and Peter E. Haas Jr. Fund
- Justine Miner
- Nancy H. and James Kelso Fund

\$20,000 - \$49,999

- College of Marin
- Gruber Family Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Little Flower Fund

\$10,000 - \$19,999

- Bay Area Bluestone
- Dominican University of California
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Anonymous (3)
- Steve Benting and Margaret Warton
- Bewley-Motluk Charitable Foundation
- Denise Cutler
- Ghilotti Construction Inc.
- Heffernan Foundation
- Marin County USBC Association
- John and Tina Mehan
- Sunshine Polka-Dot Foundation
- The Walter Family (Wendy's Wish Giving Fund)
- Town of San Anselmo
- Dennis Whipp



Spotlight on Success! Marin CCR’s Law Enforcement Liaisons

The Marin Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Network (Marin CCR) brings together individuals, organizations, and institutions to promote safety and mutual respect in relationships and to reduce the number of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes in Marin County.



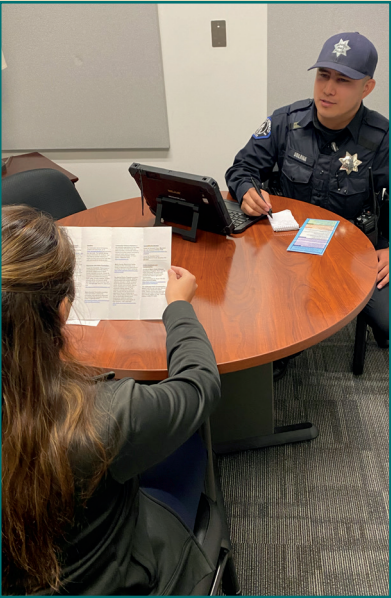
Hosted by the Marin County District Attorney’s Office and Center for Domestic Peace, the Marin CCR was formed 24 years ago with a vision for its members to become “Liaison Leaders” with the training they need to ensure that domestic violence and sexual assault procedures are in each partner’s organizational toolkit so that their employees are equipped to help survivors using best practices for safety. This way all victims receive assistance from the ever-widening safety net that is the Marin CCR. As victims reach out, our goal is that they are met with a coordinated response that increases their safety and links them from one support to the next.

A key part of the Marin CCR’s success was the creation and institutionalization of countywide Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Liaisons (LE Liaisons). These officers, identified in each jurisdiction, are comprehensively trained on the Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pocket Cards and become expert coaches for their officers. In this way, all Marin police agencies can respond in a uniform way that implements known best practices for increasing help-seeking behavior and victim safety. With their own internal response expert, or LE Liaison, each Marin police agency ensures consistent use of the Pocket Card when officers respond to the crime scene.

LE Liaisons are also tasked with reviewing police reports, providing feedback to officers, and making “Trend Reports” at Marin CCR’s General Session meetings twice a year on the practice and outcomes from using the Pocket Card. This coordination and commitment have shown proven results over time in the Pocket Card’s adoption and the successful increases to victim safety. We are stronger together!

“We value our strong partnership with Center for Domestic Peace. There is no question the cooperation between the two organizations has protected victims and brought perpetrators of this horrible crime to justice. Along with additional training and enhanced communication, these Pocket Cards have helped officers complete more thorough investigations, resulting in a greater probability of successful prosecution and closure for victims. There is still much work needed to stamp out domestic violence, but the strong relationships between C4DP and Marin policing agencies is an important step.” Captain Jim Correa, Novato Police Department

“The domestic violence Pocket Cards are an invaluable resource for our patrol officers and investigators who respond to domestic violence in San Rafael. We are proud to provide the best possible service to victims and their families. The Pocket Cards help us build trust within the community by ensuring that each case is investigated with thoroughness and consistency.” Sergeant Alex Holm, San Rafael Police Department



Marin Magazine’s 2022 Best Fundraiser Award goes to C4DP!

Center for Domestic Peace’s annual fundraiser, *In Celebration of Mothers*, was voted **BEST FUNDRAISER in MARIN COUNTY** by the *Marin Magazine* for 2022! This year was also our best financially, grossing nearly \$150,000. We are most grateful to all who voted for this award! Don’t miss out on the fun at Peacock Gap Clubhouse next year– Save the Date: Friday, May 5, 2023!!!

24-Hour English/Spanish Hotline: 415-924-6616

Other support can be found by calling:
Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm:

- ManKind Program 415-457-6760
- Marin Youth Services Text Line 415-526-2557
- Therapy and Support Groups 415-526-2553



A True Heart of Marin: Suzanne Jansen

This past fall, Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) nominated Suzanne Jansen for Volunteer of the Year at the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership’s Heart of Marin award ceremony for her substantial contributions to C4DP’s Legal Systems Advocacy Program (LSAP).

At the height of the pandemic and shelter-in-place, C4DP’s LSAP staff – which serves 440 individuals annually – faced challenges meeting the increased need for advocacy and assistance at a time when the team was down a staff person. During this complicated and trying time, Suzanne expanded her commitment to the organization by increasing her volunteer time with the LSAP team from 4 hours a week to several days a week, averaging 10-15 hours. Between April 2019 and October 2021, she volunteered a total of 955 hours.

Suzanne’s acts of kindness and generosity stemmed from her own lived experience of domestic violence. At age 10, she witnessed her mother’s murder, which occurred within the context of domestic violence. Out of this most painful, life-altering experience, Suzanne has reached a place in her journey where contributing to the effort to end domestic violence is a passion. Her decision to increase her commitment during this time reflects her commitment to be a “voice for change.” Knowing that reports of increased lethality of violence could escalate to increased homicides, Suzanne stepped up while managing her own concerns around COVID for herself and family.

Intervening in domestic violence can make the difference between life or death. Because of her work with the LSAP team, Suzanne has literally helped save lives. During the height of the pandemic, Suzanne assisted 371 times in different capacities, from reaching out to victims after a police report for help with safety planning and lethality risk assessment, to virtual court accompaniment in both criminal and civil cases, among other things.

Many victims when faced with a domestic violence situation experience severe trauma emotionally and sometimes physically. This is coupled with having to face the police, file for restraining orders, and navigate an unfamiliar and intimidating system. Having a compassionate and caring legal systems advocate like Suzanne by their side increases successful outcomes for survivors exponentially. Suzanne is there to offer emotional support and extend empathy drawn from her own personal “knowing” that it is possible to survive domestic violence and find a pathway forward toward healing, safety, and freedom.

What inspires and drives Suzanne’s commitment to this work is her belief that we are making progress toward ending domestic violence and that it is up to all of us, especially the next generation, to all do our part in understanding it and ending it.

We are deeply grateful to Suzanne and her contributions in our work to end domestic violence!



STAFF PROFILE: Shihuan Luo

Shihuan Luo was born in southern China and came to the United States as a student in 2009. While studying at Sonoma State as an accounting major, she began looking for a job. Shihuan was drawn to C4DP’s mission and so she began her career as a part-time book-keeper. After a month of employment, she was promoted to Staff Accountant in August 2013. With her accounting degree under her belt and a flourishing love of numbers, Shihuan continued working for C4DP with increased responsibilities, and by 2016 she was promoted to the role of Senior Accountant.

In this role, Shihuan is responsible for a full range of C4DP’s financial accounting and human resource functions. She manages monthly billing, reports, and contracts for federal, state, and corporate grants, and reconciles the general ledger accounts monthly with an impeccable focus on accuracy and timely completion. She also manages the human resources function including the payroll process, hiring documentation, background checks, employee onboarding, and health benefits. She plays an important role in the development of the annual budget, the annual audit, and tax filing procedures. As a key member of the finance team, her attention to detail contributes greatly to the overall success of C4DP’s fiscal management.

When asked what she loves about C4DP, Shihuan states, “C4DP provided me opportunities to grow in my career and has always valued me as an employee. I feel like I am family to C4DP, and I am so proud of our mission to help those struggling with domestic violence.”

When not at work, Shihuan is very busy as the mother of two active small children. Her daughter is learning to play piano, so she decided to learn, too, so they could play together! She enjoys going to the park with her children and visiting friends on the weekend. Fluent in 3 languages (Mandarin, Cantonese, and English), she is a big fan of classical music and enjoys cooking.

It’s A Basic Human Right...

Thanks to a talented group of marketing professionals who stepped up to assist C4DP this past year with a pro-bono print advertising campaign, we have launched several new ads recently. A special thank you to **Heidi Dickert Consulting**, as well as **Ann Douglas Jessen** and **Jason Mckinney** of **BlueCoastWeb.com** for their time, talent, and passion!!

The ads are centered around the core message that regardless of your age, sexual identity, etc., it’s a basic human right to live free from violence. The ad campaign also brings forth the positive role men can play in shifting the cultural paradigm from power over to power with.

At right is a sample of these ads printed in the *Marin Independent Journal*, *Pacific Sun*, and *North Bay Women Magazine* since January 2022. Look for more of these in the coming months!



Our Preliminary Findings Are In: C4DP’s Group Therapy Model A Success!

“Thursday’s group helps a lot — it’s a place where you feel safe and you can talk about all these things, and they’re not judging.”

As noted last year in our 2021 edition of PeaceWatch, C4DP received a multi-year national demonstration grant from the Administration for Children and Families to evaluate the success of In This Together (ITT), a cutting-edge, group therapy model for parents and children. In collaboration with Dominican University’s (DU) Global Public Health Department, DU and C4DP are researching and developing evaluation protocols and producing a white paper to be published in an academic journal on ITT’s success and outcomes.

The work of ITT is so very important, as domestic violence can destroy the bond between children and their non-abusing parents. This program, launched in 2015, has helped hundreds of families heal together and improve their relationships. Until now, this work has not been clinically studied.

This past May, the preliminary results were reported by the DU evaluators, Liliana Molina Cervantez and Nancy Bethsamet Hernandez, at a national epidemiology conference as part of their senior projects. The objective of their project was to examine the impact of the ITT program on a non-abusing parent’s relationship with their child/children, their emotional regulation abilities, and their ability to diminish the power of the abuser in order to be the parent they want to be.

The project covered two cohorts of ITT (10 weeks of online group therapy sessions in both English and Spanish), with 14 parents and 8 children participating. After an initial intake session, the parents and children were

interviewed after each session to collect qualitative data, such as what they are learning and how they are integrating this work into their daily life.

Outcomes:

After a 10-week ITT cohort, the non-abusing parent (all women in this study) reported an improvement in their emotional awareness and problem-solving skills, with an improved ability to regulate their own emotions. They reported being more in touch with their own feelings and not likely to hide how they are feeling in front of their children. They felt less guilt and worry about their past parenting behavior or relationships and the impact it has had on their family. Lastly, almost all reported a renewed sense of motivation to be active and engaged parents, and all saw vast improvements in a more supportive family environment.

The children were also asked a set of questions regarding their relationship with their mother, and they reported their regard for her improved overall. Many times children feel they are responsible for taking care of their parents; the results showed after ITT, they understood they were not responsible for her feelings, and had a higher sense of relief. Their overall engagement with the non-abusing parent and family interactions increased, and they reported enjoying more time with their parent. Every child reported a more positive relationship with their survivor parent.



Parents’ Voice, Before and After

“The violence affected me a lot. I was mostly just focused on my abuser rather than actually spending time with my son and paying attention to him.”

“It affected her because she was only 8 years old and wanted her dad so she would get angry and sad.”

“Before last year, we exploded and yelled at each other, and he would throw things and slam the door. Now we’re ready to relax and try to not explode. We’ll talk later.”

“We focus on the situation that’s going on. We both take deep breaths, or my son knows when. He tells me, ‘Mommy, I need to take a deep breath, and I’m going to count from five and down.’”

Children’s Voice, Before and After

“I draw his face on a piece of paper, and I punch it every night. I am a very physical person. I have anger issues, and I’m also depressed.”

“I’ve just stopped talking to people, and that’s it. I’ve gotten more serious.”

“I have learned how to control my emotions and talk with my mom about my feelings.”

“I feel more comfortable talking about my feelings, and I have learned what works best for me and my family.”

With this current grant underway, there is anticipated renewed funding to increase the pool of participants to 100. If you are interested in participating, please contact our English/ Spanish-speaking Case Manager: 415-526-2553. If you would like to see the slides in their entirety, please visit: www.centerfordomesticpeace.org/itt_slides

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**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC
PEACE**
Working Together to End Domestic Violence

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October Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we invite you to participate in our activities.

Domestic Peace Rocks – We had so much fun last year, we are doing this again! You and your family are invited to join us outside on October 15, 10 am – 1:30 pm, in our parking lot at 734 A Street, San Rafael, to paint small rocks with creative artwork and messages. Local artists from Drawbridge will be onsite to help. Take the painted rocks home, place them around your community, and post to social media to raise awareness about our issue and the resources we provide!



Join C4DP staff, friends, and families in an interactive, creative space and learn how domestic violence impacts our community and what you can do to end it. Show our community how much domestic peace rocks! Find us on social media using #DomesticPeaceRocks

Join us Friday, October 28 from 12-1 pm for the 20th Annual Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, hosted by C4DP and Voces de Cambio (Voices of Change), a volunteer activist group of former service users. Our annual event will be held online and include a special memorial and reading of the names of those in the Bay Area killed by domestic violence.

For more information or to RSVP email mhedlund@c4dp.org
www.c4dp.org/dvam